



HOWITT PARK NEIGHBOUR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

JULY 2008

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GREETINGS

There have been a number of exciting events over the last few months, so we would like to bring the membership up to date.

**CITY COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING
3 MARCH 2008
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

The night we had all been working towards.

In total there were 27 delegations before Council. On behalf of the HPNRA we had 17. Everyone spoke very well and did an outstanding job.

As with all first night performances you can have some glitches. Barb O'Cleirigh went to print off her presentation at home before

CITY COUNCIL MEETING 3 MARCH 2008 (CONT)

coming to the meeting and of course the printer would not cooperate. However, Barb rose to the challenge and brought her laptop with her. When it came time to present she opened her computer, placed it on the podium and away she went. Her presentation was so seamless, it appeared she never even looked at the lap top.

The evening was an amazing feat of organization. Everyone was very well accepted by Council. We were even told that as a group our presentation was the most polished and professional that have ever been presented by a neighbourhood group. Well done all.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING 3 MARCH 2008 (CONT)

The evening went long into the night and as the last delegate rose to speak, remarks were prefaced by "Good Morning" instead of "Good Evening". It was close to 1:30 a.m. before we all got out of City Hall.

The most amazing thing was not one delegate spoke in favour of the application. Everyone of the 27 delegations requested that the application in its present form be turned down and asked the applicant return to the drawing board and re-think their design.

CITY COUNCIL DECISION MEETING—3 JUNE 2008 CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

On 3 June 2008, City Council sat to preside two planning issues and to take a position on the application by Silvercreek Developments (Guelph) to re-zone the former Lafarge lands from Industrial to Commercial.

Three of the HPNRA Executive Members (Paul Campeau, Rob Fischer and Ron Foley) spoke to Council to support City Staff's position to deny the application.

The applicant's lawyer, Steve Zakem, spoke to Council and suggested that was still a need for such a development on the property.

There was brief discussion by various Council members before Mayor Farbridge called the vote.

We all sat with baited breath, but our efforts were rewarded when Council voted **UNANIMOUSLY** in favour to support Staff's recommendation to deny the application

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ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD

On 12 June 2008, a second OMB pre-hearing was held at City Council Chambers.

The agenda for this meeting was to establish a time frame for upcoming hearings. HPNRA took the opportunity to place HPNRA as the official "party status" name representing our group for the hearings.

Time frame for the proceedings:

12-13 August 2008

Meeting with Chair of the OMB and the lawyers representing the parties. At this meeting, Armel Developments will represent a Procedural Order regarding the status of the current application

Late September- Early October 2008

Mediation process begins. This procedure will allow parties to have the opportunity to resolve their various concerns so to avoid a full OMB hearing

January 2009

Full scale OMB hearing if required. The OMB has set a ten (10) week window of forty (40) days for the hearing

So there you have it. And now our real work begins.

NEXT STEPS

In order to proceed the Ontario Municipal Board process, the HPNRA will need to seek the services of a number of experts and the support and help of our membership.

- Lawyer** To proceed at the OMB we need to be represented by legal counsel. For this purpose the HPNRA has retained the services of Mr. Robert Mullins of Smith/Valeriotte
- Planner** In order to have a position on the size and scale of the proposed development the HPNRA will require a planner to argue our position that the development proposal is not conducive to a land-locked property. The HPNRA is actively looking for a planner.
- Traffic Expert** In order to have a position that states that the established streets will be highly impacted by the proposed development and that at peak times will virtually paralyze the neighbourhood, the HPNRA will require the services of a traffic expert. The HPNRA is actively looking for a traffic expert.
- Community Involvement** Now more than ever it is important to state our case to citizens of Guelph. With the unanimous decision by City Council on City Staff's recommendation to turn down the application, this has now become a city-wide issue and not just isolated to our neighbourhood! For that we need your help. Please send us your ideas and thoughts so that we can get the word out.

. . . continued . . .

NEXT STEPS (CONTINUED)

Fundraising To pursue our position on the Silvercreek Developments (Guelph) application for development will not come without financial cost. It is very important to you, our members, to help participate in fundraising needs. We cannot do this without you.

The OMB has set aside forty (40) days for the hearing. This will incur legal costs. We also need a planner and a traffic expert whose fees will be in addition.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR MEMBERS TO JOIN A FUNDRAISING SUB-COMMITTEE TO HELP US REACH OUR GOAL TO PROTECT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE CONTACT US AT (519) 826-5338

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The HPNRA needs your continued support.

Please renew your membership.

With your financial support through your membership fee and donations, it allows us to produce our newsletter, purchase postage, purchase paper for our posters, rent space to hold our meetings, purchase printer cartridges and many many other things.

We have enclosed a membership renewal form and a notice indicating if your membership requires immediate renewal.

Please consider a donation in addition to the \$20 membership fee.

\$25.00 will allow us to purchase packages of paper for our posters

\$35.00 will allow us to provide coffee and "goodies" at our meetings

\$50.00 will help offset telephone line

\$100.00 will help offset legal consultation/produce our newsletter

Please take the time to fill in the enclosed membership form and mail your cheque to

Howitt Park Neighbourhood Residents Association

P.O. Box 1857

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or call Tel: (519) 826-5338 and we will make arrangements to pick it up.