To Executive Policy Committee,

Unfortunately, I am unable to appear in delegation in support of the motion I introduced on Upper Fort Garry (UFG). However, I would like to place this letter on the public record.

1) The historical significance of Upper Fort Garry cannot be overstated. This historical significance should have necessitated that the 100 Main St. issue come to Council for discussion when the results of the "Expression of Interests" came back to Downtown Committee. Remember, this was not a land sale. This was not a "Proposal Call". This was an "Expression of Interest", which is a preliminary phase in the eventual development of a project / piece of land. To go from an Expression of Interest to a land sale is unheard of. When a project of this nature is envisioned, it would have been prudent to include some public discussion of the issues surrounding 100 Main St. That clearly did not happen in this case, and thus we find ourselves with the situation we are in.

2) The first "whereas" states we should rescind the decision of the Downtown Standing Policy Committee. We should do this because the conditions placed the Friends of Upper Fort Garry are onerous and unreasonable. In fact the rationale behind these conditions is puzzling to me, to say the least.

The conditions appear to imply that Councillors Swandel and Steeves and Mayor Katz see merit in the UFG project, yet the conditions applied to the Friends appear to demonstrate otherwise.

My question is, "if there is merit in the UFG project, why then do we not embrace the project, throw our political support behind the project and make sure that the project becomes a reality." Then and only then, will the potential of UFG become real for everyone to appreciate and be proud of.

2) The second "whereas" in my motion implies that the City of Winnipeg should meet with all governments, and with all interested parties to develop and implement a world class historical destination for Upper Fort Garry. **It does not imply letting the Friends of UFG off the hook for fundraising for the project. It does not imply that the City of Winnipeg will pay for all costs to the project. It simply implies that the City of Winnipeg will embrace the project, and will show the leadership necessary for the respectful development of UFG into a world class historical destination.**

Thank you.

Councillor Daniel Vandal
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