Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – February 21, 2007

REPORTS

Minute No. 191 Enterprises Riel – Saint Norbert-The Gateway to Winnipeg - Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Application
File S-7

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the administrative recommendation and recommends to Council:

1. That the City of Winnipeg endorse the application for funding from Enterprises Riel through the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund for their Saint Norbert - The Gateway to Winnipeg project.

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Swandel,
That the administrative recommendation be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

RE: Saint-Norbert – The Gateway to Winnipeg Project:
Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund Application

FOR SUBMISSION TO: Executive Policy Committee

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

REPORT DATE: February 16, 2007

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council endorse the subject MRIF Application submitted by Enterprises Riel.

Report Summary

Key Issues:

- At its meeting on June 29, 2005, Council adopted guidelines with respect to the endorsement of applications for funding under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF)
- An MRIF application has been received from Enterprises Riel regarding the development of a 'Saint- Norbert -Gateway to Winnipeg' Image Route Enhancements on Pembina Highway.
- The City has previously committed $50,000.00 to this project through the Riel Land Dedication Reserve Fund.

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): Community groups/organizations interested in applying for MRIF require endorsement by the respective Municipality.

Once the image route improvements are constructed, the City will be responsible for maintenance and upkeep.

Policy Implications

( ) No

(X) Yes

Comment(s): The MRIF application supports the following policy statements from Plan Winnipeg:

3D-02: Invest Strategically in New Infrastructure
5E-01: Promote High-Quality Urban Design
5E-02 Designate and Enhance Image Routes and Scenic Drives
5E-04: Promote Cleanliness and Beautification

Regulatory Implications

(X) None

( ) Eliminates or reduces regulatory impact

( ) Proposes regulatory impact

Comment(s):

Environmental Implications

(X) No

() Yes

Comment(s):

Human Resources Implications

( ) No

(X) Yes

Comment(s): Once the image route improvements are constructed, the City will be responsible for maintenance and upkeep. This will require additional Current budget resources in the future.

Financial Implications

(X) Within approved current and/or capital budget

( ) Current and/or capital budget adjustment required

Comment(s): The City has previously committed $50,000.00 to this project through the Riel Land Dedication Reserve Fund.

The recommendation in this report is that Council endorses the subject MRIF Application submitted by Enterprises Riel. There are no direct financial implications associated with this recommendation.

Once the image route improvements are constructed, the City will be responsible for maintenance and upkeep. This will require additional Current Budget resources in the future.

Report

REASON FOR THE REPORT:

The guidelines for funding under the MRIF adopted by Council on June 29, 2005, require external groups to provide copies of their MRIF application to the Executive Policy Committee Secretariat for review and comment by the Administration.

HISTORY:

At its meeting of June 29, 2005, Council adopted the following policy guidelines to regulate the endorsement of applications applying for funding under the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF).

A. The City of Winnipeg will not endorse any MRIF application from an external group, which requires a capital contribution from the City.

B. To allow all groups equal opportunity to apply, the City of Winnipeg set three deadline dates for consideration of MRIF internal and external applications: September 1, 2005, January 1, 2006 and June 1, 2006.

C. To coordinate the endorsement process, external groups are required to provide copies of their MRIF application to the Executive Policy Committee Secretariat for review and comment by the Administration.

D. Preference for endorsement will be given to projects that originate from the City of Winnipeg.

At its meeting of June 28, 2006 Council approved $50,000.00 from the Riel Land Dedication Reserve Fund to assist with the cost of the 'Saint-Norbert- The Gateway to Winnipeg Project'.

DISCUSSION:

An MRIF application has been received from Enterprises Riel. Enterprises Riel, in collaboration with 'Group Action Saint Norbert', has proposed a project called "Saint-Norbert- The Gateway to Winnipeg Project'. The objective of the project is to enhance and celebrate the rich history of St. Norbert as the gateway to Winnipeg, through a variety of image route enhancements. The project proposes the construction of a major entrance sign feature, bilingual wayfinding signs, flower planters, street banners and benches.

The proposed enhancements meet a number of City Policy objectives and in particular, 5E-02 Designate and Enhance Image Routes and Scenic Drives. The MRIF application indicates a total project cost of $231,350.00, financed by $50,000.00 in approved City funding through Riel Land Dedication Reserve Fund, and requests $90,675 from each of the Provincial and Federal levels of government.

The administration acknowledges the benefits of the proposed improvements, noting however, that the proposed budget for the project scope is limited based on similar streetscape initiatives. The administration advises a consultation process should be undertaken to ensure neighbourhood and local business support.

The proposal does not acknowledge other financial implications associated with a project of this scope. Ongoing maintenance costs associated with this project have not been identified with respective City departments including Streets Maintenance and Parks and Open Space Divisions of the Public Works Department, as well as Manitoba Hydro. Operational budgets would be required to be adjusted to reflect annual ongoing costs. Alternatively, a service agreement with local stakeholders may be a long-term maintenance solution.

Council may wish to endorse Enterprises Riel's MRIF application to allow the organization to proceed with their application and further development of their project plans. Council may also wish to emphasize that an endorsement does not signal a financial obligation or any further commitments by the City to the project.

Financial Impact Statement Date: February 16, 2007

Project Name:

Saint-Norbert - The Gateway to Winnipeg Project

COMMENTS:

The recommendation in this report is that Council endorses the subject MRIF Application submitted by Enterprises Riel. There are no direct financial implications associated with this recommendation.

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

IN PREPARING THIS REPORT THERE WAS:

Internal Consultation With and Concurrence By:

N/A

External Consultation With:

N/A

THIS REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Department: Planning, Property and Development
Division: Planning and Land Use
Prepared by: Ken McKim, Program Management Coordinator
PPD File No.

0:\Reports Directive\Planning and Land Use\Parks, Riverbanks and Community Initiatives\Ken McKim\MRIF St.Norbert-The Gateway to Winnipeg Project.doc