

**C20
COMMUNICATION
COUNCIL – September 26, 2023
CW (1) - Report No. 31, Item 2**

From: Clerks@vaughan.ca
To: [Todd Coles](#)
Cc: [Isabel Leung](#); [Adelina Bellisario](#)
Subject: FW: [External] Block 55 Motion by Jackson 2nd by Mayor Del Duca
Date: September-25-23 12:36:24 PM

From: IRENE FORD [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 12:20 PM
To: Clerks@vaughan.ca
Cc: Council@vaughan.ca; Brian Capitao <bcapitao@yrmg.com>; Kim Zarzour <kzarzour@yrmg.com>; Noor Javed <njaved@thestar.ca>; Emma McIntosh <emma.mcintosh@thenarwhal.ca>; Joel Wittnebel <joel.wittnebel@thepointer.com>; Joseph Quigley <joseph@newmarkettoday.ca>; Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) <info@trca.ca>; Paul Freeman <paul.freeman@york.ca>; Wayne Emmerson <wayne.emmerson@york.ca>
Subject: [External] Block 55 Motion by Jackson 2nd by Mayor Del Duca

Vaughan Council,

[APPLICATION FOR BLOCK PLAN APPROVAL FILE BL.55W.2019 – BLOCK 55 NORTHWEST LANDOWNERS GROUP INC. - Committee of the Whole \(1\) - September 12, 2023](#)

It was incredibly disappointing to watch Council support a motion brought forward by Linda Jackson that was seconded by Mayor Del Duca. It went against the local councillor's wishes and was on a controversial development that is in fact building on portions of the Greenbelt because the applicant has successfully argued that a more than 20 year old approval is valid making them subject to the Greenbelt transitional policies.

The member's motion is clearly aligned with the [landowners](#) wills and wants. It is abundantly clear that a catholic high school will not be needed in both Blocks 55 and 41. The YCDSB is asking for a high school in both blocks until they have certainty about proceeding forward, a completely reasonable ask. A high school makes more sense in Block 55 compared to Block 41, it is farther away from the two existing schools and along the highway 27 corridor.

However, I do wonder if it would make the planning justification for active parklands on the Greenbelt weaker for the same landowner in Block 41. I remind Council that it was Linda Jackson who brought forward Members Motions to York Region Council that went against the recommendations of Vaughan, Markham, York Region and TRCA staff as well as huge public outcry and the Greenbelt Foundation. I see this motion as continuing to facilitate the destruction of the Greenbelt and due the landowners bidding in the absence of a reasonable explanation for why she is sticking her neck out and asking that Council support her. Ultimately these policies were approved as special policies in York Region's 2022 Official Plan. She will argue they are not relevant but they are because a high school here affects Block 41 were the policies do apply.

If this landowner and consultant are not embroiled in enough Greenbelt controversy to make you hesitant to support their direct asks then you either don't care or you haven't been paying attention.

I ask that you do not support the member's motion nor the Block Plan at this time. At the very

least a recorded vote.

The OPA's clearly state that servicing needs to be in place and this is ignored as documented in your own staff report. If the ZBA and draft plan of subdivision can't be approved because you don't know how the development will be serviced why is this prioritized and being consulted upon with the public? You don't even know where capacity will come for later phases of the development.

Sewer and York Region's on-going Water and Wastewater Master Plan update study. The proposed water servicing strategy for Block 55 West must be accepted by the Region prior to final approval of the Draft Plan of Subdivision and Zoning By-law Amendment applications. York Region IAM staff expressed that wastewater capacity for the later phases of the development is unclear. It is the opinion of Vaughan's

There is no [map](#) presented that shows the Greenbelt boundary as it exists today and the parcels of land that apply to the the transitional policies of the Greenbelt Plan contemplated in OPA [47](#) and [48](#). It is incredibly disingenuous of staff and the consultant to suggest otherwise and not clearly show this on the attached figures.

TRCA's role has been significantly reduced as is documented in this [York Region staff report](#). Who has reviewed the block plan and technical studies to ensure stormwater protection, natural heritage protection, endangered species protection and compliance with the applicable provincial legislation. This is now a municipal responsibility with no resources or technical expertise.

Then there are questions on how the site ever came to be graded. What about tree removals that occurred during the grading? Was this approved by Vaughan staff, TRCA? What about archeological studies were they all completed prior to the grading occurring?

I am disappointed by the Council members who supported this motion and the Block Plan, if you continue to support this you too have your heads in the sand just as Minister Clark did as stated in the Integrity Commissioner's Greenbelt Inquiry report. It also demonstrates that Vaughan Council and staff are fully onboard with the destruction of the Greenbelt by stealth for the landowner who benefited the most from the Greenbelt removals. Even with the provinces reversal on the Greenbelt Removals the attack on the Greenbelt has not been reversed by a long shot.

Regards,
Irene Ford