

Pine-Park will be thing of beauty: Fotopulos

Public input needed, borough mayor says

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Residents and heritage groups want land left over from the Pine/Park interchange reconfiguration turned into a magnificent gateway to the mountain.

Not to worry, borough mayor Helen Fotopulos said yesterday, the land - just south of Pine Ave. - will be devoted to just that.

"We're not building condos and we're not selling it," said Fotopulos, the city executive committee member responsible for Mount Royal. Indeed, Fotopulos will propose at next Monday's borough meeting a consultation process in which the public will be invited to share ideas for how to make the space beautiful, she said.

Whatever it is, "it has to be significant," Fotopulos said. Ideas she has heard so far include holding a public competition to create a sculpture, and making the land into hanging gardens.

The roughly 5,000 square metres of land just south of Pine, between Durocher St. to just west of Jeanne Mance St., was reclaimed with the demolition of the old interchange. (Other recovered land north of Pine is being tacked onto Mount Royal and Jeanne Mance parks.)

Lucia Kowaluk, president of the Milton Park Citizens Committee, said her organization is concerned the land south of Pine could be sold to developers.

"There are constant rumours that people want to build there," Kowaluk said yesterday. "I know two people who work for the city who have told me in the last four months, 'There are going to be buildings there.' "

Though her committee was reassured after meeting with Fotopulos last month, it doesn't want to take any chances, Kowaluk said. "You have to keep (politicians) on their toes."

The Milton Park Citizens Committee is inviting people to a public information meeting tomorrow on the future of the land. Fotopulos will address the meeting, as will Plateau Mont Royal councillor Michel Prescott. There will also be representatives from a number of organizations, including Les Amis de la Montagne and the Green Coalition.

The information meeting is tomorrow in the basement of Notre Dame de la Salette Church, 3535 Park Ave. For information, call 514-842-7432.

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