Submission – Shawn Kettner

Expropriation and Rezoning of Lemay Forest (Item 1 - Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – Notice of Motion)

Submitted: Wed, 03/26/2025 - 10:12

Delegation information

Committee you want to address
Council

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)
Item No. 1, Expropriation and Rezoning of Lemay Forest

Support or oppose recommendations
I support the recommendations

Comments
Dear Mayor Gillingham, Councillors and members of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development,

I strongly support Motion Item No. 1, Expropriation and Rezoning of Lemay Forest.

I ask that you as leaders of our community respect and protect not only the forest and all of the creatures within but also the burial ground of so many lost souls. Furthermore it does not make financial sense for the city to invest in the planting of 17,000 trees last year if it allows for a mature forest of 18,000 trees to be cut down this year. If the city is truly committed to increasing our green space we need to protect the Lemay Forest by expropriation.

We must ensure this sacred site and its ecosystems are safeguarded for future generations for the following reasons:
1. It is one of the last intact river bottom forests in the City of Winnipeg with great historic, cultural and environmental significance.
2. Within the Lemay Forest is the abandoned Asile Cemetery of unmarked graves. There are over 3000 Children buried here.
3. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Calls to Action 71-75 emphasize the need for the protection of Indigenous burial sites, reconciliation, and preserving sacred spaces like those in Lemay Forest. These Calls urge the government to collaborate with Indigenous communities to preserve and protect burial sites as part of the healing process.
4. In addition to its cultural significance, Lemay Forest's trees and ecosystems provide vital environmental benefits to our city, including air quality regulation and wildlife habitat preservation.
5. It is a nesting place for migratory birds, song birds, birds of prey, and the keystone species such as the protected pileated woodpecker. It is also a wildlife corridor providing habitat and safe access for many wildlife species, reptiles and amphibians.

Thank you for all you do for our city. I hope that you can find it in your hearts to support the expropriation of the Lemay Forest.

Public engagement (optional)

I consent to being contacted to participate in potential public engagement related to this matter.
Yes