

Hi all,

I cannot attend the meeting tonight, but I wanted to submit a public comment to be included in the public record.

I'm not sure if there's a required format for this kind of written submission and I will be happy to revise my submission format if needed.

Agenda Item #21-094(CD), Recommendation Report: Official Plan Amendment and Zoning By-law Amendment, 55 Kerr Street, 50 Shade Street Investments Inc.

I want to raise my concern that the Recommendation Report that is before Council is at minimum citing the wrong parts of our strategic plan as justification for strategic alignment and at most, misleading Council in the cited strategic alignment justification.

In the Recommendation Report, Page 6, Section "Analysis", the report notes the following for Strategic Alignment:

"Goal #1 - Community Wellbeing

Objective 2.1 Provide a wide range of ways that people can become involved in city decision making."

This item is not about involving people in city decision making. The item before Council tonight is to vote on an official plan amendment and a zoning bylaw amendment for the purpose of development. To further underscore this, the report continues, "The proposal will permit the development of an existing vacant and underutilized property within the Galt Core Area. The development of the lands for a mixed-use development providing both residential and commercial uses will contribute to the City of Cambridge's housing options while ensuring we are continuing to meet our goal of establishing the creation of 45 percent of new housing units within Community Core Areas. The proposed infill development will introduce additional commercial space into the Downtown in an area of the City that is well-connected and accessible to a large population." Again, this recommendation report and proposal has nothing to do with involving Cambridge residents in city decision making as cited on the Page 6 analysis section for Strategic Alignment. In fact the report recommends the opposite and asks council to bypass another public meeting - a meeting which actually would involve Cambridge residents in decision making.

The irony of this is not lost on me as a Cambridge resident who wants to be involved in determining the collective future of our city and I hope the misalignment of this strategic alignment justification is plain to see for Council.

I am not fundamentally opposed to development on this site, but I am opposed to decision-making being founded on poor or misleading justifications. I am also opposed to bypassing public consultation without public consent. I do recognize there has been engagement with the public on this and the developer has made changes in response, but that does not mean the public's right to respond to those changes should be thrown out. I do not believe city staff should be making this recommendation within the report and I would ask Council vote on this item related to bypassing a public meeting separately from the rest of the recommendations.

Last but certainly not least, this is a proposed new development in the Haldimand Tract and consultation with both traditional and elected councils of the Six Nations of the Grand is a necessary and meaningful requirement. The Recommendation Report even notes the proximity of this proposed development to the Grand River, the central defining feature in the Haldimand Tract. I call on Council & City Staff to move beyond hollow words on indigenous rights & reconciliation which I hear at the beginning of every meeting and instead, to take concrete steps to lead on what meaningful consultation & accommodation looks like in practice.

Thank you,

Dani Lindamood

Cambridge Resident