HERITAGE PRESERVATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Museums Consultation Meeting

May 5, 2006

Museums' Observations

- Museums are important to their communities
- Facilities and programs are deteriorating
- Not all museums are equal
- City has not lived up to responsibility
- Additional funding is needed
- Cost to move museums and artifacts out of existing facilities would be enormous

Suggestions for Change

- Waive property taxes in return for cut to grant funds
- Establish multi-governmental agreements for funding
- Provide management coordination for museums
- Provide support for computer technology and artifact conservation
- Hire a museum coordinator
- Improve communications among museums and between museums and Council

Committee Observations

- There is a strong commitment to heritage
- City should state its expectations, role and mission
- There is untapped potential for links to tourism
- There may be missed opportunities for attracting additional resources, from endowments, for example
- City should provide management coordination
- City should assist in finding and attracting new resources
- There should be standards for grant funding
- There need to be strategies for sustainability
- The community lacks coordination
- A museums coordinator could provide expertise and assistance to city funded museums

Research Findings

- Heritage is a growth industry
- Government funding is essential
- Canadian cities are adopting heritage and museum policies
- Canadian cities are using standards and funding criteria to regulate & enhance quality
- Some cities depend on museum boards and coordinators for governance and administration
- There is increasing emphasis on business and long-range planning, linked to marketing strategies to address issues related to sustainability

Possible Strategies

- Reduce funding
- Preserve the status quo
- Create a civic museum
- Develop a sustainable museum policy and program

Possible Heritage Preservation Policy Components

- Policy
- Governance
- Standards & Criteria
- Programs & Services
- City owned assets

Questions for Discussion

- Should Winnipeg have a separate museums board?
- Should Winnipeg have a museum coordinator?
- Should Winnipeg adopt standards and criteria for funding?

Questions/Comments/Feedback

- A Board would create a bureaucracy, which would take away operating funds from other museum
- What is the current range of grants?
- What discussions have there been with the Province and the Federal Government?
- If a Board were created, would funding for Museums be equalized and potentially increased if the museum fell under the purview of the Board?
- Can we really combine all museums under the same operating organization as many of them are very different? Could it really be possible for a Board to treat each museum equitably?

Questions/Comments/Feedback (continued)

- Could we consider "base-line" funding?
- What will the Board do for us? Will it manage the museum or will it simply allocate funds?
- A Board will probably be made up of volunteers who would not have time required to seek additional funding unless there is some bureaucracy behind it.
- How would the Board be assembled? Appointments should be done by Community Committee not Council as these Museums are "Community Based".
- A museums coordinator is a critical component for managing a variety of museums (submitted in writing)
- Representation on a new board is an issue.
- Consider having one representative from each museum on a new board.

Questions/Comments/Feedback (continued)

- Not all of the Museums are Community Museums i.e. Canadian Aviation Museum?
- To what degree would there be consultation with the museums for "frames of reference" i.e. base-line funding?
- When would the Board be implemented?
- Would this be a strictly grant funded operation?
- The Committee Report should promote revenue generation.
- Museums are a tourism attraction.
- Museums are considered a public trust and should be expected to follow established standards. (submitted in writing).

Questions/Comments/Feedback (continued)

- Will the Human Rights Museum receive funding, and if so, how will it affect the smaller museums?
- Committee should recommend to Council that heritage is just as important as the Arts and arguably more important.
- Heritage is the foundation of the Arts.
- Funding for museums must increase.
- Make the City a destination for heritage.
- City Council must come to the understanding that putting money into museums will generate more money for the City of Winnipeg.