

From: [Emmett Vanson](#)
To: [Committee of Adjustment \(SM\)](#)
Cc: [Peter Graham](#)
Subject: SNGREC Comments Re: Kitchener January CofA
Date: Monday, January 5, 2026 1:56:45 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-kexdlfm1.png](#)

Hello,

The following are my comments for the January CofA for Kitchener. Comments are separated by a bold and underlined heading with addresses, and I have combined multiple applications to receive the same comment.

For 532 and 546 Courtland Ave

Bird and Light Friendly Design

SNGREC requests that the building is designed using bird and light friendly practices. This includes minimizing reflective surfaces, creating visual markers on windows, and using warmer lights that are directed downwards and away from natural areas.

Please see the City of Toronto's bird friendly practices for glass and for lighting as guidelines and implement them thoroughly across the entire design:

<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/8d1c-Bird-Friendly-Best-Practices-Glass.pdf>

<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/8ff6-city-planning-bird-effective-lighting.pdf>

Landscaping

SNGREC requires that native plant species are prioritized in landscaping efforts, and that invasive or potentially invasive species are completely avoided. Non-native species are less ecologically beneficial, and some non-native species can become invasive even after decades of seeming fine. SNGREC requires an opportunity to review any landscape plant lists before procurement begins. SNGREC requests that the proponent uses Kayanase Plant Nursery for procurement of plants if Kayanase's capacity allows.

SNGREC strongly encourages the creation of pollinator gardens using native plant species in landscaped areas not intended for human movement. Pollinator gardens can offer food, breeding space, and sanctuary for pollinators that are harmed by human expansion as they lose functional habitat, and their remaining habitat becomes more fragmented. Pollinator gardens will also increase the visual attractiveness of the area.

For 56 Woolwich St, 14 Sportsman Hill St, 1541 Fischer-Hallman St, 37 Heiman St

Bird and Light Friendly Design

SNGREC requests that the building is designed using bird and light friendly practices. This includes minimizing reflective surfaces, creating visual markers on windows, and using warmer lights that are directed downwards and away from natural areas. Hundreds of millions of birds are killed by windows in North America each year, with 56% being from low-rise residential, thus this request extends to all sizes of development (<https://ontarionature.org/sustainable-building-design-can-stop-millions-of-birds-deaths-blog/>).

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Niá:wen (thank you),

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