

It was requested that each individual member of the Daycare Working Group provide feedback to Mayor and Council on recommendations based on the work of the committee over the past six months.

I would like to have seen a joint recommendation from the group. Working to consensus, or at least having some agreed upon points would have been more satisfying for me, personally, after all the hard work put in by all the committee members.

Based on the needs assessment, of which I participated as part of a sub-committee, a need for before and after school care was, in my opinion, the only clearly identified community need.

Based on the figures we were provided for building, there are insufficient funds to build a stand-alone Day Care Centre with grant money. The bid we examined, discussed, dissected and studied is, in reality over one hundred thousand dollars short for completion without looking at contingencies. The referendum clearly indicated that voters were against utilizing "borrowed" funds for this project. Elected officials must keep this in mind, as well as pre-election promises, before moving forward with any projects which may cause any Village funds to be spent.

We must engage the precautionary principle, derived from science, in our economic approach to this project. When moving in haste, and when there is suspected risk to the public, and in the absence of consensus, the burden of proof falls on those taking the action. We must not let our zeal outweigh our common sense.

My personal opinion is that we do very much need Village amenities and Village meeting spaces. If there was some way to delay the grant once again and combine the DAY CARE with a usable space in a well-considered way with available funds (no borrowed funds) with appropriate contingencies on an appropriate lot, meeting the needs of the children, the needs of the Village, and the needs of the community at large, I would be completely in support of such a project. I would, in fact, be willing to donate my time and energy to help see it through to completion.

An Anmore Community Place would be an asset to our community if it could be a reality. This would have to meet the criteria set above and could not be rushed through without careful planning.

Ultimately, of course, the decision comes back to Council. I reread the mandate of our Working Group where we were empowered to make the decisions. You can see we were unable to do so. There is much passion for the project. There is also the voice of reason preventing us from accepting "free" money which may lead us, like many FREE OFFERS into an untenable financial position.

Somehow we must find the perfect balance.

ELAINE WILLIS

DAY CARE WORKING GROUP MEMBER

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