

M. FRANCIS LAROSE :

Ça fait plaisir.

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LE PRÉSIDENT :

J'inviterais monsieur Al Hayek, s'il vous plaît à venir.

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M. AL HAYEK :

Bonsoir, good evening.

LE PRÉSIDENT :

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Bonsoir.

M. AL HAYEK :

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Mr. President, members of the commission. I am a member of a number of groups, Sauvons la Falaise, Sauvons l'Anse-à-l'Orme and also Les amis du parc Meadowbrook. But I am here as a private citizen. And I am quite delighted with the project. It's been my dream and in the 80s, when the Montreal Citizens' Movement, the MCM was in power, they came up with some original and progressive ideas and one of them was to make paths through parks under hydro lines, along railway tracks and so on. And so that, eventually, we could get to the canal. Well, that dream is coming true now.

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I live somewhere, let me get my bearings here. Somewhere here... O.K. I think you can see the arrow on your... and now, if I want to go to the canal, which I have done, I go through Ville Saint-Pierre and it's a lot of traffic here and a lot of highways and I go across there and I go to the canal and then I can go walk along there and enjoy that and if I want to go to Angrignon

2165 Park, I can take Senkus and go along Angrignon Park and I can continue through the Douglas
Hospital grounds and I can go to the St.-Lawrence River and the Park des Rapides and I can go
birdwatching. Fantastic place for birdwatching. But now, I am delighted that I can come from here
and I can go to Cavendish. I don't know whereabouts it is. Here is the Falaise, here is the
Falaise. I can go to Cavendish, but I am near Maisonneuve, which is the bike path and it's a nice
road. So, you can walk along there. There's nice greenery and I can go to Cavendish and now I
will be able to take the dull-park. So, it's a dream come true. I love to walk, and this will be great.
2170 So now, I can go quite a pleasant way and I can cross over the dull-park and I can visit this grand
park.

2175 This is a welcome addition to the city. The Gazette in, just this past week, November
15th, indicated that our parks are well used, very well used. So, we need more parks. People
want parks. And this is a great addition.

2180 One thing I have noticed, and I used to live downtown and watching, I have been involved
as green things for quite a long time, I used to live downtown and they started, the Federal
Government started building bicycle paths along the canal. What a great idea. And it only started
in St. Henry and you just heard about it, you know, people, word to mouth you heard about it
and... and a few people, I tried it and it was maybe a kilometre or so and the extended it and
now, of course, it goes from Old Montreal all the way to Parc, René-Lévesque on the opening on
the St. Lawrence River. If you go there on a nice day in summer, it's actually, it's so successful,
it's actually congested. Now, I think the same thing is going to happen here. Well, not congested,
2185 but if you build, the people are going to come. People are going to come to this.

2190 I would like to see a larger version, of course. I would like to see that, as I say, once I get
to the canal, I can go along Senkus and maybe they can green part of Senkus and make it a
habitat so that fauna can go from the canal over the Angrignon Park and then maybe make a
path through the Douglas Hospital grounds and all the way to the river. Wouldn't that be grand if
we could walk to the river.

2195 I won't talk too much about the benefits of green space, we have covered that in many other OCPM hearings, just living near green space increases your health because, if you see some green space, it's interesting, you go out walking, you go out meet your friends there, you socialize, you get out of the house, you feel better mentally, physically, but all this is covered and I am just making a mention of it.

2200 My vision of the dull-park is, is something that blends in with the Falaise. It's a gentle slope I see, partly green, no elevators, this is a natural space, let's keep it un-urban. You need it wide enough for cyclists to go up and down and people walking and animals and fauna.

2205 As for the Turcot Park, I would like to see it naturalized. This will be a decision. I also see the advantage. I mean, we have heard a lot of people talking about sports and it's such a great value in sports, what I have heard tonight, so it will be up to the counsellors to decide what the portion. I would like to see it naturalized. Now, when you renaturalizing, there is many books on how to attract birds, for example. You have to plant the right plants, O.K. You have to have the right trees, your chimney swift, you have to have a certain type of trees, and so on. And it's not that hard to attract birds. Actually, in my backyard, I have, I see periodically, Lisa mentioned it, a couple of those endangered species. They come every Spring and every Fall. I see them in my
2210 backyard, cause my backyard is green naturalized.

2215 So, my last point I would like to make and that's why I put up this map, is restoring the little St. Pierre River and here, we have Meadowbrook Park. Now, what's happening here, is Côte-Saint-Luc and Montreal West are fixing up their cross-connections. They have cross-connections where you have, in some municipalities, you have rain sewers, rain water, for rain water and you have other pipes for sewage, household sewage.

2220 Now, we are lucky in Montreal West and Côte-Saint-Luc, but now, sometimes, when they are building the houses, they get mixed up and the sewage pipes get's connected to the rain-water pipe and that's what happened and Côte-Saint-Luc and Montreal West are currently cleaning it up and then the St. Pierre River, St. Pierre River comes along here and it's the rain water. The St. Pierre River is now all canalized, underwater, under the earth. It's under the earth.

2225 And so, but it's rain water and up to this point, once they clear up the problem in Côte-Saint-Luc and Montreal West, flowing through Meadowbrook will be just rain water. Now, as we get here, you see this fork in the road here. O.K., this is the rain water and here, is a sewage pipe. So, they join here. So, the problem now, is at this point, becomes contaminated. There is contamination further coming from this point along here. Now, here we are going to build lake, Lac-à-la-Loutre here, we're not that far away, now I, to have this rain water furnishing the water if Lac-à-la-Loutre Park.

2230 There is many advantages to removing the sewage from this rain water pipe. For number one, if there is a big rain, all this water can go right into the canal. Because we know how much problems we have with flooding when there is a big rain. Right now, because sewage is mixed with rain water, all of this has to go out east. All of this water here has to go out east to the Waste Water Treatment Plan. It would be, they don't need any more water. Particularly during a heavy rain. So, if this water could be diverted, it could be cleaned up and be pure rain water, then it could furnish water for Lac-à-la-Loutre or it could go into the canal here. Or, as it was mentioned early this evening, daylight the river. Bring it back, it daylighted, the river is daylighted, the little St. Pierre River is daylighted going through Meadowbrook Park, continue it and go right to Lac-à-la-Loutre.

2240 By the way, I could send you a video, the underground river, the little St. Pierre River, the underground river is like this, the tunnels are like this. They are huge and it's quite interesting to see what's inside this and go through. There is a video on it, which would be available.

2245 **LE PRÉSIDENT:**

That's about the time.

2250 **M. AL HAYEK:**

Yes, that's a good timing, because I just going to conclude. I think this is a great project. I am really looking forward. I like to walk, I am sure a lot of other people are built it, they'll come,

2255 they'll come just like they come on the bicycle path along the canal, just like they come on the bicycle path downtown, you don't know how many people they are, it's just amazing. They will come, it's a great project and I am looking forward to it's completion.

LE PRÉSIDENT:

2260 Thank you. A few questions. You talked about that it might be interesting to have lookouts on the Falaise, on the top of the Falaise.

M. AL HAYEK:

2265 Yes, yes.

LE PRÉSIDENT:

2270 What should they look like, if there is not going to be elevators or towers, should the lookouts be elevated somewhat and for having been on top of there, sometimes, the view is not complete. Do we need to trim trees so that we have better views without having to build towers? What do you think about that?

M. AL HAYEK:

2275 Well, I have learned something tonight from Lisa Mintz' talk. I am aware of the road at Cavendish. It's behind the Rose Bowl. There is a road along the Falaise and if you enter from there and go down that road, it's lands gently down, then the, the bridge over the highways would be, would not be as high and I think that's a great idea.

2280 So, I have learned something tonight, I don't know about, now about, well, I was thinking originally, if you had started from the top, if the ramp, the dalle-parc started from the top, then you'd had views as you go along and I saw sort of over hanging the Falaise and you could lookout. And I favour a gentle slope, long gentle slope, but it has to be blended in with the nature,

2285 not part of the downtown, looking like the downtown. It has to be blended in and you would have a lookout from walking along that ramp.

LE PRÉSIDENT:

2290 For a gentle ramp, because you know, we were told by the city of how high they have to go through to get that. And if there is no elevator or stairs, the ramp would have to be very gentle to allow for universal access. Is that right?

M. AL HAYEK:

2295 It would.

LE PRÉSIDENT:

2300 So, it might need to meander more than...

M. AL HAYEK:

2305 Yes, very definitely. You gave an example in the literature of one that was meandering and yes, that is what I had in mind. It was in Vancouver or Washington. I like that one.

LE PRÉSIDENT:

2310 And for you, that would be sufficient to blend in and allow that universal access.

M. AL HAYEK:

2315 Well, there is a lot that an architect. This would be a job or an architect to consider all this. To make something, I mean it's a big job to make something signature, a welcome to Montreal, green, blend in, I mean. But I leave it to the architects.

LE PRÉSIDENT:

Thank you. Danielle has some questions as well.

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MME DANIELLE LANDRY:

Earlier you referred to the article in the Gazette, from the Grand-Trunk. In this one, they just talk about the high pressure that people comment on dit ça? - the pressure on the parks... because of high use space in parks.

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M. AL HAYEK:

Yes.

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MME DANIELLE LANDRY:

We can think that the same will be happening even though that will relieve some pressure from the other parks, this one would like become a park that could be under high use too. So, do you have any ideas in terms of how we could, not prevent that, because we are happy that people will use the park, but to help people, maybe to be educated about how to protect the area or whatever. If you would have some ideas, I would be interested to hear about that.

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M. AL HAYEK:

Sure, we could start off with the idea of the National Park in l'Anse-à-l'Orme, that's in west of Pierrefonds. Its amazing space, there is a river, there's a field, lots of birdlife and there was a project at one time with Thomas Mulcair to make this area a National Park. We will see what happens to it, let's face it, we need more parks. We need this type of thing and as the article said, we have half of what most other cities have. So, this will help. It's not going to solve all our problems, it's a good start. We could do l'Anse-à-l'Orme and let's make Meadowbrook a park.

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2350 Right here, we have been lobbying for 30 years for this area here. By now, if we hadn't lobbied for it, it would be built on, it would be condos, we need condos, but in the right place. This would serve so many people. Hundreds of thousands of people in the whole area around to make this a park.

2355 Those are two ideas and I know there's a lot out east, we are talking about the golf course in Anjou. I don't know what's going to happen to that now, but, yes. And then we get into, look at all the health benefits from people who used the bicycle paths along the canal. Where were those people before the paths were there? Now there's thousands and even on a work day, I used to go to work on that path. People getting healthy, having fun. Mental health. This is what the literature is about nowadays and we, you know, this is cutting down our hospital costs. It's taking it globally. So, there is other places. Oh, well, and there's in the Technopark. Oh my God, just a fantastic. There are fantastic birds there because they have the wetlands. And there is
2360 beaver there and you see huge grebes and there's endangered species there. That whole area would be another park and that's in another area. So, all those people could enjoy that area. There are spaces and we are working in all these spaces, they should all be made parks.

2365 **MME DANIELLE LANDRY:**

So, it's a great idea to add the number of parks, that for sure. And once you have people in the park, like this one, in Turcot yard, how could you make it possible that people will be able to protect the area? Because you are going to have a high number of people there. So is there any ideas that you could share with us in terms of how you could help people protecting the area
2370 once they are there?

M. AL HAYEK:

2375 I know they have lots of difficulty on Mont-Royal protecting the area, yes.

MME DANIELLE LANDRY:

It's not to make you sad.

2380 **M. AL HAYEK:**

That's a good thing for me to think about. I think...

2385 **MME DANIELLE LANDRY:**

I am sorry you were happy with, seeing the number of parks, but...

M. AL HAYEK:

2390 Giving people more parks. Well, O.K. We are talking about having the chalet there, I am not sure of that, but anyhow, when people learn about nature, or when they are near nature, we are so divorced from nature, we are so far away from it, so our kids don't know anything about it. But actually, there is programs in Ontario, they take kids to nature. We'd be surprised how intrigued children are with nature.

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But our children really don't have the opportunity and all these places I have mentioned, L'Anse-à-l'Orme, the Technopark, Pierrefonds, the more places we have that children have a chance to see it and, of course, we need, they are people who can show you the beauty. I have to tell you something. I spent my first 12 years on a farm. And you look at the people who are really trying to preserve nature, most of them had an experience like this in nature. So, our children, we need, first of all, we need the spaces and there are some wonderful spaces left that we could save. We need the spaces that the children can go to and then, we have to introduce them a little bit, because, you know, they are not around these spaces all day. We have to teach them how beautiful it is and they'll take care of it.

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LE PRÉSIDENT:

Thank you. Alors merci beaucoup monsieur Hayek. It was very much appreciated.

2410 Alors, ceci met fin à cette séance d'audition des opinions. Avant de quitter, est-ce que la
Ville de Montréal désire se prévaloir de son droit de rectification?

2415 Alors, je remercie toutes les personnes qui ont soutenu les travaux de la commission et
de tout le personnel de l'Office. Je remercie aussi encore une fois, tous ceux et celles qui ont pris
le temps de nous faire part de leurs opinions et de leurs expertises. C'est vraiment très apprécié.

Et merci aux gens dans la salle pour votre écoute patiente et respectueuse.

2420 Thank you for your participation. Bonne soirée et à demain pour certains parmi vous.

AJOURNEMENT

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Je, soussignée, SARAH OUELLET, sténotypiste officielle, certifie sous mon serment d'office que les pages qui précèdent sont et contiennent la transcription fidèle et exacte de la preuve et du témoignage pris dans cette cause au moyen de la sténotypie.

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Le tout conformément à la loi.

Et, j'ai signé :

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Sarah Ouellet, s.o. (317491-3)

Commissaire à l'assermentation (213945)