

March 20, 2011

Dear Mayor Goldring, Members of Council and City staff,

We understand that the staff recommendation to support the installation of artificial turf at Norton Park was unanimously supported by Members of Committee at the Community Services Meeting held on March 9, 2011.

We would very much like to know if our submitted input on this topic provided on January 20 and March 9, was received and considered by staff and members of Council.

To date, other than a response from Councillor Sharman who forwarded related resource links, BurlingtonGreen has received no direct response from staff or Members of Council to either of our letters and their contained inquiries and suggestions. This is disappointing as we know that this Council recognizes the value of citizen and stakeholder input to support the democratic process.

We understand that the issue of artificial turf vs. natural turf has its challenges, but do not understand the rationale for advancing the installation of artificial turf without addressing the outstanding fundamental questions about environmental impact while ensuring the issue is effectively communicated to the citizens of Burlington.

While we respect the City's need to move forward to advance projects, we believe it to be reasonable to expect that staff would have conducted the necessary research on the product and communicated the resulting information to the citizens of Burlington effectively starting back in 2008 when the product was proposed as part of part of the Norton Park project and City's Parks Master Plan process.

We hope the unanimous support for artificial turf installation at Norton Park does not indicate a "green light" for installations at other city locations in the years ahead. We would like to know if our recommendation for a strategic approach to determine which locations (if any) in Burlington can support artificial turf has been considered as we have received no response to this or other valid questions.

We look forward to receiving a response from city staff and/or Council to our inquiries so we can accurately report the position of the City and Council on this matter.

Thank you. We look forward to reviewing future issue reports that include a balanced presentation of social, environmental and financial considerations.

Respectfully,

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