

Hau, Lucy

Subject: FW: Request deferral of storm water report from Council agenda, Nov. 20, 2012

From: Marilyn Ginsburg

Sent: Monday, November 19, 2012 06:15 PM

To: Ho, Alan; Burke, Valerie; Chiu, Alex; Campbell, Colin; Hamilton, Don; Heath, Jack; Shore, Howard; Li, Joe; Jones, Jim; Kanapathi, Logan; Landon, Gord; Moretti, Carolina; Scarpitti, Frank; Pettit, Martha

Subject: Request deferral of storm water report from Council agenda, Nov. 20, 2012

Hello Mr. Mayor, members of Council, and acting clerk Pettit:

Please find below an email that we sent yesterday to Councillors Burke and Shore. As you can see, we are requesting that item 6a(1) be deferred from tomorrow night's Council agenda so that we can meet with our Councillors and Rob Muir, the author of the report. I believe that the email clearly sets out our reasons for this request.

I will be in attendance at the meeting if you have questions concerning this matter. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Marilyn Ginsburg

Hello Councillors Burke and Shore,

I am writing on behalf of the four Markham residents (and our respective rate payer associations) who have served, since 2009, on the West Thornhill Stormwater Liaison Committee.

We are asking that you request that item 6a (1) " Water Systems Management", be deferred from the Council agenda for Nov. 20, 2012.

We are making this request for the following reasons:

1. We have jointly contributed a few hundred hours to this project since its inception, but at this critical stage we have been left out of the process. We have attended many meetings, written and delivered deputations at an earlier stage of the EA for our area, and spent countless hours in individual research to obtain information we needed to be of service to the Committee and to our communities.

2. I was personally promised by Mayor Scarpitti that our members would be given the opportunity to address Council, with respect to the research we have done on the issue of funding options, **before** any decision was made on which funding options would be on the table.

This decision has now been made without our having that opportunity, and we would like Council and staff to take a step back and allow this to happen. Undoubtedly the matter has simply progressed as most of these things do, but under the circumstances, we would appreciate Council and staff revisiting the funding options **after** we disclose the results of our research and present our deputations to Council.

3. Rob Muir and his staff have written an excellent report, to which we have only recently been given access. Since we have not had the chance to fully digest his findings and recommendations, and since we have been working on this issue for over three years, we fail to see why the issue has been placed on the Council agenda so quickly. Why can it not be delayed until the beginning of 2013, a mere six weeks away, which will give us the opportunity to meet with Mr. Muir and his staff and also to do our promised deputations to Council.

4. Finally, while I am sure we all agree that citizen participation is important in issues that seriously affect their communities, it is even more important that, when citizens devote themselves to that participation, it amounts to more than "window dressing". This is why we feel it is important to address Council **before** any final decisions are made with respect to the funding options that will eventually be presented to the public.

Thank you for your assistance with this very important matter.

Marilyn Ginsburg (Grandview Area Residents Association)
Toinette Bezant (Bayview Glen Residents Association)
Evelin Ellison (Ward One South Thornhill Residents Inc.)
Eileen Liasi (German Mills Ratepayers Association)