Minutes – Executive Policy Committee - March 7, 2007

REPORTS

Minute No. 204 Federal Government Tax Incentives - Rehabilitation of Historic Places
File GG-1

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendations of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and the Historical Buildings Committee, both as amended, and recommends to Council:

1. That the City of Winnipeg request the Federal Ministers of Environment and Finance to include tax incentives in the Federal Budget which would encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation of historic places.

2. That the report of the Historical Buildings Committee dated February 5, 2007, be forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor O'Shaughnessy,

That the recommendations of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and the Historical Buildings Committee be concurred in with the following amendment namely:

- Recommendation 1
  Delete the word "2007",

and forwarded to Council.

Carried

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 27, 2007, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development referred the recommendation of the Historical Buildings Committee to the Executive Policy Committee for consideration.

HISTORICAL BUILDINGS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 18, 2007, the Historical Buildings Committee recommended to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development:

1. That the City of Winnipeg request the Federal Ministers of Environment and Finance to include tax incentives in the 2007 Federal Budget which would encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation of historic places.

2. That this report be forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

THE CITY OF WINNIPEG

COUNCILLORS' OFFICE

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February 5, 2007

Chairperson and Members
Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development

The Historical Buildings Committee recommends that the City of Winnipeg request the Federal Ministers of Environment and Finance to include tax incentives in the 2007 Federal Budget which would encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation of historic places, and that this report be forwarded to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

The Historical Buildings Committee at its January 18, 2007 meeting discussed the national concern that the federal government has suspended grants to heritage buildings under its Commercial Properties Incentive Fund (CHPIF).

The CHIPF has played an important role in the City of Winnipeg by stimulating the redevelopment of vacant or under-utilized heritage properties.

The CHIPF program was one of the tools available to Winnipeg property owners that have made a huge difference in the conservation of buildings. The City has established a highly successful tax credit program that has levered over $155,000,000 in private sector investment based on the City providing $38,000,000 in credits for rehabilitation work. Over the last few years the City has also established cost-shared grant programs for heritage buildings, developed fire risk indices for the application to the rehabilitation and re-use of existing buildings and supported the ongoing promotion and public awareness of the Exchange District National Historic Site.

Sincerely,



Councillor Jenny Gerbasi
Chairperson
Historical Buildings Committee