Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – September 21, 2006

REPORTS

Minute No. 639 Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone
File FL-7.16

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the administrative recommendation, namely:

1. That the Administration send a registered letter to the Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone (BIZ):

   A. Reminding the BIZ that no Budget has been submitted for two years;
   B. Requesting that a 2007 budget be submitted to Council by December 31, 2006; and
   C. Advising the BIZ that, if a 2007 budget is not submitted by December 31, 2006, the City may enact a by-law dissolving the Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone.

2. That if the Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone fails to submit the requested budget by December 31, 2006, the Administration be authorized to prepare and present to Council a By-law dissolving the Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor O'Shaughnessy,
That the administrative recommendation be concurred in.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 15, 2006, the Executive Policy Committee referred the communication dated February 20, 2006, from the Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone to the Administration for review and report back.

RE: Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone - 2006 Budget and Program

FOR SUBMISSION TO: Executive Policy Committee

ORIGINAL REPORT SIGNED BY: Director of Planning, Property and Development

REPORT DATE: August 21, 2006

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Administration send a registered letter to the Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone (BIZ):
   - **a.** Reminding the BIZ that no Budget has been submitted for two years;
   - **b.** Requesting that a 2007 budget be submitted to Council by December 31, 2006; and
   - **c.** Advising the BIZ that, if a 2007 budget is not submitted by December 31, 2006, the City may enact a by-law dissolving the Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone.

2. That, if the BIZ fails to submit the requested budget by December 31, 2006, Administration be authorized to prepare and present to Council a By-law dissolving the Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone.

Report Summary

Key Issues:

- The Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone (BIZ) is one of sixteen Business Improvement Zones within the City of Winnipeg.
- The Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone has failed to submit budgets to City Council for two consecutive years.
- Correspondence from the BIZ advising of the failure to submit a 2006 budget was referred by the Executive Policy Committee to Administration for review and report back.
- According to the Business Improvement Zone Procedural By-Law 8111/2002, if a BIZ Zone fails to submit an annual budget to Council for approval in two consecutive years, this may be a cause for termination of a zone.

Implications of the Recommendation(s):

General Implications

( ) None

(**X**) For the organization overall and/or for other departments

(**X**) For the community and/or organizations external to the City

( ) Involves a multi-year contract

Comment(s): This action may lead to the dissolution of the Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone.

Policy Implications

(X) No

( ) Yes

Comment(s):

Regulatory Implications

(X) None

( ) Eliminates or reduces regulatory impact

( ) Proposes regulatory impact

Comment(s):

Environmental Implications

(**X**) No

( ) Yes

Comment(s):

Human Resources Implications

(**X**) No

( ) Yes

Comment(s):

Financial Implications

(**X**) Within approved current and/or capital budget

( ) Current and/or capital budget adjustment required

Comment(s):

Report

REASON FOR THE REPORT:
At their March 15, 2006 meeting, the Executive Policy Committee referred the communication dated February 20, 2006, from the Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone (attached) to the Administration for review and report back.

HISTORY:
The Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone was established in 1998 and continued by By-Law No 8116/2002. It is one of sixteen Business Improvement Zones within the City of Winnipeg. It has not submitted proposed annual budgets to Council for approval in two consecutive years.

DISCUSSION:
The Grosvenor Square BIZ is centered on the intersection of Grosvenor and Stafford and includes the surrounding commercial area. The Manitoba/Winnipeg Community Revitalization Program (MWCRP), a joint Prov/Wpg funding program, helped with streetscaping enhancement, which solidified the formation of a BIZ.

The Grosvenor Square BIZ has always struggled to keep a unified direction among the Business Merchants. The BIZ has not submitted a proposed budget in other years due to disagreements at their Annual General Meeting. However, the BIZ usually has come back the next year to submit a proposed budget for consideration. This is the first time that the Grosvenor BIZ zone has not submitted proposed annual budgets to Council for approval in two consecutive years.

The Business Improvement Zone Procedural By-Law No. 8111/2002 provides that if a proposed budget is not submitted for two consecutive years, Council may dissolve the BIZ.

Administration has worked with the Board to see if adjusting the boundaries of the BIZ would lead to greater Board stability. For example, there are some businesses that do not support the BIZ and should perhaps withdraw. But reducing the size would reduce funding and make it difficult for the BIZ Board to function and fund its proposed programs. It was already operating on a budget of only $6,196 in 2004.

Councillor Donald Benham is aware of the matters regarding the Grosvenor Square BIZ's continued operation.

RECOMMENDATION:

Administration recommends that the BIZ be formally advised of their obligations under the BIZ procedures By-law and that if the BIZ is still not able to agree on a budget in a timely manner, the City should dissolve this Business Improvement Zone.

Financial Impact Statement Date: July 5, 2006

Project Name:

Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone - 2006 Budget and Program

COMMENTS:

The recommendations in this report are that the Administration send a registered letter to the Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone (BIZ) reminding the them that no budget has been submitted for two years, requesting that a 2007 budget be submitted to Council by December 31, 2006, advising the them that if a 2007 budget is not submitted by December 31, 2006, the City may enact a by-law dissolving the Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone and, that if the BIZ fails to submit the requested budget by December 31, 2006, Administration be authorized to prepare and present to Council a By-law dissolving the Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone.

The dissolution of the Grosvenor Square BIZ, should a 2007 budget not be submitted by the end of the calendar year, would be the subject of a future report. As such, there are no financial implications associated with this report.

"Original Signed By"
Mike McGinn, CA
Manager of Finance

IN PREPARING THIS REPORT THERE WAS:

Internal Consultation With and Concurrence By:
Legal Services Division

External Consultation With:
Grosvenor Square BIZ (Board)

THIS REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Department: Planning, Property and Development Department
Division: Planning and Land Use
Prepared by: Martin Pasieczka
PPD File No. O:\Reports Directive\Planning and Land Use\Urban Planning Reports\2006 Reports\Grosvenor Square BIZ-RIS Report.doc

GROSVENOR SQUARE

CITY CLERKS
WINNIPEG
6 FEB 21 P2:57



BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ZONE

February 20, 2006

Richard Kachur
City Clerk
Council Building
City of Winnipeg
510 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 1B9

RE: GROSVENOR SQUARE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT ZONE
NO SUBMISSION OF A 2006 PROPOSED BUDGET

Dear Mr. Kachur

Please be advised that the Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone (BIZ) is not prepared to submit a
"Proposed Budget and Program" to the City of Winnipeg for the 2006 Year.

The Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone is aware that if the Board has failed to submit annual budgets to Council for approval in two consecutive years the BIZ zone may be terminated.

At this point the Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone would wish to review its options with regards to zone boundary changes, which may help permit the continued existence of the zone. If this option does not work, then the BIZ zone is prepared to be terminated.

Thank you for your understanding
Yours Sincerely,

Darren Quiring
Previous Chair
Grosvenor Square Business Improvement Zone
Telephone: 452-5154

Cc: Martin Pasieczka, Neighbourhood Economic Development Officer