SUBMISSION – WENDY BUELOW

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From>
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 4:56 PM
To: CLK-CityClerks <CityClerks@winnipeg.ca>
Subject: Winnipeg.ca : Submit communications to Council / Register in delegation

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Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 4:56:08 PM

Personal Information
Full name: Wendy Buelow
Email address:
Job Title:
Organization:
Address: City: Winnipeg
Province or territory: Manitoba
Postal code:
Delegation Information
Committee: Council
Committee - other:
Agenda Item: Item No. 9 Proposed Sale of City-owned Property - Part of 4540 Portage Avenue (John Blumberg Golf Course)

Service Inquiry: Submit Comments in writing Participation preference: N/A Comments in writing: January 25, 2022 Dear Mayor Bowman and Winnipeg City Councillors,

I am writing to urge you to please take the John Blumberg Golf Course and land off the surplus list and stop the sale of our precious City heritage.

I read through Councillor Gillingham's letter about why he feels it should be sold. I appreciate his notes, and here is my response to his point about the land being outside of City Limits and not accessible for City Dwellers:

- Some of our most treasured parks are just out of the City Limits. For example, La Barriere Park is on the edge of town, but people that live in the South End find ways to get out there, and of course bicycles make it even more accessible. Little Mountain Park is an absolute treasure for hikers and nature lovers. It has areas of true Tall Grass Prairie, which actually is the most endangered eco system in the world! It is slightly out of town, but not an obstacle for our many citizens who enjoy it.

We have lots of small parks in Winnipeg, but the Blumberg land is quite extraordinary for what it could be for future possibilities. Currently there are 40 acres of riverfront land which is extremely valuable for birds, insects, native plants (trees). Where else in the city would we have anything like this! Winter

sports such as cross country skiing and fat biking are more and more popular every year, and the golf courses are some of the best places. For example we have Wildewood Park Golf Course, Crescent Drive Golf Course, and more, which are heavily used by skiers and bikers right now. (myself included)
Windsor Park Golf Course leads the way for winter skiing but that is not terribly accessible to the citizens of West Winnipeg.
Blumberg would be more accessible for winter activities to those in West Winnipeg.

This land was saved by visionary Counsellors and we should do our best to keep this land and be good stewards. Selling would bring a small short term gain and a huge loss for our future. We need long-term vision for the citizens of Winnipeg and the province of Manitoba.
Imagine if the Assiniboine Park was sold off to developers, it once was on the edge of town!

A housing development comes with roads, concrete, massive removal of habitat, (trees, green space) If the developer is supposed to make a park and trails by the river, they would probably do that in the cheapest fashion, bulldoze the area, make cement trails and expanses of lawn, which supports very little habitat.

Right now much of the land is being used as a Golf Course. I'm okay with that, and it serves many happy golfers during the summers. If the golf course becomes too much of a headache and not used enough, then the land could be transitioned into natural park area and trails, with a focus on re-wilding areas, expanding natural wild habitat for direly needed conservation. We are in the midst of losing many species of birds, insects, plants, we really need our green space. The surrounding farm fields don't count, as they are industrial and use lots of chemicals, which kill insects and discourage bird life. (Not a criticism, just a reality)

I appreciate that Councillor Gillingham is trying to look after the City Finances carefully, but this land is much more valuable than the dollars to be gained from this sales plan.

Thank you.
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