

Legislation Text

File #: TMP-26809, **Version:** 1

PRESENTATION CONCERNING WHEELCHAIR SWING PROPOSAL

Lorrie Rimmer introduced Marc Rimmer and their son Finnley who is four years old. Lorrie Rimmer provided an outline of the Platform Wheelchair Swing Proposal.

Ms. Rimmer discussed that the City of Barrie currently does not have platform wheelchair swings in any of their public parks. She felt that it was a necessity for those children in wheelchairs like her son Finnley.

Lorrie Rimmer explained her son Finnley's disabilities. She mentioned that when he was younger he was able to use the baby swing at the park and this was his way to engage and socialize with other children but now he has outgrown the baby swing. She discussed the challenges with using the five-point harness swings as Finnley grows.

She commented that other municipalities such as the City of Hamilton and the Town of Midland have taken the steps to install platform wheelchair swings in their public parks.

Ms. Rimmer provided a background of the "I Have Resolve" charity whose mandate is inclusivity in the community. She discussed the fundraising initiatives held by the charity which included 32 minor hockey players based out of Halton Hills who held an 18 hour gaming event to raise funds to put towards helping a child with inclusion needs. She advised that the charity event had raised a total of \$14,000 and chose to select one recipient from Halton Hills and Barrie. She expressed her excitement that the charity selected Finnley for this honour to receive assistance.

She advised that the family decided that since Finnley enjoyed swinging in the park that the money raised from the charity should be put towards helping the City of Barrie to purchase a platform wheelchair swing for a public park.

In closing, Ms. Rimmer mentioned that the platform wheelchair swing would not only benefit her son but the community as this would provide an opportunity for other children who are wheelchair bound to begin the enjoyment of swinging on a swing set in a public park that would make a more inclusive community.

The Committee asked a number of questions of Ms. Rimmer and City staff and received responses. There were questions asked related to donations for the platform wheelchair swing.