Delegation in response to Report of the Executive Policy Committee (22 April 2025)
Agenda Item 7 – Land dedication reserve fund – Coalition to Save Lemay Forest – findings of the Asile Ritchot Cemetery Registers Project
Delegate name: Ann Loewen
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City Council date: 30 April 2025

To the City Councillors, Mayor and Speaker:

Thank you for keeping this item on the agenda. I would like to register my strong support for the City's continued financial and all other necessary forms of support for the historical investigation and documentation of the historic Asile Ritchot Orphanage Cemetery. I have spoken to a number of the historians directly involved in this effort. They have put in many hours of painstaking work to bring forward an otherwise unknown part of our collective history. There is more work yet to be done, in particular regarding the mothers who died at the Asile and possibly elsewhere, whose remains might also be contained in this mass grave.

As I have previously presented to you in March, this is a place of great historical sadness. Along with many other forms historical oversight and neglect, this can elicit strong responses including denialism and a sense of one's own history and grieving being overlooked. The City of Winnipeg can demonstrate its commitment to human rights as we move forward and recognize that all people have value, and all are worthy of celebration and commemoration.

We can do better by doing differently than in the past. Historical wrongs that are publicly amended supports improved community relations, increase the credibility of City Council itself and result in a more equitable society.

Regards,
Ann Loewen