

Dear Mayor Guthrie & City Councillors:

Re: Guelph's Parkland Dedication By-law

At the April 13, 2022 special meeting of council you will be asked to make a decision on whether to put in place a section in the bylaw which will require developers to provide the maximum land and cash allowed under the provincial Planning Act.

To date the city of Guelph has not been accessing and collecting the maximum allowed and this has resulted in the loss of some \$8.5 million which could have been in our parkland fund.

City staff have put together a thorough Park Plan document. They have been quite clear that acquiring parkland as the city grows will be a challenge for staff charged with ensuring that the city has adequate park space for its growing community.

One clear way in which council can help staff with this challenge, while at the time ensuring that the quality of life of Guelph residents is maintained is to ensure that the Parkland Dedication bylaw enshrines the ability of the city of Guelph to require the maximum amount of land and cash in lieu under the provincial planning act.

In addition, I would ask that council consider encouraging land and not cash for parkland, as the value of money decreases over time, especially in this time of low interest rates. The value of land however increases, except in very exceptional circumstances.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely

E. Lin Grist
Ward 3 Resident
Guelph