July 08, 2010

Mayor Fred Eisenberger,
and Members of Hamilton City Council

Dear Members of Council

Misplaced Petition – Re: Warren Park

The Friends of Warren Park posted a petition in Warren Park. In just a few weeks, 350 people signed this petition without solicitation. A delegation then arranged to meet and present the petition to Councillor Powers. Councillor Powers selected the time and place. As it happened, he was not present to listen to our delegation. The petition was left with his assistant, Arlene VanderBeek. Councillor Powers declined a subsequent request to meet.

Our delegation was assured the petition would be provided to the City Clerk and brought to the attention of the proper committee. This did not happen. For several months, our petition simply lay dormant.

Our committee is disappointed that our petition, supported by 350 residents, was not brought to the timely attention of the Public Works Committee. We believe the voices of the taxpayers who signed this petition should have been heard and their wishes taken into consideration by our elected representatives.

The right to access our elected representatives by way of citizens petitioning their government is a time-honoured method of public expression. Citizens take it very seriously. It should be added, that many folks are very angry over the cavalier manner their petition was handled.

We have attempted to be responsible citizens and present our case in a respectful and courteous manner. We appreciate our reception by the Public Works Committee when we presented our brief to the committee on April 19, 2010. Our position to have Warren Park remain leash-free is supported by many taxpayers in both Dundas and the broader Hamilton community. We believe the PWC or the Committee of the Whole should have all the information prior to making a decision on this issue.

Yours truly,

The Friends of Warren Park Committee

Brian Hinkley  Michael Schulte  Gail Fleming

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Attachment: Relevant e-mails

cc: Carolyn Biggs
Legislative Assistant
Office of the City Clerk
Corporate Services
From: Biggs, Carolyn
Date: 6/8/2010 8:25:41 AM
To: Brian Hinkle
Cc: Mart Urbel; Peter Dunn; Michael Schulte; Lynn Gates; Laura Berns; Bill Armstrong; Abby Schulte; Gail Fleming; Dave Gaylor; Michelle Wesley-James; Len Kroese; Nancy Gaylor; Skye Hobden; Angela Kratke; Hayley Shaw; Dore, Al; Lam, H.T.
Subject: RE: Minutes of the Public Works Committee Meeting - Monday, April 19, 2010

Hello Mr. Hinkle,

In response to your e-mail, the petition that you are referring to was in the possession of Al Dore. I now have a copy of the list of Warren park Leash-Free Supporters dated January, 2010, which will be retained in the meeting file. To the best of my knowledge, this list of supports has not been shared with members of the Public Works Committee/Council.

Thank you,
Carolyn Biggs
Legislative Assistant
Office of the City Clerk
Corporate Services

From: Brian Hinkle [mailto:bkhinkle2008@cogeco.net]
Sent: Wednesday, June 02, 2010 3:34 PM
To: Biggs, Carolyn
Subject: Minutes of the Public Works Committee Meeting - Monday, April 19, 2010

Dear Carolyn:

I noticed in the minutes of the Public Works Committee Meeting - Monday, April 19, 2010 the following sentence.

"On behalf of the 119 people who signed a petition, Warren Park for Everyone is asking that dogs be leashed at all times in Warren Park."

There was no reference to the 350 people who signed a petition, Friends of Warren Park asking that dogs be off-leash at all times. This makes me wonder if the City Council and the Public Works Committee ever received our petition.

Could you advise me if the City Council and the Public Works Committee members received copies or notice of our petition?

Thank you,

Brian Hinkle

on behalf of The Friends of Warren Park