

Memorandum on development of the former Marionapolis College site

Presented by: Gloria Ménard, Montreal resident, site neighbour and long-time proponent of preservation and protection of Mount Royal Park and its environs.

Preamble: This proposed project is a sad addition to the litany of sins being committed by the City of Montreal against responsible urban planning and protection of Mount Royal Park.

QUESTION: Should there have been public hearings on a housing development for this site?

I say no, and contend that the optimum use of the site is what should have been the first issue to be publicly discussed. Whether, and/or how, it should be developed is the core question that needs to be answered.

QUESTION: Can this development project be justified?

The public has been presented with a highly debatable development project for the site favoured by the city and the borough. One that blatantly and broadly infringes on both the Montreal Urban Plan and the Mount Royal Protection and Enhancement Plan.

The city administration has not presented any valid justification for promoting a project that countermands so many of its own bylaws concerning land use, land coverage, heights, volume, traffic, etc., and which so boldly contradicts provincial legislation designed to protect the natural and historic mountain territory.

QUESTION: Why have the other proposals for the site not been made public?

The suppression of information on other site proposals and the undo haste with which this project is being rushed through show a disturbing lack of transparency by the municipal administration.

CONCLUSION: I contend that the city has abandoned its responsibility to present and future generations of Montrealers by championing a project that will so strongly impinge on the integrity of the mountain territory.

I am asking the Mayor of Montreal and the Minister of Culture to halt further progress of this project. I request that a referendum be held on this project and that public hearings be held on the future vocation of the site.

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[**Re the former owners, the Sulpicians:** After having enjoyed over 300 years of tax-free use of prime real estate on the flank of Mount Royal, it would have been a fine Christian gesture on their part to have ceded this property to the Montreal community.]