

Background Information Re: Petition to Mayor Sam Katz and City Councillors of Winnipeg

The petition requests timely and genuine community consultation regarding the City of Winnipeg's invitation to sell public parkland to developers for commercial and residential development.

In October, the City of Winnipeg quietly put forward the following Expression of Interest for seven City owned golf courses without community consultation -

"City of Winnipeg Expression of Interest for commercial and residential development of city owned Golf Courses - October 26, 2011 497-2011" <http://www.winnipeg.ca/finance/findata/matmgt/bidres/past/2011.asp> Prior to initiating negotiations with the City a deposit of \$50,000 is required, effectively screening out non-profit organizations from any expression of interest.

In the short term, the City would like Expressions of Interest to operate the golf courses until the developers get their plans in place. **In the long term**, the City wishes to "divest itself from the operation of public golf courses since the need is adequately met in the private sector. Any surplus property can then be sold for commercial or residential development to raise capital for reinvestment in other open park space". Source: Council Minutes May 25, 2011 and Appendix 2 Alternative Service Delivery Minute, Council Minute Audit Report, http://www.winnipeg.ca/finance/findata/matmgt/documents/2011/497-2011/497-2011_Appendix_2_Council_ASD_Audit_Reports%20.pdf and Operational Review of Winnipeg Golf Courses Audit, November 2010

The City has stated that there is too much parkland without regard to quality of specific parklands (cross country ski trail infrastructure, river corridors, naturally treed areas and historic areas).

Windsor Park Golf Course, among others was developed in 1924 as it was considered to be to be an important part of our early regional parks and recreation system. Future generations will inherit what we leave.

City of Winnipeg's Complete Communities document: Overall vision principle #4, Page 30

http://speakupwinnipeg.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/CompleteCommunities.Jul26.WEB_RGB.pdf

Our Winnipeg builds on existing assets, including natural heritage features (rivers, urban forests, and parks).

What we stand to lose:

- historic parklands
- urban natural habitat
- Nordic ski centre and existing infrastructure at Windsor Park Golf Course
- outdoor fitness opportunities for young and old
- moderately priced public golf courses
- public parks and greenspace
- outdoor classrooms for daycares and schools
- wildlife corridors through the city
- And most of all, we will lose the ability to pass on these options to future generations

A well-attended community meeting hosted by Save Our Seine on November 30, 2011 concluded with unanimous consent to support the following motion:

"We demand meaningful, timely public consultation prior to the sale or redevelopment of City of Winnipeg golf courses."

The petition is the first step to gather support to present concerns to City Council.