Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – September 21, 2005

REPORTS

Item No. 1 Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Applications – September 2005
File S-7

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATION:

That this report be received as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 6, 2005, the Executive Policy Committee referred the June 7, 2005 recommendation of the City Centre Community Committee, pertaining to the Corydon Avenue Business Improvement Zone's application to the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Program, to the Executive Policy Committee Secretariat and the Administration for review and recommendation back.

Further, on July 6, 2005, the Executive Policy Committee referred the June 14, 2005 recommendation of the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee, pertaining to the upgrading of Gunn Road and Redonda Street, to the Executive Policy Committee Secretariat and the Administration for review and recommendation back.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On June 25, 2005, Council, in adopting the Policy to regulate the endorsement of applications applying for funding under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, directed the Administration and the EPC Secretariat to prepare a list of potential City of Winnipeg MRIF projects for consideration by Executive Policy Committee and Council in September 2005.

REPORT

Re: **Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Applications – September 1, 2005**

For submission to: **Executive Policy Committee**

Original report signed by: **Chief Administrative Officer**

Report date: September 15, 2005

Recommendation(s):

1. That this report be received as information.

REPORT SUMMARY

Key Issues:

- At its meeting on June 29, 2005, Council adopted guidelines with respect to the endorsement of applications for funding under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF)
- The City of Winnipeg will not endorse any MRIF application from an external group which requires a capital contribution from the City.
- To allow all groups equal opportunity to apply, the Council set three deadline dates for consideration of MRIF applications: September 1, 2005, January 1, 2006, and June 1, 2006. This report speaks to applications received for the September 1, 2005 deadline.

Implications of the Recommendation(s):

General implications:

	None
	For the organization overall and/or for other departments
X	**For the community and/or organizations external to the City of Winnipeg**
	Involves a multi-year contract

Comment(s):

Community groups/organizations interested in applying for MRIF require endorsement by the City.

Policy implications:

	No
X	**Yes**

Comment(s):

Applications may at times have implications relative to existing Council policy.

Environmental implications:

X	**No**
	Yes

Comment(s):

Human Resources implications:

X	**No**
	Yes

Comment(s):

Financial implications:

X	**Within approved current and/or capital budget**
	Current and/or capital budget adjustment required

Comment(s):

There are no financial implications associated with this report. It is possible that there will be financial implications associated with specific proposals; those will come forward under separate report (as required).

REASON FOR THE REPORT:

The policy guidelines for funding under the MRIF, adopted by Council on June 29, 2005 require external groups to provide copies of their MRIF application to the Executive Policy Committee Secretariat for review and comment by the Administration.

HISTORY:

At its meeting of June 29, 2005, Council adopted policy guidelines to regulate the endorsement of applications applying for funding under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF).

DISCUSSION:

The following MRIF applications were received from external groups for the September 1, 2005 deadline:

1. Enterprises Riel – for expansions to the garden at the old City Hall on Provencher.
2. Corydon Avenue Business Improvement Zone – for streetscaping along Corydon Avenue.
3. YMCA-YWCA – for the expansion of the South Y.
4. Asper Jewish Community Campus – for enhancements to the recreation facility.
5. Crescent wood Community Centre – for expansion of the facility.
6. St. James Rods – facility addition and renovation of grounds.

These applications were reviewed by the Administration and comments are below.

1. Enterprises Riel (for expansions to the garden at the old City Hall on Provencher)

Total eligible costs: $1.1 m (total project $2.3 m)

Applicant's contribution: $0 toward eligible costs (Other funding identified includes $600,000 from the City (land); $180,000 annually to be raised by the community for 3 years and $40,000 from Entreprises Riel et la Maison des Artistes.)

The Development is a positive use of the site, a benefit to the French community in general, and enhances Provencher Boulevard.

The Sponsor retained an Architectural consultant to prepare a site plan and develop a budget on which the application is based. The site plan indicates many concrete pads of varying sizes, which are locations for future, as yet unknown, artwork. The sponsor's strategy is to commission pieces of various sizes from local artists using private funding. The sponsor is unclear whether or not the work would be for sale, how the artists or work would be chosen, or the nature of the work.

The administration met on several occasions with the sponsor and expressed concerns with the plan as proposed. The Plan indicates the size and foundations for art pieces before the

particulars of each of the works are known. The concept as noted is not flexible in terms of size and placement of the works, makes potentially incorrect assumptions concerning future uses of adjacent buildings and erroneously assumes a new entrance may be cut in the façade of the City Hall building.

It is also felt the sponsor has not developed a sound strategy for commissioning artwork for the site, which the administration felt should be the first step before a site plan is designed. The administration strongly recommended a new strategy, budget and site plan be developed through collaboration with a consultant and administration (PP&D).

Public Works estimates that an additional $25,000-$75,000 would be needed per annum to maintain the site design as proposed. As this expenditure is not outlined in the funding application, the City may be required to absorb the cost in current budgets. A clear lease agreement would also be necessary, outlining responsibilities of the sponsor and the City and ownership of the art pieces and site furnishings.

The administration supports the concept and with Council direction, will assist further with the project. The administration recommends that assistance could be sought from the Public Art committee of the Winnipeg Arts Council for the development of a plan and the commissioning of artwork for the site.

2. Corydon Avenue Business Improvement Zone (for streetscaping along Corydon Avenue)

Total eligible costs: $350,000

Applicant's contribution: $125,000 (unclear if funds are in place)

The mandate of the Corydon Avenue BIZ is: to beautify, improve and maintain real property of the City within the BIZ zone (subject to authorization by Council); to promote improvements and economic development in the zone; and to conduct or commission any studies and prepare any designs which may be necessary to obtain its objectives (page 3, Bylaw No. 8111/2002).

The Corydon Avenue BIZ has retained McGowan Russell Group to prepare a proposal for a streetscape enhancement project under the MRIF Program.

The proposed enhancements meet a number of City policy objectives. The administration acknowledges the benefits of the proposed improvements, noting however, that the project scope identified is below budget of other similar streetscape initiatives. Further, the administration advises a public consultation process to ensure neighbourhood support.

The proposal does not acknowledge other financial implications associated with a project of this scope. There may be an expectation on the proponent's part for the City to contribute one third of the total cost. Also, ongoing maintenance costs associated with this project have not been acknowledged with respective City departments including Forestry, Parks and Open Spaces, Streets, Lighting Systems and Manitoba Hydro. Operational budget would be required to reflect annual ongoing costs.

3. YMCA-YWCA (for the expansion of the South Y)

Total eligible costs: $4.4 m (total project $5.0 m)

Applicant's contribution: $1.5 m (note that $1.0 m is being borrowed to finance the project)

The Y is an important provider of recreational programming in Winnipeg and serves a broad market. There are relatively few indoor aquatic facilities in this quadrant of Winnipeg and this expansion could complement services at the nearby Boni-Vital pool. Further, it is not anticipated that any expansion plans by the YMCA would have an impact on the surrounding Community Centres (Windsor and Glenlee).

The Planning Property and Development Department, representatives from the YWCA – YMCA and neighbourhood stakeholder groups have been involved in a planning process that included facilitated workshops and the development of a Project Advisory Committee to reach consensus on the proposed YWCA – YMCA expansion and the subsequent required redevelopment of St. Vital Memorial Park. The Community stakeholders have concurred on the attached site plan and a suggested funding partnership model that would allow the Y expansion to proceed into the current park site.

The Parks and Open Space Division of the Public Works Department has been involved in the planning process and is comfortable with the maintenance requirements under the attached site plan.

Council has not yet had an opportunity to approve the site plan; no expansion can take place until such approval is in place.

4. Asper Jewish Community Campus – for enhancements to the recreation facility.

Total eligible costs: $3.1 m (total project $3.6 m)

Applicant's contribution: $1.0 m (private funding is underway - $760,000 raised to date for building enhancements)

The Asper Jewish Community Campus provides a strong presence in the City of Winnipeg, in addressing the cultural and recreational needs of Winnipeg's Jewish community primarily. As such, this multi-use facility meets a particular niche in Winnipeg and has proven to be a successful hub of Jewish culture and recreation programs.

Expansion of this facility would complement the City's programming and services. The private agencies facilities do not fall within the context of the Recreation, Leisure and Library Facilities Policy.

5. Crescentwood Community Centre – for expansion of the facility.

Total eligible costs: $1.5 m

Applicant's contribution: $.5 m (source of applicant funding not identified)

On May 18th, 2005, Council adopted the Recreation, Leisure and Library Facilities Policy. This policy provides the overall process and guidelines to aid Council in its decision-making with respect to recreation and leisure facilities. The policy also mandates a new leadership role for the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres (GCWCC), in facilitating a strong and more sustainable Community Centre model in Winnipeg. Reporting directly to the Executive Policy Committee, GCWCC's new governance role includes working with Community Centre District Boards to plan, optimize and reconfigure Community Centre space within the limitation of maintaining the existing square footage of recreation and leisure space.

In keeping with the Recreation, Leisure and Library Facilities Policy, it is recommended that the GCWCC Board provide its recommendation relative to any expansion plans for the Crescentwood Community Centre, in the context of its overall planning to enhance and sustain the community centre model.

6. St. James Rods – facility addition and renovation of grounds.

Total eligible costs: $907,000 ($917,000 total cost)

Applicant's contribution: $316,000 ($184,000 not yet confirmed)

Services provided by the Rods Football program fulfill a particular market segment and help to meet the overall market demand for recreation services within the community.
It is not anticipated that further expansion of this facility would negatively impact the provision of City of Winnipeg recreation programming and services or surrounding facilities. Private agencies with separate agreements for City facilities do not fall within the context of the Recreation, Leisure and Library Facilities Policy.

Financial Impact Statement

Date: September 15, 2005

Project Name:

Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Applications

First Year of Program: 2005

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	-	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments:

The City has no financial implications related to this report.

(Orig. signed by C. Rempel for R. Abeyskera)

IN PREPARING THIS REPORT, THERE WAS CONSULTATION WITH AND CONCURRENCE BY:

Planning Property & Development Department

Community Services Department

THIS REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

CAO Secretariat
Division: Strategic Management
Prepared by: Connie Walker
File #: