

Submission – Claire Woodbury

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

Submitted: Wed, 03/26/2025 - 09:42

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

Submit comments in writing checkbox
Submit comments in writing

Comments

I'm urging the council to support expropriating the land of the Lemay Forest back into city hands. It is irresponsible to continue to allow a developer to build on an ecologically important place. This forest contains Red-headed Woodpecker. This bird and its nests are protected from harm through the Canadian Migratory Birds Convention Act (1994) in Canada and the US Migratory Bird Treaty Act (1916) in the United States. Red-headed Woodpecker was listed as Threatened under Schedule 1 of the Species at Risk Act (SARA; S.C. 2002, c. 29) in 2009. Other than the ecological benefits, this proposed housing development would sit on top of over 3000 burials in the cemetery of the former Aisle Richot orphanage. The archaeological studies were rushed and not up to known standards. Further research by experts has determined the cemetery was NOT moved, as previously thought. The identities of these infants and children are unknown but are likely to have a large Indigenous population due to the demographics of unwed mothers in those days (removing children from their families into residential schools and the history of unwanted pregnancies due to rape at residential schools). Even if this condo goes ahead, no one is going to want to live on top of an honest to goodness "Indian burial ground" (to use the crude antiquated colloquial expression). This condo development would likely not be feasibly economically because of this. Allowing this development to continue is repugnant, it's also just a bad look given the current political climate. Do yourself a favour politically and take care of the Lemay forest in the proper manner with respect and allow these children their dignity in their final resting place.

Public engagement (optional)

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