Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – April 19, 2006

REPORTS

Minute No. 341 Proposal for an All Season Sport Facility at Kilcona Park
File PR-2(33)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee received as information the recommendation of the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor De Smedt,

That the recommendation of the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee be received as information.

Carried

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 11, 2006, the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee recommended that the proposal submitted by Robert Kanowicz for an all season sport facility at Kilcona Park by utilizing excavated earth from the floodway expansion project be referred to the Executive Policy Committee for consideration.

Further on April 11, 2006, the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee considered a presentation from Robert Kanowicz, together with photographs (2) of Kilcona Park and Spring Hill Winter Park, a communication dated April 3, 2006 from the MLA for River East, and a communication dated April 10, 2006 from Community and Government Relations, Government of Manitoba, with respect to an all season sports facility in Kilcona Park.

I am writing to ask if I may be a delegate at your next meeting on April 13 to discuss an idea I have of where to put all the earth that they will be generating when they start enlarging the floodway.

All this excess earth could be used to pile on the old garbage dump at Kilcona Park (on Highway 59 just North of Springfield Rd.) and make it into a top notch all season sports facility. The Kilcona Park presently has golf, water boats, tennis, a driving range, and baseball diamonds etc. and what better solution than to turn this great location into a sports facility unlike any other in the city or for that matter in the country.

The only ski facility we have presently is Springhill and this is not even worth my money or time to go there. You get down the hill in about 1 minute, if that. I ski and believe me this is not a fun way to spend the day skiing.

Here is my idea:

Use the earth from the floodway expansion project to raise the height of the present dump to a height that would be comparable to Holiday mountain ski resort (if we can get this height or more). I would think you could come close as you have a large area on the top to dump all the earth from the floodway. We had Aggasiz ski hill but that was lost (this was a very good hill), we have Assassippi but this is 4-5 hours away and not as good as Aggasiz was. We would never get as good as Aggasiz was but at least we would have a decent hill and a location that was close.

Once raised, you would have many options available:

On the majority of the sides of the hill have downhill skiing with multiple runs and chair lifts, on another a half pipe and runs for snow boarders, on another side multiple toboggan runs (bob sleigh runs??) . Plant trees and make the location a winter environmental wonderland for all to enjoy. Make trails for cross country skiers on the lower section through the forest and along the creek then around the hill.
In the summer, transform the hill into a mountain bike facility and a roller blade run (on lower section, maybe where the cross country trail is), the ideas are endless. You presently have all this natural beauty like trees and a creek, enhance the area with more trees and make the area even more beautiful than it already is. Keep the open leash park; add in other sports and now you have probably one of the best winter/summer sport facilities in the country. I am sure there is plenty of space to do this.

A great plan to keep the kids off the streets and have something to do, don't you think? This idea should be give serious consideration even just for this reason.

Look at Olympic park in Calgary or the ski hill within the city limits of Edmonton, they are very busy, we could even out do them both. Edmonton has their mall and Winnipeg now has her sports facility. This could even turn into a great facility to train athletes. Just think, Kilcona Winterland Park and Sports Facility, the finest sports facility of it's kind in Canada. We have plenty of indoor sports activities and locations in this city but no really good winter outdoor facility.

There will never be a better chance to do this than now as there will shortly be a abundance of earth available to raise the hill. The other plus to this is that the location is close to the floodway for the trucks to travel and dump the earth. I spoke with David Hurford from the Floodway Expansion Project and he agrees this is a very good idea. He mentioned this idea was a better than the other ones he has had about making a ski hill, #1 reason: there is already a good hill to begin with. He also mentioned that this plan meets two criteria they require, that being, this could be a pro environmental issue and secondly that this location is outside the right of way??? (he says this is good thing). He also mentioned that this has to be discussed with the owner of the hill which I believe is the city of Winnipeg. Time is closing in too as David mentioned something about April 18/06.
I also spoke with a person from Joy Smiths office (her assistant who felt Joy would like this idea as much as she does) and Bonnie Michelson's office (spoke with Bonnie) and they both felt this was a very good idea. I also have a call into John Wintrup of the City of Winnipeg Planning department. I was told he

was the one to speak with for the City of Winnipeg concerning this idea. I also spoke with Mark Lubosch about this idea.

To not drag this on, we need something like this in this city and everyone I have spoken with thinks the idea is not just good but "fantastic". I hope you are as enthused as I am about this concept and I hope this idea becomes a reality. This could put Winnipeg on the map.

Sincerely

Robert Kanowicz

RECEIVED
CITY CLERKS
WINNIPEG
APR -4 P12:09

Meeting April 11 2006

Good evening:
I would like to forward to you an idea I have of where to put all that excess earth they will be generating when
they start expanding the floodway.

the idea I have is to put as much earth as possible onto the present Kilcona Hill site on Hwy 59 just N of Springfield Rd. and turn the area into a year round sports facility.

I have included an email from Dave Hurford and Bonnie Mitchelson. Also included satellite photos of the Kilcona hill and Springhill site both taken at near the same altitude. As you can see there is no comparison of total area of usable land.

As I mention in my letter,
there will be no better time than now to do this as
there'll be an abundance of earth
there will be costs associated, for loading and hauling earth and future development.
There is approx 350,000 sq/m of area to dump all this earth as close as I could estimate,
So the site could probably be devolved quite high.
Making it a perfect ski hill.

Once this is done the site can then be made
into a year round sports facility unlike no other.
Presently Kilcona has golf, tennis, a driving range,
water boats, baseball diamond, so why not develop it more.

Winter - multiple ski runs, snowboarding, cross country trails, and tubing in the winter and
Summer - mountain bike trails, roller blading and so on.
And as time goes on, plant trees and
develop the area into a beautiful park like setting.
You already have a great start
with all the natural beauty that exists there right now
with the creek and small forests.

Everyone I have spoken with thinks the idea is the best they have heard of yet and is worth taking a very serious look at.
We don't have a decent ski facility anywhere near by for skiers and this would change that. Agazzi, Assassippi, Springhill, LaRiviere.
Finally, we would have a great ski hill for everyone to go that is very close to the city and spend a day together as a family.
A great place for kids to go and keep them out of trouble.
A great place to go to just hang out and have some fun in the winter.
Right now there is really no where to do this in the winter. This alone is worth the consideration of developing the area.
Look what Calgary (Olympic) and Edmonton (ski hill in valley) have, now is our chance to have the same here.

Once again, this is a one time opportunity and should be given very serious consideration.
Look ahead to the long term, as a boost
for the city and its residents.

I hope you are as enthused about this concept as I am and I do hope this becomes a reality.
From what I have been told the deadline is looming close.
So decisions should be made.

Thank you for your time,
if you have any questions I'd be glad to answer what I can.

Thank you.


~700mx500m =
350,000 sq/m
of surface area
Kilcona Park
Kilcona Golf Course
Kilcona Park
Harbourview Rec Con
Knowles Public Reserve
Kilcona Park Entrance
Lagimodiere BLVD
meters


59
Springhill eye elev 4973
Bluegrass Rd
Oasis Rd
N
W
E
S
Image © 2006 DigitalGlobe
© 2006 Navteq
© 2005
Google

April 3, 2006

Dear Robert:

What a great idea for not only our community but our city and province as well!

Kilcona Park as you have mentioned offers extensive sporting, recreational, social and community activities all year round. Your plan to utilize the excess earth from the Manitoba Floodway expansion project to raise the height of the present hill to be transformed into a ski hill/mountain bike park is fantastic.

I support your idea and encourage you to share it with the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba so that they may possibly work together on the project.

I would like to thank you for taking the time to share your idea with me and should you require any assistance please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Mitchelson, MLA
River East

Bob Kanowicz

From: Hurford, David (CON)
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2006 11:18 AM
To: Bob Kanowicz
Subject: re-use of earth

Dear Bob,

Thank you for your interest in the floodway expansion project. There is a form that you need to fill out regarding the re-use of earth. It is available at www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca under the "what's new section". If you can't access that, we can mail one to you. Also, see below.

With regard to your idea for a ski-hill, MFA has rejected a couple of applications in this regard. The principal reasons were; a) they may have required an environmental review as they were located within the floodway right-of-way and b) we did not have enough earth to build a high quality hill from scratch.

The fact that there is already a ski-hill on the floodway that is looking to expand and the costs associated with establishing a new hill are substantial were also factors in our decision making. While your idea may not hold up the project for an environmental approval and require less earth, you can expect that the investment associated with it will be substantial.

I hope that helps clarify things for you.

Yours truly,

David Hurford,
Community and Government Relations

Release

March 2, 2006
For immediate Release

FLOODWAY AUTHORITY INVITES MANITOBANS TO EXPRESS INTEREST IN EXCAVATED EARTH

Priorities Include Flood Protection, Highway Construction, Municipal Projects and Recreation

Winnipeg, MB – Today, the Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) announced that Manitobans will have an opportunity to formally express their interest in accessing excavated earth from the floodway expansion project.

"Last year we invited Manitobans to give us their ideas regarding potential value-added opportunities associated with the floodway project," said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of the MFA. "The single largest area of public response regarded access to excavated earth from the project. Today's announcement will help the floodway authority identify the need and establish a process to allow for the safe and orderly public access to the earth as the project proceeds."

The MFA is inviting interested individuals, organizations, and municipal governments wanting to access the earth to submit a formal expression of interest to MFA by April 18, 2006. Copies of the form are available at www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca, or by contacting the MFA at (204) 945-4900 or toll free 1-866-356-6355. Forms will also be mailed to individuals who have expressed an informal interest in obtaining excavated earth during MFA's ongoing public consultation process.

Based on the number of expressions of interest received and amount of earth identified, the MFA will develop a process that will allow the public safe and orderly access to the earth. The earth will be made available for free while individuals will be responsible

4/10/2006

for all loading and hauling costs. A complete plan for access will be developed once all of the expressions of interest have been reviewed and evaluated.

The MFA will also make earth available to support three other priority areas including provincial highway construction, local municipal priorities, and potential recreation opportunities. In particular, the MFA will give priority to flood protection projects.

The Red River Floodway Expansion is a national strategic infrastructure priority and one of the largest construction projects in Manitoba history. As it proceeds over the next five years, approximately 21 million cubic metres (27 million cubic yards) of earth will be excavated from the floodway channel to complete the expansion.

In January 2005, MFA released a "*Recreation and Economic Development Opportunities Report*". The Report reflected the results of a public call for expressions of interest last year and MFA's ongoing public involvement program. It recommended that the MFA initiate a formal process that will allow Manitobans to access the excavated earth from the floodway channel.

By more than doubling the capacity of the existing floodway, the floodway expansion project is designed to provide a 1-in-700 year level of flood protection and protect more than 450,000 Manitobans, more than 140,000 homes, more than 8,000 businesses, and prevent more than $12 billion in damages to the provincial economy. In the aftermath of the 1997 "Flood of the Century", the Governments of Canada and Manitoba invested $130 million in flood protection measures including $110 million for rural Manitoba communities.

Re-Use of Excavated Earth – Expression of Interest

The Manitoba Floodway Authority (MFA) is considering a plan to make some of the excavated earth from the expanded floodway available for individuals who have expressed an interest.

If you would like to be put on a list for individual access to the excavated earth from the expanded floodway, please fill out this form and return it to the Manitoba Floodway Authority via mail or fax (204- 948-2462) **by Tuesday, April 18, 2006.**

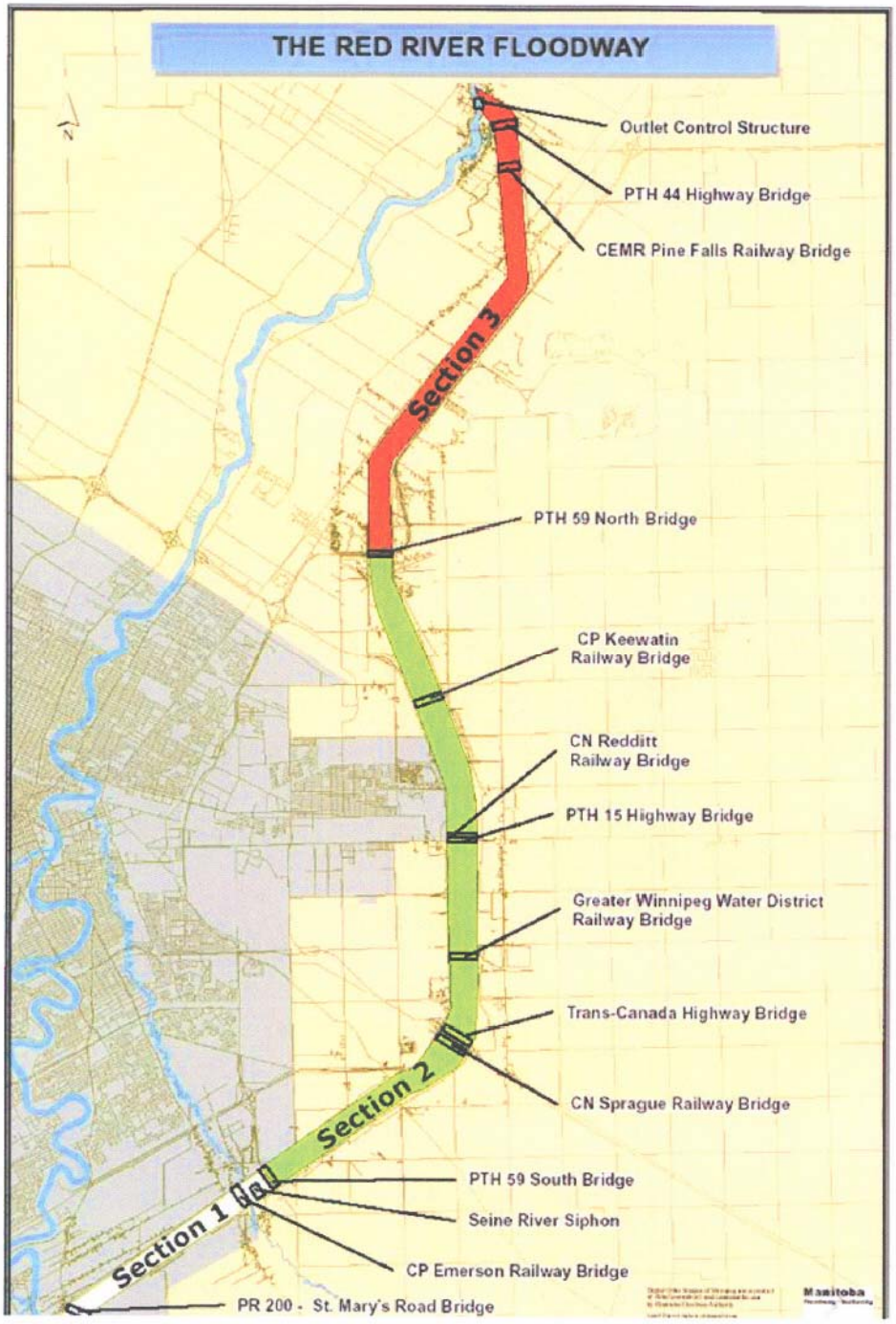
Based on the feedback received, MFA will develop a process that will allow the public safe and orderly access to the earth. MFA will provide the earth free of charge while individuals will be responsible for costs associated with loading and hauling the excavated earth. Priority will be given to requests related to flood protection.

Name:	
Mailing Address, Phone number and email address:	
Approximately how much earth do you need (cubic meters)?	
Where along the Floodway would you want to access the earth (please identify section from attached map)	
What year would you like to access the earth?	
Would you prefer to have more than one opportunity to access the earth?	
What do you plan to use the earth for?	

Do you have the ability to load and haul earth yourself? Yes or No

After the plan for accessing excavating earth from the project is completed, the MFA will be in contact with you. If you have any questions, please contact us at (204) 945-4900; toll free at 1-866-356-6355 or www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca.

Thank you for your interest in the Red River Floodway Expansion Project.


THE RED RIVER FLOODWAY
Outlet Control Structure
PTH 44 Highway Bridge
CEMR Pine Falls Railway Bridge
Section 3
PTH 59 North Bridge
CP Keewatin
Railway Bridge
CN Redditt
Railway Bridge
PTH 15 Highway Bridge
Greater Winnipeg Water District
Railway Bridge
Trans-Canada Highway Bridge
CN Sprague Railway Bridge
Section 2
PTH 59 South Bridge
Seine River Siphon
Section 1
CP Emerson Railway Bridge
PR 200 - St. Mary's Road Bridge
Manitoba

4/10/2006