



Council Member Motion

For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 14th, 2024

To: Committee of the Whole **Date:** November 14th, 2024
From: Councillor Jeremy Caradonna and Councillor Stephen Hammond
Subject: Consultation on the Future of City-Owned Public Assets in the North Park Neighbourhood

Background

There are two key City-owned public assets located in the North Park neighbourhood that would benefit from public consultation and engagement related to their future uses: 1) the Caledonia parking lot (940 Caledonia Avenue) and 2) the Urbana-Romeo's site (1703-1745 Blanshard Street), the latter of which is intended as the site of a future park.

The Caledonia lot is currently being used partly for parking, including for Royal Athletic Park (RAP) and the VicPD, and partly as the location of Caledonia Place, a 30-person modular housing facility. The current temporary use permit (TUP) for the site allows the facility to remain in place until fall of 2025. At that point, the facility will need to relocate. Assuming that Caledonia Place is relocating, this large urban site could be reimagined as some type of mixed-land development to meet diverse community needs. Public input would help clarify the path ahead.

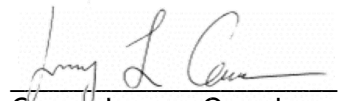
The Urbana-Romeo's site was purchased with the intention of eventually transforming it into a public park. It will likely take a few years before a park can be built, due to competing priorities, but the visioning should start now. Community feedback could focus on the assets and amenities that the community would like to see installed at the future park site, to ensure that neighbourhood needs are met, and that community safety is prioritized.

Recommendation

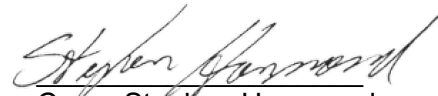
That Council direct staff to organize a "community conversation" engagement in the North Park neighbourhood to focus on the future uses of the following sites, excluding uses as sheltering or supportive housing:

- The Caledonia parking lot (940 Caledonia Ave);
- The Urbana-Romeo's site (1703-1745 Blanshard Street), focusing on assets and amenities for a future park;

And that staff report back on key takeaways from the engagement, with the hopes of informing the City's 2025 Official Community Plan (OCP) update and/or area planning more generally for the North Park neighbourhood.



Coun. Jeremy Caradonna



Coun. Stephen Hammond