From: Constance Menzies

Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2006 1:07 PM

To: Mayor Katz; Gerbasi, Jenny; Benham, Donald; Smith, Harvey;
Eadie, Jae; Clement, Bill; De Smedt, Peter; Pagtakhan, Mike;
O'Shaughnessy, Mike; Lazarenko, Harry; Lubosch, Mark; Thomas, Lillian;
Wyatt, Russ; Magnifico, Franco; Steeves, Gord; Angus, John
Cc: Park, Jo-Ann

Subject: Bois des esprits - EPC on Wednesday

I am a Winnipeg resident who, like many others, walks/canoes/picks up garbage/plants trees and shrubs along the Seine river throughout the year and for many years.

I first became familiar with the Bois des esprits back in 2003 and hence donated money (Christmas presents for all my family that year - what a great thing for the kids especially: certificates of donation in their name for a forest) in the effort for the City, the Province and the SOS group to purchase this land so that this riparian forest could be protected and properly taken care of.

What happened?

I find out that this money raised (by individuals and government) has not been transferred (by the City) and therefore did not meet the deadline for the deal to go through.

How could the City let this happen after all the hard work (by many people) to get to that deal??

Now the 14.9 acres is to be negotiated again and this time with more conditions (and for the remaining 66 acres too??).

Why revisit this when this was decided already?

I am concerned that these conditions will primarily suit future housing development within these acres and hamper the sensitive lands within this forest (that a path going only through the forest may likely degrade a sensitive land).

There are many of us who are concerned for Winnipeg's riparian areas and specifically for the Bois des sprits and we don't have any alterior motives other than the shear ecological integrity of these sensitive areas longer than five or ten years. Good blocks of forest along our rivers and creeks are increasingly rare in Winnipeg - already the thin ribbons of riparian forest are at risk. Everyone knows it is our trees and rivers and creeks that make Winnipeg Winnipeg (since we don't have the mountains and oceans or the great lakes etc.).

I implore you, please not let a developer decide the fate of this forest (via conditions) - especially since this was ALREADY agreed upon between the City, Province, Ladco and SOS that this forest be purchased and managed appropriately.

Constance Menzies