Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 13, 2006

DELEGATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS

Minute No. 253

Travis Hildebrand, President, accompanied by Marc Savard, Vice-President and Tommy Walsh, Spokesperson, Professional Paramedic Association of Winnipeg, were heard with respect to the Preliminary 2006 Operating Budget and submitted supporting documentation which has been placed on file in the City Clerk's Department. File FE(2006)

Dianne Zuk, Chairperson, accompanied by Heather Graham, Administrative Assistant, Winnipeg Public Library Board, were heard in support of the recommendation from the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services for increased funding for library materials and the reinstatement of operating grant funding for the Winnipeg Public Library Board, and submitted documentation which has been placed on file in the City Clerk's Department.

Councillor Gerbasi, Fort Rouge-East Fort Garry Ward, was heard in support of the recommendation from the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services regarding the following matters:

- Opposing the preliminary budget recommendation for reductions in management/ professional staff;
- Increasing / reinstating funding for specified Library and Community Services programs; and,
- Providing funding to the City Centre Community Centres' Board to assist with the costs associated with the Spring Break Program and the Annual Volunteer Reception.

Nick Ternette was heard with respect to the following: in opposition to limiting increases in business taxes resulting from the 2006 general assessment; in support of tree pruning and emergency services budgets; reducing consultant fees; and, requesting clarification on the allocation of insect control budget.

Shannon Marten, Director of Provincial Affairs, Canadian Federation of Independent Businesses was heard with respect to the Preliminary 2006 Operating Budget, and submitted documentation which has been placed on file in the City Clerk's Department.

Councillor Thomas, Elmwood-East Kildonan Ward, was heard with respect to the following: the annual operating grant for the Winnipeg Public Library Board; reinstatement of the Community Resource Coordinator/Community Development Worker positions; the annual operating grant for the Winnipeg Convention Centre; and, Aboriginal issues.

Cindy Tugwell, Executive Director, accompanied by Roger August, Treasurer, Heritage Winnipeg Corporation, were heard in support of increasing their annual operating grant from $9,000 to $21,600 to coincide with the level of funding provided by the Province of Manitoba.

DELEGATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS (continued)

Alex Forrest, President, United Fire Fighters of Winnipeg, was heard with respect to the Preliminary 2006 Operating Budget, in particular, regarding the increased funding for the Fire Paramedic Service, as well as consultant fees in the Winnipeg Police Service and the Fire Paramedic Service.

Councillor Smith, Daniel McIntyre Ward, was heard in support of increasing funding for library materials by $200,000.

Tom Ethans, accompanied by Colleen, Kurlowich, Manager of Programs and Operations, Take Pride Winnipeg, were heard in support of increasing the annual funding allocated to their organization, and submitted supporting documentation which has been placed on file in the City Clerk's Department.

Councillor Swandel, St. Norbert Ward, was heard in support of the preliminary 2006 Operating Budget and with respect to the following issues: recreation programming for aging population; limiting increases (but not decreases) in business taxes resulting from the 2006 general assessment; additional funding for Take Pride Winnipeg for graffiti control; extending replacement cycles for computer equipment; thirty percent reduction in fleet vehicles for the Fleet Management Special Operating Agency; and, the City's continued reliance on property taxes for revenue.

Councillor Wyatt, Transcona Ward, was heard with respect to increasing funding for graffiti control and programs, and submitted supporting documentation which has been placed on file in the City Clerk's Department.

Councillor Benham, River Heights-Fort Garry Ward, was heard in support of the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services to increase/reinstate funding for various programs, and in opposition to the proposed reduction in management staffing until such time as there is sufficient information on the impacts on the affected departments.

DELEGATIONS AND SUBMISSIONS (continued)

Moved by Councillor O'Shaughnessy,

That Rule 54.1 of the Procedure By-law be suspended to allow Steve Wilson, Graffiti Art Programming Inc., to address the Committee.

Carried

Steve Wilson, Graffiti Art Programming Inc., was heard in support of funding graffiti murals, the submission of their funding request to the Winnipeg Arts Council, and submitted supporting documentation which has been placed on file in the City Clerk's Department.

Moved by Councillor O'Shaughnessy,

That the delegations and presentations, pertaining to the Preliminary 2006 Operating Budget, be received as information and that the matters brought forward be referred to the Operating Budget deliberations by the Executive Policy Committee on March 15, 2006.

Carried