

Price, Karin

To: Price, Karin
Subject: FW: Request for Deputation to Solid Waste Management Committee
Attachments: Letter to Kelly.doc

From: Deborah Schulte [mailto:deborahschulte@rogers.com]
Sent: February 6, 2008 2:02 PM
To: Price, Karin
Subject: Re: Request for Deputation to Solid Waste Management Committee

Karen,

My name is Deborah Schulte and I am requesting an opportunity to make a deputation at the Solid Waste Management Committee on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, starting 9 am.

I am a resident of Woodbridge, 76 Mira Vista Place, L4H 1K8. 905 893-0007. The subject is the proposed Recycling Facility in the Concord location. I am in favour of the project and believe it to be a suitable site for this type of facility.

Please see attached letter I sent after the public meeting to Kelly Spitzig.

Please confirm if this request can be accommodated.
Deb

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2/07/08

Date: December 20, 2007
To: Kelly Spitzig
Subject: Environmental Centre in Vaughan

Kelly,

I recently read the Vaughan Citizen article on the proposed environmental centre in Concord and was distressed to read the comments from some citizens. It would be very unfortunate for our City if a few residents with NIMBY concerns are allowed to scupper this proposed facility.

This facility is a big step forward for our City, and the Region, when it comes to the reduce, reuse and recycle philosophy. We will all need to adopt this philosophy if we are going to ultimately save the planet from human excesses and keep our taxes in line. To have a Goodwill and Habitat for Humanity drop off on site will ensure that those items that can be reused will be removed from the garbage stream. Providing opportunities for other recyclables such as wood, metal, polystyrene to be removed from our garbage is fantastic. I currently drive to Peel to recycle these items and I am appalled we do not provide our residents with a convenient opportunity to recycle these products in our City. We must as a City take these important steps to improve the diversion rate, thereby reducing the environmental impacts of our garbage and ultimately saving taxpayer money.

Many of the arguments raised against the facility seem to be directed toward a transfer station type facility, which this is not (truck traffic/noise/smells). It is a small facility in an industrial area close to major arterial roads. How much more appropriate could a site be! My only issue is it maybe too small if residents significantly improve their diversion rate, however if it must remain small to minimize the impacts to local residents then I suggest we get ready to build another facility shortly after completing this one. Most of the residents will not be using this facility during rush hour so there will be minimum impact to local traffic. This area handles tremendous traffic loads and there is no way the traffic to/from this facility will bring the loads up to peak for the area.

If the issue is of businesses bringing construction materials in large quantities, the limiting of truck size for access seems to address this issue. My understanding is this facility is for the residents and small businesses operating in the area. I would be concerned if larger businesses in Toronto started to use this facility to avoid the disposal fees required, which is usually built into their cost structure. I do believe you can work out these details once the site is up and running.

Previously I felt that we should allow grass to be brought as it is allowed in the yard waste and we should remain consistent. However, after discussing the issue with several concerned citizens about the smell and the fact that landscapers from Toronto and surrounding jurisdictions will be using this facility as grass is not accepted anywhere else, I believe the issue needs further discussion.

In summary, I believe the majority of residents would appreciate having this type of facility available to them. The area seems to be very appropriate for this type of use and it is centrally located. As this type of facility is new to the Region and as many residents are relating the operation of this facility to other problem sites in Vaughan I do not believe many of the comments are realistic and may need to be weighted accordingly.

Sincerely,

Deborah Schulte
76 Mira Vista Place
Woodbridge, Ont.
L4H 1K8
905 893-0007

Date: February 13th, 2008

To: Members of Council and the Solid Waste Management Committee

My name is Deborah Schulte, I am a resident of Vaughan and I represent other residents of Vaughan who could not be here today but are in favour of this Community Environmental Centre.

I want to thank you all for giving the public a chance to speak to you on this very important issue. I believe from reading all the articles in the paper that even those Concord residents that don't like the location of this Centre agree that this type of facility is needed in the City and would be a welcome addition.

I must say that I was appalled when I came to Vaughan nine years ago and all there was available was limited recycling on alternate weeks and no place to take Styrofoam, wood scraps, drywall, etc. Both Etobicoke and Mississauga (my former City's) had, at the time, local places (within a 20 minute drive) to take care of these needs for the community, so that these items were not unnecessarily going into landfill. They also had several places set-up for donated items in populated areas so people could additionally divert quality used items to be reused in the community. These two Cities recognized that they needed to develop in a sustainable way; help the planet, the needy in their communities and that in the long term it would be a cost effective way to reduce the amount going into landfill. Only in the past few years have I become aware that you could take items up to Georgina, and I have done it (it is over 50 minutes away for me). That is a ridiculously long drive and does not address many of the recycling needs of our City. Vaughan must start considering itself a complete sustainable City, not a bedroom community getting services from surrounding Cities, and start planning for **our** needs and **our** future.

Given that we all agree that we need a facility of this nature, we now need to find a place to put it. It needs to be central, near to residents, but in an industrial/commercial area, on major arterial roads and quite obviously the land need to be available and due to the very nature of it (not a money maker, but a community service) it needs to be on

land owned by the City or Region or possibly acquired by some sort of land swap. It is difficult to find a match for these criteria and not have **some** public opposition. Having been recently on a committee trying to find a site for a new venture in Vaughan, we have been faced with exactly the same challenges and almost all are due to unfamiliarity with the proposition and scare mongering. I must apologize for the word scaremongering, however when I read in the paper Cathy Ferlisi stating "They call it a community environmental centre. I call it a mini-garbage dump" I feel she has misrepresented the project and is scaremongering. I understand the scaremongering, the City and Region have not in the past had a good record with waste management sites (many of them out of their control, but that doesn't help the residents who have to deal with the issues). We have not properly planned for these things and now we are trying to squeeze them into fully developed areas. I put the fault squarely on the shoulders of past politicians who have not had the foresight to plan for a sustainable community. Some of them are still trying to push our community needs off onto the backs of some other community, preferably some other City. **If it is not good enough for us, then it is not good enough for anyone else.**

This Centre is well designed (however small) and therefore limited. We will need several more to properly serve our growing communities, so I hope you are planning several more of these in the developing areas so the new residents come in knowing that they are to have one of these nearby and can choose to buy somewhere else if they don't like it. This brings me back to the proposed site. There are no residents close by and it meets all the necessary criteria and it is much needed. If there are proposed residents (a new proposed condo) to come into the area, they will know it is there and can decide not to purchase if they don't appreciate it. If they are sustainable living thinkers they may actually appreciate the opportunity to recycle so close to home. We must not be influenced by developers who are opposing our much needed services to supposedly ensure maximum dollars for their developments. This Centre will not be out of place with the surrounding uses. The proposed condo site will be across the street from a concrete plant. The CEC site is abutting the massive C.N. freight yard. How can the CEC be inconsistent with surrounding uses?

The traffic issues are great in this area during rush hour, however the times the CEC will be utilized will not be in rush hour. The studies have shown it will have very minimal impact.

The only remaining issue raised has been the possible odours. This has been addressed. With the introduction of the curbside green bin program, the odourous component of residential waste is essentially removed from the waste stream. The Community Environmental Centre will not accept green bin material. There will be no on-site processing of any waste at the proposed Community Environmental Centre. Containers will be removed from the site as quickly as possible once they are full. At no time will waste materials remain on site for more than 3 days, and under most conditions the time on-site will be considerably less. The permanent canopy covers over the containers not only to improve the look, but will also prevent precipitation and direct sun-light exposure to the materials in the containers thereby limiting the odour generating component of any incidental quantities of organic materials that might be present in the waste. These measures will ensure odours are not a problem. If they are, then York Region has committed to additional measures to ensure odours are not a problem. If we need to amend the types of material accepted to prevent odours then we will have to do that and we will need assurances that they will be done.

I have been paying close attention to the opposition and respect their right to state their case, protect their property values and their community atmosphere. Unfortunately, I have not heard any opposition that rings true or cannot be disputed once the facts are revealed, so this is why I decided to come up here and speak. I believe that this facility will provide a very valuable and much needed service to Vaughan, the site location is appropriate and we need to get on and get it done ASAP. Thank you for your time today.

Deborah Schulte
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