STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 326
Councillor Wyatt questioned if the Chair of Property and Development was aware that prior to Councillor Wyatt having put up signs, running advertising and taking a very public stand on the underpass issue, that it appeared not to be moving forward.

Councillor Browaty stated that he was not aware that the Councillor did that much background work on this important project. Councillor Browaty added that the trains in northeast Winnipeg slow things down in a lot of cases. He suggested that it would be nice to see some action on the other items and, if they are not getting success in moving them as one, then perhaps Council needs to pick each and every one of them out. Councillor Browaty noted that there was another train situation along Kenaston Boulevard and, in fact, John Lavin, put up signs along Kenaston to call the Premier's office if waiting for a train there. Councillor Browaty advised that the City's traffic engineers told them that, in terms of their priority list, the Chief Peguis Trail extension was a higher priority than the Kenaston underpass at the time. In terms of the development of the City, both were needed pieces of infrastructure, but politics ended up playing into that as well.

In reference to a request for a five table patio to be placed on private property, Councillor Smith referred to an email from (an applicant) who was shocked at the almost $700 in costs to the city for implementation. He noted that the property was already zoned C1, that the writer indicated he had jumped through all the hoops and fees for the building at this location, had his property taxes doubled this year and asked what he got for that price.

Councillor Browaty advised he was not familiar with the particulars but stated that the department was trying to run as many permits on a cost recovery basis as possible and agreed to look into the circumstances if Councillor Smith would forward it to him.

Councillor Havixbeck questioned if there had been any response on getting Provincial approval for the Our Winnipeg plan.

Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – Question Period (continued):

Councillor Browaty replied that he was hearing that the Province was not going to provide a response until sometime, maybe, in June, and acknowledged that this was really dragging on way too long. He noted that Our Winnipeg had won various awards already but was still not approved and that it took almost as long to create as it was for the Province to look at it and see whether they like it or not. Councillor Browaty stated that all sorts of development and progress was being held back in the City of Winnipeg because Our Winnipeg had not been passed. He added that it was ironic that the Province was holding the T.I.F.F. on the stadium site and would be held back from getting their tax revenues from that site because they were not approving Our Winnipeg. He noted that the eco-village that was recently talked about in the throne speech cannot proceed because Our Winnipeg was not passed. He concluded that it was time to take action and move it along.

Councillor Havixbeck noted that she talked with Fort Whyte and further delay of the proposed eco-village project would end up costing more and asked if Councillor Browaty would follow up with the Provincial Minister to move that along to which Councillor Browaty acknowledged that he would do so.