Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development dated October 30, 2001

Disposition of City Park Property adjacent to 154 Seine Street – Riel Community

File FI-2.4(35) (Vol. 10)

16. The Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development has been advised that in 1999 the owner of 154 Seine Street offered the rear portion of his property plus a payment to the City representing the value differential, in exchange for the adjacent parks property frontage as outlined on Misc. Plan No.6859/4.

The Planning, Property and Development Department felt that the opportunity to acquire riverbank lands in exchange for street frontage would not compromise public access to the river park lands and was in the best interests of the City.

On October 20, 1999, Council adopted the following recommendations of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development:

1. That the parks property adjacent to 154 Seine Street, identified as "City Land Proposed for Exchange" on Plan No. 01/27/99, be declared surplus to parks and recreation needs.
2. That the Property and Development Services Department be authorized to negotiate the exchange of the rear portion of 154 Seine Street, plus a payment to the City representing the value differential, for the adjacent City frontage as outlined on Plan No. 01/27/99, and report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development. The amount of the value differential is to be credited to the Riel Community Land Dedication Reserve Fund.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing, including the execution of any documents related thereto.

On February 7, 2001 a proposal regarding the exchange was sent to the owner of 154 Seine Street.

In late March 2001, the Administration and the Ward Councillor began to get enquiries from residents in the area stating their opposition to the loss of the subject park property.

On June 15, 2001, the owner of 154 Seine Street submitted a counter proposal regarding said land exchange. Because of significant resident opposition to the proposed exchange, the Planning, Property and Development Department took the opportunity, upon receipt of the counter proposal, to advise the applicant that the entire matter would now have to be reviewed to determine what was in the City's best interests.

The owner of 154 Seine Street approached the City to propose the land exchange as outlined on Misc. Plan No. 6859/4. The City would acquire the riverbank portion of 154 Seine Street (Parcel A), plus a payment to the City representing the value differential, for the adjacent Park frontage (Parcel B). Negotiations regarding the subject exchange have been ongoing.

In March 2001, residents from the immediate area began to contact the Ward Councillor and the Administration with concerns regarding this land exchange. Seventeen of the 71 residents of the area (24%) called to express their strong opposition to the loss of the green space fronting on Seine Street as outlined on Misc. Plan No. 6859/4 (Parcel B). Consultations between the Ward Councillor and the Administration have led to the recommendation that Parcel B be retained for the purpose of parks and open space.

Report of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development dated October 30, 2001

The Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development recommends:

I. That Council rescind its decision of October 20, 1999 regarding the proposed land exchange involving park lands adjacent to 154 Seine Street, and declare that the subject park property not be surplus to its requirements.

II. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing, including the execution of any documents related thereto.

Copies of the documents referred to in the above clause are on file in the office of the City Clerk.