



A historical community in the heart of Calgary

1136 - 8th Street S.E. Calgary AB T2G 2Z7

November 28, 2008

Richard Goecke
Development and Building Approvals
Planning Department
City of Calgary

[Via Email Only](#)

RE: DP2008-3636 Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Park & Parking area

The Civic Affairs Committee (The Committee) of the Ramsay Community Association appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-noted development permit application.

The Committee met with officials representing the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede (CES) on Tuesday evening November 25, to review and discuss the proposed expansion plans for the park and parking areas on the east bank of the Elbow River, an area that lies within the Ramsay ARP boundary.

The Committee is encouraged by the efforts being made to restore permeable surfaces in the riparian zone adjacent to the Elbow River. We encourage the CES to reconsider the use of gabion baskets within the Elbow River floodway, and to be sensitive to existing runoff grade in this same floodway area. We cannot support changing or hardening edge conditions within the floodway zone.

The Committee supports the renaturalization of the area in Phases 1 & 2 with significant replanting of trees, both deciduous and coniferous. We encourage the CES to consider using indigenous species of trees and native grasses within the sensitive floodway and flood plain riparian zone between the escarpment and the Elbow River. Specifically, we encourage the use of white pine coniferous trees instead of the proposed Colorado blue spruce, and the use of native grasses like buffalo grass, for the "manicured" grassed area to reduce requirement for artificial irrigation, herbicide and fertilizer use in the riparian zone. We note and support the use of indigenous shrubs for other landscaping purposes.

The Committee supports the installation of 34 bicycle storage racks at two locations in the park, to encourage the use of alternate transportation modes to motor vehicles. It was noted that the CES is committed to providing additional temporary bicycle racks during Stampede time.

The Committee expressed its concern for the increase in human intensity of use during Stampede time, with the attendant risk of increased litter and contamination being deposited in the Elbow River and on the riverbanks. We encourage the CES to monitor and educate its exhibitors and customers towards respecting the fragile riverine environment.

The Committee also expressed its concern for the proposed placement of temporary horse corrals in the floodway zone for Phase 2, the southern portion of the site which presently contains a CES storage facility. We encourage the CES to reconsider this use, which is contrary to provincial regulations (AOPA) for domestic animal storage in proximity to waterways, as well as proximity to existing residential dwellings immediately above the proposed corral area, at the top of the escarpment.

In our discussion we also noted the amount of permanent fencing along the pathway detour route adjacent to the east side escarpment. It is our desire for the minimum amount of fencing to be used in

order to maintain animal migration corridors along the escarpment. We also have concerns for pedestrian and cyclist safety within the pinch point of the pathway bypass route behind the existing CES Operations building. We are encouraged that the Calgary Police Service will offer an opinion for security measures for public safety within this area.

Although not discussed at the November 25 meeting, the Committee wishes to reiterate its longstanding desire for the CES to eliminate or significantly limit the use of Elbow Avenue and Sunshine Gate for Saddledome event egress traffic when the Olympic Way underpass is completed. This will mitigate much of the event egress traffic from shortcutting through the Ramsay community thereby significantly improving the community's quality of life, especially during the Calgary Flames season of home games. Limiting this traffic will also improve environmental conditions along the Elbow River riparian zone between the vehicular bridge and MacDonald Avenue.

The Civic Affairs Committee of the Ramsay Community Association appreciates the opportunities that have been offered to us, for respectful discussion and negotiation of matters of mutual interest between the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede and the community of Ramsay. We look forward to continuing good neighbourly relations and open communication between us into the future.

The community of Ramsay welcomes sustainable development that respects the history and emerging character of the neighbourhood, complies with the Area Redevelopment Plan and bylaws, and will be a benefit to the people who live here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Benoit". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Michael Benoit
VP External / Chair Civic Affairs
Ramsay Community Association

cc. Alderman Joe Ceci
Warren Connell, CES
Jim Bellingham, CES
Roy Wright, Roan Consulting
Judy Hellevang, President RCA
Mac Hickley, River Valleys Committee