

Council Meeting Thursday Dec 14 2023

Submission by Pam Lucenkiw, Co-chair, OURS-Winnipeg
Item 2. CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) Update

This submission is given as information for Agenda Item 2. CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF) Update, requesting that parks and greenspace planning, acquisition and funding be included in the process leading up to the implementation of the HAF.

On the December 14 Council Agenda¹ there are four items about rapidly, fast tracking, accelerating and densifying housing construction at a pace not seen since the veterans returned from the Second World War.

The Mayor has said that “the City of Winnipeg owns 100’s and 100’s and 100’s of vacant properties” that can be made available for housing. Could any of these properties be set aside for greenspace?

The Parks Strategy forecasts less greenspace per person as the population grows. Winnipeg is starting from a position of a below average amount of parkland compared to other Canadian cities. The draft Urban Forestry Strategy calls for increased tree canopy cover. The guidance anticipated from the Master Greenspace and Natural Corridors Plan is several years away.

Winnipeg has a sad legacy of giving up prime land for development and most regrettably the land along the river corridors, which cannot be reversed.

If the City does not build healthy, liveable, climate resilient communities for the future it has failed. It will especially fail economically disadvantaged children.

We recommend that before the HAF begins, each City Councillor request a report for their ward from the Parks Departments for a listing of all of these vacant city owned lands that would be suitable and should be retained for parks and connectivity while they still own them and before they are turned over for development.

Further, that any additional costs associated with staffing expenditures and implementation be referred to the 2024 to 2027 multi-year budget associated with developing the programs that flow from the recommended HAF action plans.

Housing Agenda

-  [2. CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund \(HAF\) Update](#)
-  [3. Rapid Housing Initiative \(RHI\) Round 3 Progress Update](#)
-  [2. Residential Density Bonus Pilot Program for Affordable Housing](#)
-  [3. Opportunities to Fast-Track Affordable Housing](#)

¹ Council Meeting Dec 15 2023

<https://clkapps.winnipeg.ca/dmis/ViewDoc.asp?DocId=24322&SectionId=&InitUrl=>