

Council to stay with twice-monthly meetings

By TRACY KIBBLE
Staff Reporter

A majority of Stouffville politicians like council's new system of meeting twice a month, despite several arguments stating the roster

quashes public involvement and undermines the democratic process.

Resident Steve Sword told officials during a prepared presentation that the loss of council's weekly meetings takes away politicians'

"opportunity for sober second thought" and makes it nearly impossible for people to become involved or express concerns in time for a final vote.

Currently, council holds its discussions at the beginning of the session, moves to a planning committee or public hearing and then finalizes discussions during a later council meeting through majority vote.

"There is no time between the meetings for the public to learn of council issues through the local media; the consecutive running of multiple meetings makes it more difficult than ever for a member of the public to know when their time might arise during the evening..." Sword said.

But town clerk Michele Skinner reported the new bimonthly system is far more efficient in allowing staff adequate time to prepare and organize agendas and cuts down on meeting times.

Skinner rebuked Sword's claim that meeting two Tuesday evenings a month leaves the public out of the process.

Instead she stated it "provides greater access for the public to attend meetings" and gives politicians two weeks to change their minds on an issue if they can get a topic deferred at the initial meeting.

But Ward 1 councillor Ivanka Bradley said deferrals are often impossible to obtain unless a councillor wanting to put off a decision garners majority support from other politicians.

Bradley said the new system displaces council from the daily business dealings at the town making politicians "less effective."

Calling the new system "irresponsible" Bradley said it allows staff to run the town without much say from elected officials.

Sword, a former BIA member who was also instrumen-

tal in stopping the closure of Stouffville's downtown post office through his involvement in the Save the Post Office Committee, said extensive public involvement is quashed with the new system and encouraged council to go back to the old system.

Meanwhile, Ballantrae resident Ed Lyons told officials that the new system places public participation in the back seat to public involvement.

"Efficiency and speeding up meetings is coming at the expense of democracy and people participation," Lyons said.

Ward 2 councillor Stephen Bellerby said the new system cuts down on technical issues which don't require debate.

And Ward 6 councillor Ken Prentice, who admitted he thought the new system would "jam things through in one night" said he likes the twice-monthly sessions and allows councillors to defer items.

Despite several pleas for council to scrap the new system, politicians voted to proceed with the twice-monthly roster.

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Chrysler Classic golf tourney ready to roll

The stars are all in place and the weatherman is promising perfect weather conditions for the Chrysler Celebrity Classic.

Over 70 top names from the world of sport and the entertainment field will be shooting for a \$200,000 prize purse, with the first of three rounds to begin with a shotgun start Friday morning at 9 a.m., at the Emerald Hills Golf and Country Club on Warden Avenue north of Bloomington Road.

The action gets underway today (Wednesday) with a practice round and the Toronto Star Shootout involving contest winners and celebrities.

A Celebrity-Am event involving sponsors and stars is on for Thursday.

The line-up of big names is headed up by National Basketball Association superstar Charles Barkley and his Phoenix Suns teammate Dan Majerle.

Past and present hockey, baseball and football greats will also be competing.

Tickets cost \$10, with children under 12 paying \$5, and kids under three admitted free. Gates open each day at 8 a.m.

Editor's Mail

Kate's great

Dear Editor,

Kate Gilderdale's writing in *The Tribune* never disappoints me.

Now, even before I begin reading Kate's Corner, I begin to cheer her on. I worried for her June 8 (Toothpaste Mystery Investigated).

No need. Kate steered her way through the minefield of rights and political correctness with her usual creative verve, cheeky nerve and delightful sense of humour.

Watch it. With a talent such as this, a BIG newspaper is going to discover her.

Ann Goldring,
Stouffville



NOTICE TO RESIDENTS WITH FRIDAY GARBAGE AND BLUE BOX COLLECTION

Please take note that garbage and recycling collections will be cancelled on Canada Day, Friday, July 1, 1994, due to the Holiday closings of the Waste Disposal Facilities. The alternate collections date will be Monday, July 4, 1994, for both garbage and blue box materials. Only those residents scheduled to receive blue box collection on Friday, July 1, 1994 will receive blue box collection on Monday, July 4, 1994.

If you have any questions regarding this collection change, please contact Browning Ferris Industries at 619-6506 (Garbage) Miller Waste Systems at 1-800-461-1582 (Recycling), or the Town of Pickering Public Works Department at 420-4630 or 683-2760.

Stephen A. Vokes, P. Eng
Director of Public Works

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