

Transcript from the minute taker recording (12:03 to 17:04) of the public hearing held on December 6, 2023 to consider Bylaw No. 276, Oyster Bay/Buttle Lake Official Community Plan, 2023.

Maddalena Dunn – Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, Director Rice and the um Staff of the Strathcona Regional District. My name is Maddalena Dunn, I am retired BC Park Ranger and professional forester and forest ecologist and I've lived near York road for over 37 years and I have um already submitted some written comments but I just think it's really important to be at the public hearing and people to show up cuz um these things are really important to our area and most of the difference to the park lands, environment sensitive areas. We must remember those people who came before us and we are the keepers of that history, specially those of us who have lived here for so many years. D'Arcy de Hart was my forest service manager, and he spent much part of his retirement dealing with the damaged wet land here at Finch Road and I also want to remember Jim Hagel, lived in the neighborhood and he's responsible for this lovely neighborhood that we live in. All of us that have property along Stonefly Creek are prohibited from any development of any kind through land title restriction covenants on the other side of Stonefly Creek, I also have a very beautiful cotton wood, fantastic huge eagle nest tree on my property that was um also um very important to the Hagel Family, the Hagel Family and the Mills Family created three legacies in our neighbourhood, a recreation park that is now known throughout the area for the playgrounds and playing fields, they also dedicated an active transportation paths between the neighbourhoods between York road and Henry road, and a third area that is called Hagel Creek Park Reserve, specifically for the purposes of environmental protection, perhaps it was unknown that this park reserve was dedicated by the Hagel Family in memory of Jim a year after he passed away and I have spoken to the Hagel Family and all of my neighbours, and the adjacent residents and the family and asked that the Strathcona Regional District show respect and prohibit any new development in this park for public recreation use.

Moving on to some other parts of the official community plan, I'm really pleased to see the hazard lands, so that we have a good plan in preparation for emergencies and disasters, particularly floods, fires, earthquakes, landslides and even cause disasters. I was very puzzled to see that the plan does not refer to the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan which was written in 2022 before the Housing Needs Report, so it's puzzling there's no reference to it, it contains many recommendations that should go into our Official Community Plan to deal with interface fires, we saw what happened in the Okanagan and it can happen here, perhaps you will be including it in the climate adaptation strategy.

Another point I'd like to make is that our previous Official Community Plan had set up a glossary of terms and every piece of legislation should have a set of definitions, it's one of my favorite sayings is, this time of year when you're writing letters to Santa or blowing out candles on your birthday cake, goes like this, may you get what you wish for and may it be what you meant...so we need definitions, it's very difficult to understand the rule of law of legal documents without knowing the terms.

And finally, I'd like to give my compliments to Director Rice and all of the staff for relaunching and updating the 2017 draft OCP. It was well overdue, we needed it updated. Very committed staff, the writers and all the provincial agencies and the members of the public who contributed, there is over 100 pages on all these really fantastic maps full of goals, objectives, policies, guidelines. Good work. Thank you. Well done.

Director John Rice – Thank you, do we have any more speakers that would like to come up?

Meredith Starkey, Manager, Parks and Planning – not on the speakers list, no one else has signed up.

Director John Rice – Nobody else signed up? Ok, if um I'll just wait a few minutes if people would like to make further comments, please get your comments in and um in a few minutes I'll just check and make sure that um there's no more speakers, thank you.