

**February 16, 2010**

**Don Mills Friends disagrees with terms of Don Mills Centre settlement, withdraws from OMB party status**

Many of you will have seen the recent article in the North York Mirror titled "[City, developer reach Don Mills Centre deal.](#)" Unfortunately, this settlement between the four OMB parties (Cadillac Fairview, City of Toronto, DMRI, and Don Mills Friends) was signed by our OMB representative, Rein Kuris, without our knowledge and consent. The details of the settlement must remain confidential, but we wish to go on record stating our absolute disagreement on the basis that the settlement is in total contradiction of the objectives with which we entered the negotiations and in complete violation of the [Central Don Mills Secondary Plan](#). As Councillor Minnan-Wong is quoted as saying in the article, the new deal is merely "a slight improvement on the deal Toronto Council rejected in October." It disregards many of the points made in the excellent [Staff Report](#) issued by the Director, Community Planning, North York District, in June of 2009.

The settlement is to be debated and voted on at City Council on February 22, 2010. At a North York Community Council Meeting on February 9, 2010, Councillor Minnan-Wong made a motion requesting full public disclosure of the settlement details. The motion, which can be viewed by clicking [here](#), states in part: "Given the importance this development will have on the Don Mills Community, the terms of any proposed settlement must be made public. Residents and other interested parties must have the opportunity to provide input and comments with regard to any Application that will be approved by Toronto City Council." Unfortunately, all parties (who were asked for their consent), including Rein Kuris acting without our consent once more, voted against this motion and in favour of keeping the terms of the settlement confidential. We strongly agree with Councillor Minnan-Wong's motion and have informed all members of North York Community Council that we support full public disclosure of the settlement terms.

**Withdrawal from OMB party status**

In January 2009, Don Mills Friends applied for and was granted party status at the OMB with reference to Cadillac Fairview's Phase 2 Don Mills Centre application. Read the OMB letter confirming our party status [here](#). As [this OMB document](#) states on page 3, next to the first bullet at the top of that page: "Groups, whether incorporated or not, who wish to become parties, should name a representative. Parties do not need to be represented by lawyers or agents." It is on this basis that Don Mills Friends, which is not an incorporated group, was granted party status. As soon as we voiced our disagreement with the terms of the settlement, however, we were informed that the party status was, in fact, not with us but with our representative, Rein Kuris (who, as mentioned above, had signed the settlement without consulting us and without our consent). Evidently, some details are being twisted in a self-serving purpose, to silence our dissent.

In view of the above, and the fact that the systems dealing with applications from developers, such as the above, are obviously not based on fairness or democracy, we have informed the OMB and all remaining parties that we are withdrawing from OMB party status and that Rein Kuris is no longer acting on our behalf.

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