

City Council**Motion Without Notice**

MM44.103	ACTION			Ward:17
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383-425 Old Weston Road, 1800 and 1818 St. Clair Avenue West - Request to allocate Section 42 Cash-In-Lieu from the development for purpose of creating a Dog Off-Leash Area within S.A.D.R.A. Park or alternatively Hydro Lands - by Councillor Cesar Palacio, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate*

Recommendations

Councillor Cesar Palacio, seconded by Councillor Frances Nunziata, recommends that:

1. City Council request the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to re-affirm support for and initiate the process towards creating a Dog Off-Leash Area within S.A.D.R.A Park or along the Hydro Lands and to report back within the first quarter of 2019 on an implementation strategy in consultation with the local Ward Councillor.
2. City Council request the Director, Community Planning, Etobicoke-York District and the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, in consultation with the Ward Councillor, to prioritize the Section 42 Cash-In-Lieu allocation towards the creation of a Dog-Off Leash Area within S.A.D.R.A. Park or the Hydro Lands, along with additional community benefits within S.A.D.R.A. Park, including, but not limited to a new splash pad, playground enhancements and other aesthetic improvements and to report back within the first quarter of 2019.

Summary

Prior to City Council adjourning for the 2014 Municipal Election, I tabled a Notice of Motion that was unanimously approved by City Council, whereby a request was initiated to review the process to create a Dog Off-Leash Area near S.A.D.R.A. Park or alternatively along the Hydro Lands that are in close proximity. However, no report has been brought before City Council to date. Here is the link to the Motion that was approved with the stipulated direction at that time:

<https://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2014/mm/bgrd/backgroundfile-72894.pdf>

S.A.D.R.A. Park was created by the community coming together in a determined effort, to clean up a barren Hydro-One corridor that was once overrun by drug dealers and other unlawful users. It needed to be cleaned up and revitalized; that was a decade ago. Ever since,

we added some playground amenities, improved lighting and other passive uses, which increased daily park usage that in turn, acted as a deterrent against illegal activities, thus creating a safe environment for our children and families to enjoy.

Since 2012, my office has been working closely with local residents to determine their priorities for their neighbourhood park via community meetings and public surveys. The support for an enclosed dog off-leash area in S.A.D.R.A. Park, in addition to playground enhancements, the installation of a new splash-pad, and other aesthetic improvements are the preferred options the community wishes to see implemented, subject to funding.

Currently dog lovers in the area are left with little choice but to let their dogs run loose in the local Park and school yard causing unnecessary alarm, panic and trepidation amongst young school-aged children, mothers with strollers, and the elderly. I concur with local residents that off leash Dog Parks offer important health benefits to our pets and to the community as a whole.

The demographics in the community have changed dramatically over the past few years, as there has been an influx of newcomers that consists of young professionals and families. However, Ward 17 remains the most parkland deficient in the entire City of Toronto with the fewest number of parks/parkettes and open space amenities for children. By creating recreational facilities for families and children to enjoy, it would bring added life and vitality to the area and also create win/win situation for everyone.

Furthermore, the Neighbourhood Improvement Areas are part of the City's "Toronto Strong Neighbourhoods Strategy 2020; which works as part of a larger City strategy to build stronger neighbourhoods in Toronto that are currently falling below the Neighbourhood Equity Score - the objective is to provide an equitable set of social, economic and cultural opportunities for all residents, with the goal of advancing equitable outcomes across all neighbourhoods. According to the 2011 Neighbourhood Demographic Estimates, the Weston-Pelham Neighbourhood Improvement Areas has a 21 percent population living in low-income with an average household income of \$34,000-\$35,000.

The proponent of the lands (Diamond Corp.) municipally known as 1800-1818 St. Clair Avenue West and 383-425 Old Weston Road have proposed to remediate and redevelop the subject lands that abut S.A.D.R.A. Park. The proposal consists of five low-rise blocks of stacked 3.5-storey townhouses on the Old Weston Road lands and an 11-storey mixed use building with retail and live-work space at grade on the St. Clair Avenue West lands. A total of 242 residential units are proposed.

Whereas the proponent had previously met alongside my office, Parks and Recreation and Community Planning for the intent and purpose of creating a new Dog Off-Leash Area within SADRA Park or within the Hydro corridor, along with accompanying S.A.D.R.A. park enhancements, the proponent is now exercising their option to proceed with Section 42 Cash-In-Lieu of parkland dedication (CIL), for the purpose of parkland development from the development of 383-425 Old Weston Road, 1800 and 1818 St. Clair Avenue West.

The Section 42 Cash-in-Lieu funds will be used to create a Dog Off-Leash Area, along with local recreational enhancements such as the implementation of a new splash-pad, playground improvements and other aesthetic features.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM44.103