



October 26, 2011

Town of Lysander Planning Board
ATTN: Mr. Michael Bryant, Chairman
8220 Loop Road
Baldwinsville, NY 13027

Dear Mr. Bryant:

The Northwest YMCA Project (Y Project) in Radisson was initiated by a community survey completed in 1999. Previous Radisson Community Association (RCA) Executive Directors and Boards of Directors (BOD) supported and encouraged the process to have the Y in our community as a high value, year round, amenity and community building partner. This project would add quality of life programs and several hundred local jobs for youth within our community. When the project reached the planning and approval phases, our residents had both positive and negative views on various aspects of the project. The last BOD took a neutral position as the RCA did not have an official role in the approval process. The proper approving body for this project was the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC).

The Town of Lysander Planning Board (Board) did invite participation and comment on the project during the approval process. When asked, the Radisson Community Association, Inc (RCA) offered no changes to the submitted plans related to the approval on the Y Project). We did not have an issue with the size, layout and architectural presentation of the facility. They fell within the development guidance that the ESDC provided.

Nonetheless, when given the opportunity to participate in a working group created by the Board to review the application for the Y Project, both members of the RCA Board of Directors and Management participated. We did this in good faith, being led to believe that areas of concern would be addressed and resolved to bring a complete application packet to the Town of Lysander Planning Board. By all accounts, at the conclusion of the working group, which had representatives of the Planning Board, Families for R.E.A.L., the YMCA and RCA, attendees were led to believe that there was, in fact, a completed application to present to the Board with resolution on all noted items of concern.

The news of the unanimous decision of a Positive Declaration of Environmental Significance was received by us, as well as many others, as a great surprise. This report made the determination that the Y Project would negatively impact the community environment. This determination was made apparently without taking into consideration the other existing facilities within the Radisson Community that abut up to residential properties, such as Park Terrace Assisted Living and the Medical Center Facility. It also did not take into consideration that an elementary school, to serve both Radisson Community and the greater Baldwinsville area, is slated to be built on the site bordering this parcel, hence within a residential neighborhood. Also, it compared the proposed Y building to other community use facilities (i.e. Aspen House), to serve the community size as it was at that time and for different purposes. Lastly, the Aspen House is not available for use by non-Radisson members, as your report also indicated.

Radisson residents are not unanimous as is expected on any project, but the BOD believes that the long term vitality of Radisson and the Baldwinsville Community will be well served by the Y Project.

On behalf of the RCA Board of Directors, we would like to express our support behind the Northwest YMCA project in Radisson at the current location.

Sincerely,



Christopher Raddell
President, RCA Board of Directors

Cc: Mr. Aust, TOL Planning Board Member
Ms. Daprano, TOL Planning Board Member
Mr. Kimball, TOL Planning Board Member
Mr. Woods, TOL Planning Board Member
Mr. Bullis, TOL Supervisor
Mr. Fayle, ESDC - CNY Regional Officer