

Mayor Scarpitti and Members of the General Committee,

As you are aware, Liberty's "World On Yonge" development in Ward 1 has now reached the stage where the \$2M in funds, secured under Section 37, is available for enhanced amenities in our area. We are very excited about this opportunity since our area, as pointed out in the Yonge St. Corridor Study, is lacking in outdoor activities for our residents.

Over the past two years, Grandview Area and Ward One South residents have held a number of public meetings to solicit ideas on how to best use the funds for our community. With the leadership of Councillor Valerie Burke and a 6 member committee, we have created a short list of the amenities that our community feels are their priorities.

We are delighted to share these ideas with you. We believe they represent the breadth of demographics, interests, and needs of our existing and new residents alike, and that they will add significant social and recreational value to Ward One.

The residents have chosen four priority items; a bandshell, a splash pad, an outdoor ice rink, and a skate board park to meet the breadth of interests for all ages. We anticipate that City Planners will be able to accommodate the band shell, splash pad, and ice rink at Grandview Park and Proctor Park, both in the centre of our community.

- 1) For the bandshell, we are partnering with the Thornhill Community Band, a 60 piece orchestra that has agreed to provide the community with free outdoor concerts throughout the summer. This Band has served Thornhill and York Region for many years, but has never had a consistent venue. In addition to the possibility of summer theatre in the bandshell, we plan that Henderson Public School will also be able to use the bandshell as an outdoor educational facility for student concerts, plays, etc.
- 2) The outdoor ice rink foundation may have a dual purpose and serve as a basketball court during non-winter months. The community already creates a large ice rink that is well maintained by volunteers, and this arrangement is expected to continue going forward. The foundation for the rink will make it more "durable" and easier to maintain ice quality throughout the winter.
- 3) With hot summers in the city, both young families and grandparents alike have expressed strong interest in a splash pad. We anticipate that permanent washrooms will be part of the "Renaissance of Parks Program" and will be included in the integrated development of our recreational vision for these three venues.
- 4) The skate board park is anticipated to be included in a parkette design, as part of the "World On Yonge" development, and will not require Section 37 funding, but is well endorsed by the community.

In addition, we have a 5th and 6th project on the priority list. We hope to provide partial funding for a large mural, to be painted by local artists, under the Henderson Avenue CN Bridge, as well as play equipment for the students at E.J. Sands Public School (whose entire playground was destroyed in the

2005 Thornhill flood). Primary funding for these two projects would come from the City (mural) and York Region District School Board and Parents Council (playground equipment).

We look forward to your endorsement and assistance in bringing our community vision to life, using the skills of City staff. We have started to look at functional elements for these projects and have had helpful conversations with Jim Baird, Commissioner of Development Services and Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services. We look forward to breaking ground in 2013 and believe these projects will reflect positively on the City of Markham's ongoing community development.

Sincerely,

Grandview Area and Ward One South Section 37 Committee

Councillor Valerie Burke, Chair

Rob Armstrong

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Paul Kelly

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