Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – January 11, 2006

REPORTS

Item No. 10 Civic Environmental Committee - Moratorium on Developing Flood-Sensitive Lands
File E-7

CIVIC ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 19, 2005, the Civic Environmental Committee recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that:

A. Effective immediately, all proposals to develop land that clearly fits the definition of sensitive lands be rejected in their current form and steps be taken immediately to acquire (at a fair market value) the affected sensitive lands for public purposes so that the balance of the projects may proceed in a timely manner;

B. All proposals that include land identified as sensitive on Policy Plate D be "red-flagged" by the Administration, and a moratorium be placed on the development of these lands until a comprehensive Sensitive Lands Plan or a Watershed Management Plan is completed and approved by Council;

C. All development proposals be reviewed by the administration for their consistency with the principles contained within all sections of Plan Winnipeg;

D. The City work with the province to ensure that mechanisms and funding are in place to identify and acquire Sensitive Lands within the urban environment in an efficient and timely manner,

E. The City take steps to ensure that its' planning, by-laws, policies, procedures, approval process, and decisions are consistent with the Province's Water Protection Act, other pertinent provincial and federal legislation and policy, and state-of-the-art environmental techniques (see Best Management Practices Handbook for activities in and around the city's waterways and watercourses – November 2005);

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

CIVIC ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 19, 2005, the Civic Environmental Committee considered a communication dated December 5, 2005, from Committee Member Michele Kading requesting that consideration be given to the matter of a moratorium on developing flood-sensitive lands until the City approves a sensitive lands plan.

The Civic Environmental Committee passed the following resolution:

> WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has not yet completed a Sensitive Lands Plan that would identify public and private lands within the city boundaries that contain unique pockets of flora and fauna, are flood sensitive, and/or prone to erosion, and makes provisions for the acquisition;
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> AND WHEREAS some of the City's remaining sensitive lands were identified on Policy Plate D of an early draft for Plan Winnipeg 2020;
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> AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has a Land Dedication Reserve Fund that was established for the purpose of purchasing land for public purposes;
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> AND WHEREAS other cities within the Red River watershed (Grand Forks and Fargo) are leading the way to acquire floodplain lands that were previously developed and convert them to public green spaces;
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> AND WHEREAS the Water Protection Act (Bill C22) takes precedence over existing City legislation;
>
> AND WHEREAS the City continues to receive proposals to develop homes, apartments and other facilities on lands that clearly fit the definition of sensitive lands as outlined in Section 5 of Plan Winnipeg (flood-prone, erosion-sensitive, and/or containing pockets of unique flora and fauna);
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> THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:
>
> A. Effective immediately, all proposals to develop land that clearly fits the definition of sensitive lands be rejected in their current form and steps be taken immediately to acquire (at a fair market value) the affected sensitive lands for public purposes so that the balance of the projects may proceed in a timely manner;

B. All proposals that include land identified as sensitive on Policy Plate D be "red-flagged" by the Administration, and a moratorium be placed on the development of these lands until a comprehensive Sensitive Lands Plan or a Watershed Management Plan is completed and approved by Council;

C. All development proposals be reviewed by the administration for their consistency with the principles contained within all sections of Plan Winnipeg;

D. The City work with the province to ensure that mechanisms and funding are in place to identify and acquire Sensitive Lands within the urban environment in an efficient and timely manner,

E. The City take steps to ensure that its' planning, by-laws, policies, procedures, approval process, and decisions are consistent with the Province's Water Protection Act, other pertinent provincial and federal legislation and policy, and state-of-the-art environmental techniques (see Best Management Practices Handbook for activities in and around the city's waterways and watercourses – Nov. 2005);

and forwarded the matter to the Executive Policy Committee.