

Presentation by the Thistleton Multi-Service Centre Board of Management to City Council re EX16.21 2a

The Thistleton Multi-Service Centre is vital to our community. Using last year's statistics, the City Recreation & Seniors programs had over 28,000 participants. The community rooms were permitted out a total of 1,815 times with attendees totalling over 90,000 people. We have 10 churches who regularly permit out rooms in the centre and have been doing so for a number of years.

The Centre also leases out space to non-profit agencies which benefits the community. One tenant, the Rexdale Day Nursery, has had close to 31,000 people pass through their doors annually. Another tenant, Rexdale Women's Centre, provides essential services where their clients visited the centre almost 49,000 times within a year. All our tenant spaces are fully leased and are indispensable to North Etobicoke.

Aside from paying rent since 1986, the City of Etobicoke and now the City of Toronto paid for all maintenance, repairs and improvements to TMSC. As the TDSB is willing to negotiate a sale of the property to the City of Toronto, we believe it's only right all capital improvements covered by the City should be taken into consideration in the negotiations to purchase.

The Board of Management and our local Councillor worked in 2011 to have the City of Toronto recognize the value and contribution TMSC made to the community when the City was prepared to discontinue the lease. We did our research, proved its value and were successful in retaining the building. We thought that would be the last time we would have to conduct such a fight to save our centre. We were wrong.

As a result, as soon as we heard the TDSB wanted to declare 925 Albion Rd. surplus and sell it, we put together a flyer advising the community of the situation. Over 150 people attended the TDSB public meeting on this issue and without exception they wanted this building to remain a community hub.

The TMSC Board of Management also created a petition that we wanted to be presented to Council which initially asked the Public School Trustees to continue the lease of the Centre to the City of Toronto over the long term so the services provided would carry on.

- **1,043** people have signed the petition showing the support in the community for the continued access to TMSC. Superintendent Taverner from 23 Division asked to sign our petition. This is not the time to remove resources from our community.

Last, but most importantly, we would like to discuss the ownership of the Village Green that is on the Thistleton site. The Ontario Act respecting The Board of Education for the Borough of Etobicoke, 1973. Article 6 states "The New Village Green, is hereby declared to be held by the Board in trust as a park for use and enjoyment by the public generally and the Board shall have no power to convey the New Village Green to be used for any other purpose whatsoever."

The Village Green cannot be sold. The property can be transferred to another owner, such as the City of Toronto, as long as the original trust is maintained. It was donated to us in 1896 and was the first public park established in Etobicoke. The City has received a copy from us of all the Land Deeds & Trustee Agreements showing the Village Green belongs to the community, not the TDSB. It is

our contention that the City should just assume the Trusteeship and not incur any cost for the transfer of the park.

The TMSC Board of Management fully supports the recommendation before you that relates to 925 Albion Road (Thistleton Multi-Service Centre). We ask that you approve this recommendation. Thank you.

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