

March 13, 1975
7:00 p.m.

City Council held a Public Hearing this evening to receive comments and suggestions on the proposed development of Guindon Park. Members of Council present were - His Mayor G. Parisien; Aldermen M. Holden, J. Pescod, A. Lebrano, K. Bough, G. Cameron, F. Guindon, R. Pearson, R. Aubry, G. Samson, A. LeBlanc and B. Lynch.

Mr. Jim Knox of the architectural firm of Knox, Martin and Kretch explained, at some length, various proposals studied and now presented to the citizens for observation and expression of opinions. He emphasized the fact that the firm's suggestions are only suggestions of what might be developed in this area and they would be most receptive to receiving input from anyone on their proposals and to obtaining any other ideas towards the development of the park. To clarify and better explain the views held by the firm, Mr. Knox presented coloured graphs indicating land and water elements and vegetation growth. Also graphically illustrated was high intensity development which would result in the creation of an amusement park; concept 2 - environmental or low intensity development; concept 3 - tourist or moderate intensity. Also enumerated in detail were the various activities and functions considered; desirable site features; advantages and disadvantages and conclusions arrived at by the firm.

Mr. Knox now asked those present for their views on development of the 475 acres. Mr. G. Sloan, as a member of the Tourist and Convention Committee, asked that consideration be given to the locating of the locomotive and streetcar at the western limit of Guindon Park and adjacent to #2 Highway. Mr. Knox felt the western end of the park relates better to water activity and felt possibly these facilities could be accommodated in Lamoureux Park. Replying to a question as to the provision for bike trails, Mr. Knox stated that a trail system could eventually be considered from the east to the west end of the park.

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Mr. F. Reid suggested that between six and seven acres of land be set aside as a wild bird sanctuary. He presented large coloured drawings showing the proposed development. He estimated the birds could be outdoors five months of the year and indoors the rest of the time. He envisioned a three year project, to eventually contain a dolphin pool and an old dutch canal system, boat house and golf house; a chalet and facilities to house people who wish to stay overnight.

Mr. Cowling stated his objection to snowmobile trails because of noise factor but supported bike trails being built from Lamoureux Park westerly to Guindon Park. Mrs. Irene Helmer, representing horticultural and craft work, suggested the hiring of a park superintendent; an area for recreation, sports and picnic facilities; planting of trees, flowers and shrubs; installation of seats, with City crest on back; pools for birds; bus service, especially during the Summer and on Sundays; bus parking areas; plaques to identify trees or plants; a motorcycle trail; the banning of camping; litter bins all along the highway; and small buildings for crafts and workshops. Mrs. Helmer indicated that, should a committee be formed, she would be very happy to sit on it as a member.

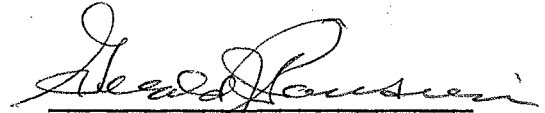
Mr. Manson pointed out that one section of the old G.T.R. railroad bed is still in the area, with two old limestone culverts and suggested that these be watched for when excavating. He also noted that perhaps one of the oldest trees in the City is in the area - close to the Hydro access road, which could be a tourist attraction if worked into the overall development.

Concern was expressed should camping areas be eliminated, if we wish to attract tourists. It was suggested that such areas would not distract from the development, if properly laid out. In answer to a question, Mr. Knox asserted that it would be their intention to make maximum usage of any area e.g. a pond in the summer and skating in the winter. Cross-country snow trails will also be provided, he stated, with bike trails along the river in the summer.

While expressing his pleasure in seeing the number of facilities included for both our citizens and tourists, Alderman Lebano suggested an area for soccer and horseback riding. Alderman Pearson stressed the need for bus service to the park, with Alderman Cameron stating that he could see, in the future, transportation possibly as far west as Long Sault. Alderman Cameron further asked that development of the park not be carried out strictly on a commercial basis, but for the benefit of the people. Further, he asked that the historical past not be forgotten.

Mr. Knox suggested that the public be invited to submit any ideas to Mr. Purdie to be forwarded to his firm. After a study of all proposals, he proposed that a meeting similar to the one held tonight, be called.


Acting Clerk


Mayor