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Change of Agenda for August 5th Community Meeting

At our previous meetings, I indicated that events around our Community Building and related projects could be fluid and that staying on top of things may require, from time to time, that we take action on fairly short notice. This is one of those times.

Certain time-sensitive considerations have emerged and I want to respond by taking all steps possible to:

- a) keep construction of the new community building on schedule so that we will have a brand new community building by early next summer,
- b) ensure full community involvement in the RFP selection process when dealing with the proposed adult lifestyle housing,
- c) ensure the quickest possible decontamination of the site while minimizing exposure of the project to any risk.

Before I take the steps that I think we need to take to maintain these goals, I want to consult with you.

We had an awards night scheduled for August 5th. With the recipients' indulgence, **I am converting that evening to a consultation meeting on the project and the proposed course of action.** We will re-schedule the Awards night to a slightly later date.

Please come out to our **consultation meeting August 5th from 7:00 pm- 8:00 pm at the current community building, 25 Esquimault Drive.** For more information: 613-580-2685.

Background:

The site of Ecole Maimonides/current community building (formerly Graham Park School), has been contaminated since the days of the former City of Nepean. After years of a very slow decontamination program under the direction of the Ministry of the Environment, there was still no end in sight. Soon, we became aware of the very real possibility of a private developer seeking to tear down the school and redevelop the land - a significant mid to high-rise apartment building was an imminent and distinct possibility.

I took action and, on the basis of the need to address the environmental issue, I was able to convince my City Council colleagues to adopt a creative approach to the property. Council approved my proposal to purchase the site for \$2.5 million as part of a package that would see the school building demolished, the contamination cleaned up, a brand new community building constructed on the adjacent park land and a series of low-profile bungalows introduced to the school site (instead of the potential high-rise apartment building) providing an opportunity to stay in the community for residents of Qualicum-Graham Park who wanted to downsize. The deal was welcomed by Council because it also provided a realistic possibility of the City recouping some of its \$2.5 million via the sale of the adult lifestyle homes. The community enthusiastically endorsed the plan and several community members worked with City staff to develop a functional design plan for the new community building and to propose lay-out and placement for amenities on the parkland. A couple of new, emerging challenges make it advisable for us to re-examine the sequencing and placement of the elements of the project in order to achieve our three main goals.