Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – September 21, 2005

REPORTS

Minute No. 555 Proposed Development - Assiniboine Park Zoo south end parking lot File PR-7.1.1

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee directed the following:

1. That the Administration prepare a feasibility study which explores converting for development purposes the land comprising the Assiniboine Park Zoo south end parking lot while restricting the proceeds of that development for the exclusive use of the Assiniboine Park Enterprise, and report back to the Executive Policy Committee with options and recommendations within 60 days.

2. That the feasibility study examine all issues related to the proposed conversion for development purposes including, without limitation, zoning matters, financing matters, and process matters.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Eadie,

That Rule 9.3 of the Procedure By-law be suspended in order that the following item, which was received too late to be placed on the regular agenda, be considered by Committee.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS the Assiniboine Park, the ZOO, and the Assiniboine Forest are recognized as jewels within the City of Winnipeg that need to be protected, preserved, and enhanced over time for the benefit of current and future generations;

AND WHEREAS in April 2000 the Assiniboine Park Enterprise was created by City Council to develop and manage the 1100 acre site comprising the Assiniboine Park, the ZOO, and the Assiniboine Forest as a major urban destination and economic generator;

AND WHEREAS in May 2004 the Assiniboine Park Enterprise, with the support of the Friends of the Assiniboine Park Conservatory, Partners in the Park, and the Zoological Society of Manitoba, brought forward the Assiniboine Park Framework Plan comprising a series of guiding principles and development proposals for the enhancement of the entire 1100 acre site;

AND WHEREAS a dedicated and dependable source of revenue is necessary for the Assiniboine Park Enterprise to achieve its goals while benefiting the entire community;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg continues to promote entrepreneurship and innovation in the pursuit of financial sustainability while mitigating the dependency on property tax revenue;

AND WHEREAS the south end parking lot fronting onto Corydon Avenue and adjacent to the ZOO's south entrance is underutilized and can be considered superfluous to the ongoing operations of the Assiniboine Park and the ZOO;

AND WHEREAS no green space would be lost if the south end parking lot land was to be converted for development purposes, subject to appropriate zoning controls;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Administration prepare a feasibility study which explores converting for development purposes the land comprising the Assiniboine Park ZOO south end parking lot while restricting the proceeds of that development for the exclusive use of the Assiniboine Park Enterprise, and report back to the Executive Policy Committee with options and recommendations within 60 days.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the feasibility study examine all issues related to the proposed conversion for development purposes including, without limitation, zoning matters, financing matters, and process matters.

Carried

Councillor Thomas asked to be recorded as having voted against the above motion, in accordance with Rule 50.7 of the Procedure By-law.

Councillor Benham, River Heights-Fort Garry Ward, submitted a motion for consideration by the Executive Policy Committee requesting that a Council Seminar and Public Meetings be held regarding the Assiniboine Park Framework Plan.

Submission from Councillor Benham, River Heights-Fort Garry Ward

Whereas the Mayor, City Council and Winnipeggers desire to maintain and enhance the value of Assiniboine Park;

And Whereas the Mayor and City Council wish to have a dialogue with the owners of the park, the people of Winnipeg;

Therefore Be It Resolved That:

1. The Mayor call a council seminar to review the Assiniboine Park framework plan, with a view to finding new sources of revenue;

2. Representatives of Friends of the Conservatory, Partners in the Park, Zoological Society of Manitoba and Coalition to Save the Elms be invited to attend the council seminar;

3. Public meetings to discuss the framework plan and potential sources of revenue be held at each community committee.