

December 1, 2018

Mayor and Councillors,
City of Markham

Re: Box Grove Community Impact Fund \$500,000
Box Grove from Hamlet to a vibrant suburb of The City of Markham

Box Grove was a Hamlet of approximately 125 homes centered by the intersection of 9th Line and 14th Avenue and included Ridgevale Drive and Rouge River Circle.

Early in the 1990's IBM/Minto proposed to develop the east half of the IBM Golf Course which became the community known as Legacy. During the planning stages the Box Grove residents, as represented by the Box Grove Community Association (ratepayers) were consulted. The meetings were facilitated by the then Town of Markham Planning Department. We negotiated for and received access to sanitary sewer connections to the rear of the properties on the west side of 9th Line north of 14th Avenue. At the time we were asking for sanitary sewers for all of Box Grove but were told that that was not an option. We were assured that as further development occurred similar sewer connections would be made available to the then existing Box Grove homes. This assurance was later withdrawn as it was against new policies for sewer connections.

A secondary waterline to supply Legacy was installed down the centre of 9th Line to 14th Avenue and the facing residents were allowed to connect by payment of a connection fee.

The next major happening was the proposal by TACC Developments for the remaining open lands to be developed. Silvio DeGasperas and David Stewart made a presentation to the BGCA showing plans and looking for our participation. As part of our input we provided the following 'wish list' to the developer:

- 1) municipal water connections for **all existing residents**
- 2) sanitary sewer connections for **all existing residents**
- 3) street lighting (illumination not traffic lights) for **all Box Grove**
- 4) continued involvement throughout the planning process
- 5) compensation to bring the **existing community up to the municipal standards of the new community**

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We received:

- 1) municipal water connections for Ridgevale/Rouge River Circle but not for 14th Avenue nor 9th Line south of 14th Avenue.
- 4) continued involvement throughout the planning process
- 5) **a \$500,000 community impact fund designated specifically to bring the existing community up to the municipal standards of the new community**

As we went forward it was determined by the BGCA that the connections to the now existing 9th Line waterline would be paid out of the fund putting them on an equal standing with the Ridgevale/Rouge River Circle residents at an estimated budget of \$44,000. It should be noted that at this time municipal water was not available to 14th Avenue or 9th Line residents south of the intersection but that they should also be compensated as municipal water lines were installed.

We then became aware that \$100,000 of the Box Grove fund was used to upgrade a ball diamond located at Steeles Avenue and Reesor Road well beyond the borders of Box Grove.

We had a contiguity plan going forward to fund street lighting but there was an opportunity to invest the fund in a proposed sanitary sewer project for existing Box Grove thereby reducing the cost per household. Unfortunately the sanitary sewer project did not proceed.

Street lighting has since been installed on 9th Line and 14th Avenue as part of a separately funded project. This leaves only Ridgevale/Rouge River Circle without street lighting.

Which brings us to the present. Repeated requests to determine the status of the balance of the fund (approximately \$360,000) have gone unanswered.

The fund must be used as originally designated for the betterment of the homes and residents in what was the Hamlet of Box Grove. To this end:

- 1) the residents of 14th Avenue and 9th Line south should be compensated for municipal water connections.
- 2) Funds should be prorated per household to augment the installation of sewers.
- 3) Street lighting should be installed on Ridgevale/Rouge River Circle.

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The remaining funds should then be reevaluated for further community improvements.

The above is based on my serving as president (1991 to 2013) of the board of the Box Grove Community Association (ratepayers) and having gained from experience and input from my fellow residents what would help Box Grove achieve the municipal standards of all of The City of Markham.

I will gladly discuss the above given the opportunity.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Farrar', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tom Farrar