EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 681
In noting that the Aquatic Hall of Fame and Museum of Canada was leaving Winnipeg, Councillor Benham inquired if His Worship Mayor Katz would convene an immediate emergency meeting with city staff and representatives of the Aquatic Hall of Fame to save the national museum of Canada.

His Worship indicated that it was his understanding that they were packing up and putting some artefacts in storage, with others to be displayed in different parts of the city. He added that the Administration worked with the Aquatic Hall of Fame to work out a solution and although nothing had taken place to date, the parties had certainly tried to come up with a solution.

Councillor Benham stated that the Board of Directors were seeking a new home in another city and inasmuch as the Federal Government had contributed money to the national museum, he questioned what was the fiduciary responsibility of The City of Winnipeg to other levels of government in maintaining the Aquatic Hall of Fame in Winnipeg.

His Worship advised that he had had communication with other levels of government on this matter and that they were aware that the city was exercising due diligence and was doing what was necessary.

Councillor Benham asked why the Mayor would not step forward and save the Aquatic Hall of Fame and keep it in Winnipeg. His Worship replied that the administration had come up with a plan to keep the Aquatic Hall of Fame in Winnipeg and it was the Hall of Fame's not to participate in that plan. His Worship also advised that there were many unanswered questions and noted that it had yet to be confirmed whether there was a Board of Directors, and how many members were on the Board; he concluded that the City had acted properly and responsibly.

In reference to a recent newspaper article about the length of time and delays in issuing building permits, Councillor Wyatt asked when the City would have a system in place where builders, contractors, and individuals could get building permits and other permits without a lengthy waiting period.

His Worship replied that his goal was to provide better customer service, noting that he had received copies of letters from people who had completed construction of a building and thanked and commended the department for how quickly the process took place and how they were able to complete their goal. He added that there are obvious exceptions that should not be happening and assured Councillor Wyatt that he would certainly be addressing the issue.

Executive Policy Committee - Question Period (continued)

Councillor Wyatt asked when the matter would be addressed so that permits could be issued in a timely and consistent basis. His Worship acknowledged that a major problem existed in the particular case noted, but also reiterated that he had received letters of commendation for how well the department was serving the public. His Worship further stated that his goal was to offer up 100 percent satisfaction guaranteed, but that no matter what line of work you are in, every so often there is a glitch, and he was committed to eliminating these.

Councillor Wyatt questioned when the Mayor would report back to Council on the follow up with the department to which His Worship replied that as soon as he had obtained the information he would share same and that his goal was to get back to Council before the next Council meeting.

Councillor Lubosch questioned how much the GreenWave program was going to cost, where the funding was going to come from, and how other Councillors might be able to apply for some of those funding sources.

His Worship stated that approximately 20 high school and university students would be part of the program and it was in cooperation with Tom Ethans who was working as a liaison from Take Pride Winnipeg. He added that the program was similar to the province's and the pay was approximately seven or eight dollars an hour with funding coming out of the Mayor's Office budget.

In reference to a motion that was tabled at the July 19, 2006 meeting of the Executive Policy Committee pertaining to the police commission, Councillor Gerbasi questioned if there was a timeline for dealing with this prior to the election.

His Worship advised that a decision on that matter would not be made until the City does due diligence and deals with all the serious matters of crime and safety.

Councillor Gerbasi questioned on whether the Mayor felt there was a need for a civilian oversight committee related to police misconduct, to which the Mayor replied he still has an open mind in regards to a police commission.