

I am writing to voice my concern with respect to the proposed park that will be developed on expropriated land; currently a parking lot on the south side of de Maisonneuve and between St. Marc and St. Mathieu.

I have lived in the area since 1994. I do not see the need for a park. The location of it would only serve the transients; a place to drink cheap booze as well as purchase / sell drugs. The creation of the park in such a secluded area that would abut the bar Diana, is trouble in the making. Also, the occupation of the former Victoria school by students will only add to the deterioration of the area.

Several times a week, I cross through Cabot square. It disgusts me to see the park in such a disarray. After 22:00 hrs, it is not always safe to pass through this area. The city can not afford to spend the money required to ensure the area is free of the delinquents that only serve to emphasize the blight of the area. How does the committee expect to ensure the proposed park will be properly monitored to ensure it is not taken over by members of society who can not respect themselves let alone public areas.

For the past eleven years, I have been working in the borough of Ville St-Laurent. Twice a day, I pass through parc Alexis Nihon. A park that is overlooked by two large office complexes as well as the numerous houses that face it. One may take the liberty to assume the park is safe once night falls. Not so. Over the years, I have seen numerous hypodermic needles scattered about the park, empty beer bottles as well as used condoms scar the park. Now, as summer approaches, groups of young people will congregate in the area to smoke their drugs, and drink their beer. Naturally, the level of noise does increase to the effect the residents of the area have been disturbed.

Getting through the park can be a challenge at times. This past winter, has seen an inordinate high number of cars parked along the side of the park. I dare not look at what the occupants of these vehicles are getting up to. This park is not very safe at night. The borough does not have the funds to ensure the proper amount of policing is performed in this area. A secondary problem of using the park for the use of drugs is the presence of spaced out individuals behind a moving vehicle. Youth and its delusion of self, coupled with the ingestion of drugs, leads to trouble on the road. Will a park in the proposed area serve as a pick up place for drugs of choice; a fly through if you will.

I do not see how the presence of the park will add value to the area. As long as the students who live in the area see this as only a stop gap in

their lives, this part of the city will always be a blight on the city of Montreal.

The parking lot can contribute to the process of regeneration of this area. Perhaps a small parcel of land from the school can be appropriated so a larger installation of the bixi bike docking station could be installed in the area. The parking lot could serve as a point where complaints associated with a bike can be submitted, etc.

How much money would be spent on the proposed park, let alone the cost to maintain it before a consensus is realized that it was a waste of money?

It was overheard that madam Nancy Shorey had parked her vehicle in the parking lot in question so that she could attend the meeting that was held in the Cours Mont Royal on Monday March 28, 2011. Why was that? During the aforementioned meeting, did she not mention the reason to implement the park in this area was to help reduce the carbon footprint caused by the parking lot? Perhaps a better act of being respectful of the environment would have been public transport or obtain a ride from a member of the committee."

Nicholas Sean Haydon