12. CORRESPONDENCE

(a) Information Items – I-1-I-8

I-7 Letter dated January 16, 2012, from Jim Holmes, Chairman of Meadowvale Village Community Association is suggesting that pressure be put on the Province to contribute towards bridge replacement.

Receive

I-8 Email dated January 17, 2012, from John Walmark resident, questions regarding Orchard Heights Park petition P-2.

Receive

14. BY-LAWS

Removal of B-5

B-5 A by-law to authorize the execution of a Joint Offer of Settlement of land by the municipality or local board – Offer of Settlement – Expropriation of Part of 1855 and 1875 Buckhorn Gate for Bus Rapid Transit Project (Ward 5).

GC-0009-2012/January 11, 2012
At our December 15, 2011 Executive meeting, the subject of the future closure and removal of the 2nd Line bridge over Highway 401 was discussed. Most members of the Executive attended the public meeting held November 16, 2011 at the Community Hall to provide updates on Ministry of Transportation's on-going widening of Highway 401 and the proposed removal of the 2nd Line bridge.

Thirty years ago, removal of the bridge seemed to be a good idea since suggested development in the area was mostly prestige industrial and Mavis Road would provide a good alternative to 2nd Line further reducing traffic through the Village. However, since that time, high density residential development has resulted in greater than anticipated north/south vehicular and pedestrian traffic volumes on both Mavis and Creditview Roads. Sombrero Road is not designed to accommodate the excess traffic generated by closing 2nd Line Bridge since it is an internal residential road (narrow/numerous driveways/dangerous, restricted intersection at Mavis Road). Donway, south of the 401 provides a better example for this type of traffic (wide/no driveway access). The poor design of Sombrero already produces nightmarish congestion along its entire length at peak periods and will only get worse if the 2nd Line Bridge is closed.

Unfortunately, replacement of the bridge is prohibitive at approximately $15 million (Would this be a simple 2-lane bridge with a bike lane and pedestrian sidewalk?) to be borne by the City alone. The proposed pedestrian walkway under the 401 is also expensive at $2.5 million and may prove to be impractical due to safety and other concerns. Perhaps pressure could be put on the Province to contribute towards bridge replacement taking into consideration that the Mavis Road overpass is already inadequate. Since Official Plans can be reviewed and revised over the years, surely a decision made 30 years ago regarding a bridge should be subject to review and revision.

The suggestion made at the public meeting to temporarily close the bridge to assess the impact, should be considered. Hopefully decisions will be made that will relieve any future traffic congestion in this already stressed area.

Yours truly,
MEADOWVALE VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Jas. P. Holmes, Chairman
c.c. – BY E-Mail Councillor George Carlson; Martin Powell; Steve Barrett
From: John F Walmark
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2012 12:33 PM
Cc: 'president@orchardheights.ca'; Chris Clay
Subject: Petition #2 Closure of Orchard Heights Park to cars year round Council meeting Jan 18th 2012

As former President of Orchard Heights Homeowners, I was actively involved in this Petition. We canvassed all home on Orchard Heights (450) in total.

Our Community signed on with 299 signatures to close park year round to cars. The first year was a test period to see if can work.

This original petition was hand delivered (personally by me) to Councillor Tovey March 25th 2011. I would like to know why this was not submitted to Council at that time? We had asked that the park not reopen April 2011, but if fact reopened to our dismay.

Question:
Why did Councillor Tovey not submit Petition in March of 2011 and wait till Jan 4 2012?

John F Walmark
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