Submitted: Tue, 04/29/2025 - 09:27

Delegation information

Committee you want to address
Council - Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development

Agenda item you want to address (number and title)
Agenda item 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
Delegation in response to Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Notice of Motion, Item 1 – Expropriation and Rezoning of Lemay Forest
Date submitted: 29 April 2025
City Council date: 30 April 2025

To the City Councillors, Mayor and Speaker:

Thank you for the time and effort you have made to listen to and respond to the concerns of many Winnipeggers regarding the proposed deforestation, development and desecration of sacred and historical sites of the land known as Lemay Forest, also known as Awasak Ayasig Sakahk (Children of the Forest). It is understood that this was a complex, multi-jurisdictional challenge. The hope among all who support the preservation of the land and all its meaning is that we can continue to find common ground including with yourselves, the City of Winnipeg, the City Forestry Department along with other partners such as Societe Historique Saint-Boniface and our Indigenous partners. We are organizing a community party and powwow this Saturday afternoon, to celebrate this important decision that secures a path forward. Please consider yourselves and your families welcome.
We would like to see the following points on record, and in their time moved forward by the City of Winnipeg as knowledge and experience gained from the past 5 years to the Coalition to Save Lemay Forest and more recently-formed Indigenous Fire Keepers of the Forest.
1. Winnipeg citizens need to be protected from inappropriate legal and police actions that inhibits their right to expression and assembly. We have been subject to both legal and police over-reach and this is very unfortunate, as well as a diversion from more important tasks.
2. Winnipeg needs to protect trees and habitat much more vigorously, through specific bylaws and tangible actions that align with the Montreal Biodiversity Pledge which the City endorsed in 2024.
3. Natural spaces need stewardship in this post-wild age of invasive species and climate change. I am willing and able to initiate community stewardship groups starting with St. Norbert and in time expanding to include other areas. This not only protects and enhances our natural areas, it prevents further degradation and builds community spirit. The City of Toronto has many such volunteer groups and can provide an excellent example.
4. Councillors can understand that they have a significant role in their constituents' health through all of the above. Physicians and the health care system are not well-positioned to address the health

problems that arise from the build environment, but you are. Together we can make a healthier place for everyone, which will overall reduce many of the difficult burdens we currently bear.

Again my thanks for your support and care for our city.

Public engagement (optional)

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

Personal information

First name
Ann

Last name
Loewen