STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 135
Councillor Smith questioned the delays in issuing building permits.

Councillor Browaty noted that a new person had been brought in to oversee the permit and application process. He stated that some of the issues were in fact incomplete documents being submitted, especially on the commercial side of things.

Councillor Smith referred to a letter from the Winnipeg Construction Association which stated their opinion that permit approval delays were largely related to a lack of adequate administrative staff.

Councillor Browaty noted that there had been some question from the administration as to what should be done with an application that was incorrect. Councillor Browaty remarked that he was not saying that there were not enough people and that perhaps additional resources were needed at certain time of the year; but at the same time, the department had raised concerns about the quality of the submissions that were being made.

Councillor Eadie questioned when the City was going to declare some of the excess space which used to be the Bergen Cut-off as surplus and a build a 17-storey apartment block on Kildonan Drive.

Councillor Browaty noted that the land was zoned as parkland and any type of rezoning and sale application would probably require two-thirds vote of Council. He further noted that it was unlikely to have a 17 story apartment there, but that two, three or four story multi-family dwellings would be suitable.

Councillor Eadie questioned why wouldn't you build a 17-storey apartment block and have the land beyond it declared surplus to which Councillor Browaty replied that the only access to the Whellams Lane apartments, the multi-story apartment, was from Whellams Lane.