

Since 1845



Wednesday November 18, 2009

Mr. Chris Murray
City Manager
77 James St. North
Hamilton, Ontario
L8R 2K3

Re: West Harbour Recreational Master Plan (“WHRMP”)

To follow up on our letter of July 22, 2009 on this same topic (copy attached); the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, as well as the existing waterfront user/stakeholders who comprise our Waterfront Revitalization Task Force, met on Nov 13, 2009. It is apparent that the process for the WHMRP has not yet achieved the desired results of our understanding of intent of the Council Directive of January 12, 2009. Specifically, there remains material opposition by almost all stakeholders to the plans that we understand are now being contemplated by City Staff. Chris Phillips of your staff was present at the referenced meeting on November 13, 2009 and can provide brief particulars

However, in our view, all parties concerned (i.e. City of Hamilton, Hamilton Waterfront Trust (“HWT”), the Chamber, and the Waterfront Stakeholders) can still accomplish the intent of Council with some further direct and earnest communication. On behalf of the Stakeholders then, we recommend that the following process be put in place to expedite an agreeable compromise to resolve the current planning issues for the West Harbour; namely:

1. Immediately put the appropriate people and tools together for a whole day of collective consultation., i.e.: pertinent drawings, plans, and the model as built by the HWT. Macassa Bay Yacht Club has offered their facility for this purpose.
2. Each Stakeholder Group will also meet individually at a specific time on that date with City Planners and the HWT to discuss their issues. They will bring their points of concern in writing and keep to the time slotted for their appointment.

The expectation for all parties is that there be open discussion and willingness by all to compromise on their positions. Each party will have equal standing for the purposes of discussion. At the completion of this process, both the City Planners and HWT would put the drawings and plan together. The final of the plan would then be presented to the Stakeholders Group and WAG for final approval.

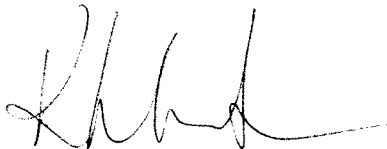
This could be accomplished within 30 days if the proposed day can be scheduled in November. The Stakeholders Group could then likely support the agreed upon Plan so the Planning Department can present this to Council as a Stakeholder backed plan, probably within the next 60 days. We acknowledge that the plan is not likely to meet every need of every Stakeholder, but it would likely then be a compromise that will meet the critical needs for each organization going forward.

However, we do recommend that the date for the staff report back to Council be extended by two months to say the first Committee of the Whole meeting of February, 2010.

Lastly, but of particular import to the Chamber, as a Business organization, we wish to restate the Chamber's long-standing position as a true champion of Waterfront Development. However, we also do have a core value that if the actions of any government will materially disrupt negatively the viability of any private sector enterprise, it must clearly demonstrate that the rationale for so doing will be clearly for the broader public good; and that further, even if so demonstrated, said entity(ies) must be fairly and promptly compensated for any loss of business. We remain concerned that this principal, on the surface, does not seem to have been applied consistently to all stakeholders, in particular to MacDonald Marine.

Please refer any questions on these matters to our CEO, John Dolbec. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Liebersbach', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ruth Liebersbach, President,
Hamilton Chamber of Commerce.

CC: To all members of our Waterfront Revitalization Task Force