

Rhonda West

From: Erin Jackson
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:21 PM
To: Rhonda West; Sue Wood
Subject: Fwd: [External] Online Form Submittal: Mayor and Council

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:15:03 PM
To: Alan Harrison <aharrison@salmonarm.ca>; David Gonella <dgonella@salmonarm.ca>; Debbie Cannon <dcannon@salmonarm.ca>; Kevin Flynn <kflynn@salmonarm.ca>; Louise Wallace-Richmond <lwallacerichmond@salmonarm.ca>; Sylvia Lindgren <slindgren@salmonarm.ca>; Tim Lavery <tlavery@salmonarm.ca>; Erin Jackson <ejackson@salmonarm.ca>
Subject: [External] Online Form Submittal: Mayor and Council

Mayor and Council

First Name Peter
Last Name Henderson
Address: ██████████ Hudson Way NW, Salmon Arm, BC, V1E1P4
Return email address: ██████████
Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Shelter Location (July 24 Meeting)
Body July 24, 2023

Dear Mayor Harrison and Council,

First of all, we want to make it clear that we completely understand the complexity of our current situation, we do not have answers to put forth, but as residents of Parks and Waters Edge (#10- 350 Hudson Way NW) we can speak to the impact on our neighbourhood since the encampment has been present in our community. In an effort to make decisions that consider all community stakeholders, we would like to bring forward a number of concerns.

First of all, our neighbourhood/strata has frequently reached out asking for support as we have noticed that there has been

a noticeable absence of following current bylaws. The city of Salmon Arm clearly states, "No person shall on any day before seven (7) o'clock in the forenoon or after ten (10) o'clock in the afternoon make or cause, or permit to be made or caused, any noise in or on a public or private place which disturbs or tends to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort, or convenience of any person or persons in the neighbourhood or vicinity". It goes on to repeat the bylaw that commits to maintaining the, "comfort of individuals or the public." It is important to note that at this point, there has been a significant decrease in individuals (tourists and residents) using Peter Janek Park, an increase in litter and drug paraphernalia, a rise in theft, consistent noise infractions, and a lack of respect for private and public property. We are feeling unsafe, unsupported, and unwelcomed in our own homes.

These concerns don't only impact residents living near the current encampment; our businesses, tourist industry, and youth are also affected. Our daughter teaches at the local high school and has heard numerous reports about students accessing drugs and paraphernalia in the park, away from the view of the street. Should we consider having a more centralized location with higher visibility for the proposed shelter? I, Kathy, work at the Churches Thrift Store and frequently am finding people sleeping on our property, stealing items, and going through donations after hours leaving a large mess for the employees to clean up. How can we ensure that people and property are also secure and safe?

Of highest personal concern, is our neighbourhood. We moved to Parks and Waters Edge to celebrate the hard work that we put forth earlier in our lives. We are among the younger members of our neighborhood. Most gated, lake-side communities are 55+ and have chosen to retire in an environment that is peaceful and private. We have neighbours who have vision and hearing loss, dementia, and mobility issues. We are extremely concerned for the safety of people that we care about. There has been frequent theft from our private properties, aggressive interactions, and a noticeable concern for the mental wellness of our homeless community. We understand that the proposed shelter will provide security at the shelter, but what type of security will we be offered as neighbours? This needs to be considered seriously as we have not been consulted with to hear about the current encampment situation. We recognize that a facility functions much differently than an encampment, but it would be foolish and naive to assume that some of the behaviours that are currently being practiced won't carry on and need to be addressed in the

future.

Lastly, we have a number of questions that we would like you to consider as you move towards making a decision for placement of a homeless shelter in town:

How will shelter security and community supports ensure that paraphernalia and drug use don't impact residential areas?

What other sites have been considered at this point? Why were they determined to be unfit?

If this has been an 18 month search, why were community members not informed?

What type of services are being offered and added to address our current crisis with addictions in our community? What funds are being put forward to increase education, information, and prevention of drug use and mental health supports?

Will encampments still be present when a physical structure is built? What bylaws will be introduced to ensure that the safety, property, and peacefulness of lakeside parks are maintained? Have you considered the demographics of the community you are placing this shelter in? The proposed placement includes some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

Has the impact on residential property value been considered? There will be a negative impact on our housing value.

In closing, we would like to strongly request that you reconsider the placement for the current proposed shelter. We feel that the information we have brought forward demonstrates that we are not, yet, at a place to firmly decide that this is the best fit for this important addition to our community. Just because it could work, does not mean that it is a good option. In reflecting over the process, communication, and concerns it seems as though there has been limited involvement of all stakeholders and we would like to ensure that the voices of our neighbourhood are being heard, valued, and considered.

Thank you for taking time to hear our concerns. We move forward with trust and hope recognizing that we are members of a community who value each voice.

Sincerely,
Peter and Kathy Henderson

██████████ Hudson Way NW
Salmon Arm, BC
V1E 1P4

Would you like a response:

Yes