

The Asks

“Postpone the Plan - Protect Seine River Greenspace”

Public Hearing for Precinct K Development Plan
Riel Community Committee Meeting – Winnipeg City Hall, 510 Main Street
Thursday, June 26, 2014 at 5:00 pm

- 1. We ask that the Riel Community Committee postpone the approval of the Precinct K plan** to allow the necessary time to make a legacy decision for protection of the Seine River area. The Precinct Plan will become a bylaw that directs future development for housing, roads, bridges, schools, etc. The placement of schools, community centres and water retention ponds, the Warde Street Bridge and other components will impact how much land will remain for the Seine River area.
- 2. We ask for the City of Winnipeg to have a master greenspace plan.** While many cities locally and globally have greenspace planning and processes in place, the City of Winnipeg does not have a greenspace master plan that would enable natural areas such as the Seine River lands to be preserved for future generations. Although the City was tasked with such a plan, it has yet to be completed. The City's Primary planning document called OURWinnipeg has four direction strategies. The strategy called “A Sustainable Winnipeg” calls for a City of Winnipeg Parks, Places and Open Spaces Sustainable Management Plan to "Recognize and preserve Winnipeg's parks, green spaces and riverbanks as green oasis in our urban setting." **With the current pace of development it is disappointing and unacceptable that there is still no plan.**
- 3. We ask for a transparent planning and consultation process that engages and includes the public.** It must be uncomplicated, open and transparent. It must not be compromised by being rushed. The Precinct K public consultation process hastened and limited public consultation. There was little discussion or exchange of ideas. Not all stakeholders were included.
- 4. We ask the City to take back the lead in the development process.** City Planners with a holistic vision for the City must lead the development process, rather than developers with a project-based vision.
- 5. We ask that the City revise its policies to value natural assets.** There is currently **no provision to keep riverbank lands secure** from encroachment of commercial and residential development. The current Land Dedication Reserve Fund policy does not acknowledge natural areas. This is the fund which is used by the City to acquire greenspace. According to this policy a minimum of 8% of the net land will be dedicated to greenspace. This fund could include parking lots. **Natural greenspace assets are valued as an afterthought after all other needs are met.**
- 6. We ask for a long term plan for Precinct K and the entire Seine River area** and that our City Councillors not give up on this challenging project by settling for less. The idea of creating a linear park along the Seine River is well established – a vision almost 35 year in the making. Two comprehensive studies have been written.
 - 1980 Seine River Parkway
 - 2000 Seine River Greenway Study

In 2014, the Precinct K development plan leaves almost nothing for greenspace along the Seine River, in places not even enough for a walkway.

www.ours-winnipeg.com

www.saveourseine.com

<http://rparc.wordpress.com/>