STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON

PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 327
Councillor Swandel made reference to the plan for a sports centre at the Canada Packers site and asked the Chairperson how that fit in with the current recreation and leisure facilities plan, to which Councillor Steeves replied that there was no connection between the proposed recreational complex and the civic administration's plan.

Councillor Swandel asked if the Chairperson knew if the construction of new buildings for recreation would require the closure of other buildings, to which Councillor Steeves replied in the negative.

Councillor Swandel noted the recent events around the photo radar program and criminal charges being laid in Edmonton, and asked if the Chairperson believed that an independent and external review of the City's photo radar contract process should happen, to which Councillor Steeves replied that he was comfortable with the direction that came out of yesterday's In-Camera Audit Committee meeting.

Councillor Wyatt questioned if there was a plan to change the location of the first new police station to be built in the City in years, to which Councillor Steeves replied that the plan was as stated.

Councillor Wyatt requested clarification that there was no intention to change the location of the station from its existing site already decided on by Council, to another site, to which Councillor Steeves again replied that the plan was as stated.

Councillor Wyatt stated that in light of the fact that there was now some confusion over the status of the location of the first station, plus cost overruns of $50 million dollars for the three station plan, would the Chairperson undertake a review of the entire four district model previously approved by Council.

Councillor Steeves noted that there was no plan for a review and that he had no plans to order any such review.

Councillor Magnifico questioned if the Chairperson was aware that St. Boniface residents did have input on the Canada Packers site, and that's why 200 new homes were built where they were facing the site, which would now be right in line with the proposed Public Works yard, to which Councillor Steeves replied in the affirmative.

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Councillor Magnifico asked if the Chairperson was aware that the expenses of the three district police stations have risen to $40 to $50 million dollars and questioned if there has been any thought to re-looking at the plan because it was so expensive.

Councillor Steeves noted that the issue was a complicated one, and that it was not clear if the majority of funds required had yet been assigned to the project; he further stated that it would be up to Council to decide if the project should be continued with.

Councillor Magnifico questioned how much the cost had risen since Council's original decision, to which Councillor Steeves replied he would undertake to provide the Councillor with the numbers.

Councillor Wyatt made reference to the revised values for construction of the east, west and north stations and questioned if the revised values took into consideration the fact that construction will commence in 2011 and 2012, and if they take into consideration the potential for cost increases, to which Councillor Steeves replied that he believed they take into account all anticipated rises.

Councillor Wyatt stated that in light of the fact that the Council was looking at large costs and now cost overruns with respect to the four district model, why did the Chairperson feel that a review of the policing model was not necessary.

Councillor Steeves advised that he would prepare a history of Council's decision which he would distribute to members of Council.