

PRESENTATION TO REGINA CITY COUNCIL

MOTION: PROTECT WASCANA PARK FROM COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

MONDAY AUGUST 27 2018

My name is Lorraine Weidner. I am speaking on my own behalf. I am here to support the motion: Protect Wascana Park from Commercial Development.

Reginans have a deep love for Wascana Park. It is a park for every taste: biking, walking, jogging, swimming, sunbathing, picnicking, ball and frisbee throwing—the list goes on. Even newly weds use it for their wedding photographs.

Commercial development in Wascana Park is wrong. It is unethical. It is short sighted. It will serve Conexus and Brandt, not the public whose park it is.

The public was left out of the decision-making process. The public forums that were held were mere window-dressing. Wascana Park is a public park. It is our park. We have paid for it over the generations.

As is well-known, Regina has a surplus of empty office space downtown—a perfect location for Conexus. Why would the city of Regina violate its Official Community Plan, and allow Conexus to take 2.6 acres of green space in our park?

I call on the Mayor and the City Councillors to work together to support the motion before you--to reverse City Council's earlier sanction of business development in the people's beautiful Wascana Park.

I quote from THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF WASCANA CENTRE by W. A. Riddell, Preface, page iii "The Wascana Centre Act establishes a unique organization...which includes three participating parties: the provincial government, the City of Regina, and the University....all are committed to work together to preserve the area surrounding Wascana Lake as a beautifully landscaped environment in which government, education, cultural, recreational and environmental activities can develop in harmony."

I think we can all agree on one goal—that is, the preservation of a unique urban green space. By preserving this park, we will be honouring those in the past who worked so diligently, and with such heart, to make this urban park one of the most beautiful in North America. We will also be honouring all those to follow in the generations to come. Bequeathing an intact park to them is bequeathing riches better than gold.