

Councillor criticized for grandstanding

Last Updated: Tuesday, August 12, 2008 | 6:50 AM AT [Comments2Recommend3](#)
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Charlottetown city council should quietly let the Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission do its work and not try to score political points over the rezoning of a trailer park, says Coun. David MacDonald.

MacDonald was addressing comments by Coun. Mitchell Tweel at Monday's council meeting. The city is appealing a decision by IRAC to allow the construction of two apartment buildings on the site of Idlewheels Trailer Court on Mt. Edward Road. That decision overturned one by council.

'I didn't want to antagonize them.'

— Coun. David MacDonald

Tweel stood to note that IRAC admits it never published a newspaper advertisement of the appeal hearing date, something that usually occurs. He wants the hearing held again to allow those most affected, the trailer park residents, to have their say.

MacDonald lashed out at Tweel for saying anything publicly about Idlewheels Trailer Court.

"When we have this process in motion, that is not in our best interests or the interests of the residents in the mobile home park to be bringing it up here tonight to score points," he said.

"It's absolutely nothing to be gained by talking about it here this evening. We're following along with the process."

City has appealed ruling

The city formally asked IRAC last week to reconsider its decision. MacDonald feels Tweel's criticism of IRAC doesn't help.

"Because this is something that IRAC doesn't have to do, it's not the time, in my opinion, to criticize what was done badly because we're now in the process of trying to get them to reconsider this," he said.

"I didn't want to antagonize them."

MacDonald said he's been in touch regularly with residents in the trailer park, and he's hopeful IRAC will give them a chance to be heard.

Council has also been criticized for not informing residents about the IRAC hearing.

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[Inarticulate2](#) wrote: Posted 2008/08/12

at 9:28 AM ET You cannot antagonize them; IRAC is motionless! Cold, business and no care for the people; as when I dealt with IRAC, Twila M. Whalen said not to concern myself with the peoples. It seems too be the norm, business afore people; as with both councillors' using this now too gain brownie points!

Idlewheels Trailer Court has been in the works of banishment since 2002; yet, council, mayor and too, IRAC has let it go, doing nothing really. Now something has come to life, reality, after giving people hope; they bought, renovated etc over the last six years; and now, their homes are basically worthless! Now councillors MacDonald and Tweel are doing it again, building false hope! There is money too be made, and that is all that IRAC will concern itself with! BUSINESS!

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[nmb1steeler](#) wrote: Posted 2008/08/12

at 8:53 AM ET Mr Tweel does tend to grandstand a bit, but Mr MacDonald seems to prefer backroom deals. Good manners and a professional approach are always the best way to behave, but if IRAC procedures are outdated and less then open and transparent then perhaps a change is needed. If Mr Tweel's questions have opened peoples eyes then the job is well done. Keep it up Mr Tweel, someone has to make some noise or nothing will ever change. These agencies often forget who they work for.

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