



A historical community in the heart of Calgary

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

Mr. Geoff Walker
Development and Building Approvals
City of Calgary

August 5, 2009
Via Email Only to: geoff.walker@calgary.ca

RE: DP2009-2330; Shamrock Hotel Outdoor Café Development Permit Application

The Civic Affairs Committee (CAC) of the Ramsay Community Association welcomes the opportunity to comment on the above-noted Development Permit application. The CAC met on August 4 with a representative of adjacent neighbours to the Shamrock Hotel to discuss this matter. We wish to make the following observations:

1. The outdoor café (patio) for which the owner is applying for a development permit to build, is already in existence and in use since early July 2009. Please refer to photograph page 2.
2. The CAC cannot support a relaxation on the maximum allowable 25.0 square metres in C-COR2 land use district. We note that the dimensions of the “proposed” outdoor café are 56.70 square metres. The CAC strongly suggests that the dimensions of the outdoor café be in conformity with land use bylaw 1P2007; 247 (f), to the satisfaction of the Approving Authority.
3. Re: 1P2007; 247 (e) “must not have outdoor speakers”, anecdotal information from adjacent neighbours indicates that a live band was playing in the outdoor café area during Stampede 2009. This is in contravention of community standards noise bylaw and the MGA right to peaceful enjoyment for adjacent neighbours. This activity suggests that the building owner and manager already flaunt regulations regarding outdoor cafés and is further reason the community cannot support relaxation on either café size or the related number of parking stalls required with the proposed outdoor expansion.
4. The south parking lot area of the Shamrock Hotel which contains the fenced outdoor café (patio) is prone to disruptive behaviors in the form of “tailgate parties” after the bar has closed on weekend nights. There have been documented complaints from adjacent neighbours to the Calgary Police Service about these activities. The CAC therefore is of the opinion that an active oversize outdoor café on the premises will exacerbate this disruptive and potentially dangerous late night/early morning activity.
5. The CAC feels an obligation to comment on the location of the proposed outdoor café from a public health perspective, given that the Shamrock Hotel is adjacent to the Lilydale slaughterhouse and its legal non-conforming offal waste bin. Furthermore the CAC notes that Hurst Road immediately to the west of both the Shamrock Hotel and Lilydale slaughterhouse is an unpaved roadway from which dust blows with each passing vehicle. The CAC suggests that the Calgary Health Region (CHR) may wish to provide a ruling on the public health risks of food and beverage service in such an environment.

6. Notwithstanding the above, 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.

Respectfully,



Michael Benoit
VP External / Chair Civic Affairs
Ramsay Community Association

- cc. Alderman Joe Ceci
Bill Bruce, Bylaw Services
Const. Erin Pritchard, CLO, CPS.
Denis Stefani, Calgary Health Region, AHS

