

Delegation Dec 2 2019 Parks and Recreation Framework

I am registering to delegate regarding this matter for Dec 2, 2019 and am requesting that this matter on the agenda be heard at 630 pm to ensure that User groups members and representatives of sports groups are fairly heard and provided an opportunity to participate.

We were not afforded ample time to prepare a presentation to submit by noon today because we were not notified by email until Wed Nov 27, 2019 after 7pm. If I had not read the email, I would not have known it was being discussed before the Committee as a whole at 930 am on Dec 2 2019.

At the User group meeting I had asked several times to be kept informed and to have my questions and concerns answered around this document. That did not occur. This is a reoccurring problem where by the people that make policy changes do not include us, do not engage with us, and thereby do not treat us fairly. In order to be inclusive, I and others should have had more than a day or two of notice that this was going to the Committee as a whole so that I would have time to be able to review the document, and determine if I need to delegate and put a presentation together. Staff are afforded the opportunity to put together their work, the citizens this document impacts should be afforded the same fair opportunity. To not do so provides the message that fairness and community input is not championed by this council something I believe council feels strongly around.

As a volunteer, it is not fair to expect that I can be available during the day. I have a fulltime job and I commute everyday. Furthermore, I need time to put my presentation together so I will forward it on Monday Dec 2, 2019. Therefore, this matter needs to be heard in the evening of Dec 2 2019 or on another evening where citizen input can be heard.

To conclude, in the past Delegates have been afforded the opportunity to delegate in the evening and I wish to express that this option should remain and be the norm so that all organizations that provide activities in the City of Burlington that is primarily volunteer based has an opportunity to be engaged in the changes, to be included and to champion their issues and represent their clubs concerns and interest to ensure this community continues to thrive. To deny this would be unjust and not in the principles of civic engagement, inclusiveness and of course transparency.

I look forward to be able to delegate on December 2, 2019 in the evening.

Sincerely,

Sarah Merritt-Kellogg

President

BWRSL