REPORT OF THE

COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION, PARKS AND CULTURE

DATED APRIL 14, 1997

(See Minute No. 568 for disposition)

Revisions to the Season Reservation System - Kildonan Park and Windsor Park Golf Courses File PR-2.10 (Vol. 9)

606 - 1. The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture has reconsidered Clause 1 of its Report dated March 10, 1997, as outlined in Appendix "A", which was referred back for reconsideration by the Executive Policy Committee on March 19, 1997.

The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture recommended therein:

I. That the Council Policy on Fees and Charges for the Parks and Recreation Department, governing the Tee Time Season Reservation System in effect at the Kildonan Park and Windsor Park Golf Courses on weekends from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., be discontinued for a two year trial period.

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

On April 14, 1997, the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture considered report dated April 1, 1997, from the Director of Parks and Recreation, which reiterated that experience has shown losses of potential green fee revenues in the amount of $62,000.00, $44,000.00 and $45,000.00 respectively during the past three years during the hours the Season Reservation System was in effect at the Kildonan Park and Windsor Park Golf Courses. The loss of these revenues were primarily due to the declining demand from groups interested in having a seasonal booking, groups failing to cancel their tee time on a weekly basis, groups cancelling their reservation mid-way through the season, and groups failing to show with the required number of four players each weekend.

As a result, the Parks and Recreation Department recommended that the system be discontinued for a two year trial period whereby all available tee times would be open to the general public each weekend from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. similar to all other hours of operation at these two courses. At the John Blumberg Golf Course, where the system is not in effect, attendance has been averaging approximately 88% of capacity, whereas the capacity rate for the Kildonan Park and Windsor Park Golf Courses are running in the 68% to 71% range.

However, if the provisions contained in Appendix "B" with respect to the Season Reservation Policy were stricter, the Administration expects that the financial revenues would be maximized, and at the same time would provide a season tee time reservation system for those avid golfers who wish to commit themselves on a weekly basis. The distribution of season reservations would be handled in a similar fashion as in previous years through a "public draw" to be held on Saturday, May 24, 1997, at the St. James Civic Centre, with reservations to commence the next weekend. Due to the implementation date of the system for the 1997 season, the normal reservation fee of $160.00 per group has been pro-rated for the 17 weeks that the system would be in effect. Due to complications that may arise with a prepayment system, the normal provisions of cancellation, refunds and rain checks have been cancelled.

The Parks and Recreation Department is currently reviewing two different computerized tee time reservation systems which are being used in similar municipal golf course operations in other large cities in western Canada and the United States. Both of these systems require the utilization of a major credit card in order to book golf reservations. The implementation of such a system would certainly alter existing cash collecting procedures and would have a significant impact on public course players. Until the review has been completed, and the long term operation of municipal golf courses has been determined, the Parks and Recreation Department is not in a position to introduce changes and convert to a weekday prepaid tee time reservation system utilizing credit cards for the upcoming 1997 golf season.

The Parks and Recreation Department further intends to investigate changes to both the weekly and the season reservation systems and monitor the recommended changes during the upcoming season, including soliciting information from season reservation holders so as to better the systems for next year.

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture dated April 14, 1997

The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture therefore recommends that Clause 1 of its Report dated March 10, 1997, as outlined in Appendix "A", be filed.

The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture further recommends:

I. That the Council Policy on Fees and Charges for the Parks and Recreation Department, governing the Tee Time Season Reservation System in effect at the Kildonan Park and Windsor Park Golf Courses on weekends from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., be amended to include provisions outlined in Appendix "B".

II. That the City not implement a weekday prepaid tee time reservation system at this point in time until a further review has been undertaken.

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

Adopted by consent.

(See Minute No. 649 for attachments)

Temporary Closure of the Brookside Cemetery on May 24 and 25, 1997
File PC-1 (Vol. 3)

607 - 2. The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture has been advised that on June 10 and 11, 1995, the first Air Show was held at the Winnipeg International Airport. During this period, many vehicles were parked along Brookside Boulevard causing disruption to traffic and potential accidents with spectators trying to view airplanes as they crossed the roads. In addition, hundreds of vehicles parked in the Brookside Cemetery and the spectators walked over the graves in order to get a better vantage point. As a result, the spectators created some minor vandalism and littered the Brookside Cemetery with refuse. The Cemeteries Branch of the Parks and Recreation Department received many complaints from concerned citizens whose visits were disrupted.

For the 1996 Winnipeg International Air Show, Council on May 22, 1996, approved the temporary closure of the Brookside Cemetery on Saturday, June 8, 1996, and Sunday, June 9, 1996, in order to accommodate both the concerns of the organizers and the Civic Administration.

The 1997 Winnipeg International Air Show will be held on Saturday, May 24, 1997, and Sunday, May 25, 1997. The organizers of the Winnipeg International Air Show have again requested the temporary closure of the Brookside Cemetery for both dates.

The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture therefore recommends:

I. That the Brookside Cemetery be temporarily closed to the public from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 24, 1997, and Sunday, May 25, 1997, subject to the following conditions:

(a) The organizers of the Winnipeg International Air Show agree to the collection of all paper streamers and products that litter the Brookside Cemetery after the Air Show.

(b) The organizers of the Winnipeg International Air Show agree to make and display signage three weeks in advance of the event advising that the Brookside Cemetery will be temporarily closed during the Air Show.

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

Adopted by consent.

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture dated April 14, 1997

Community Incentive Grant Program - Central American Canadian Institute for Community Development
File PR-2.6(32) (Vol. 3)

608 - 3. The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture has considered an application from the Central American Canadian Institute for Community Development for a Community Incentive Grant in the amount of $10,000.00 to assist with the costs associated with the set-up of a computer training program which would give the Latin American people an opportunity to gain the much needed computer expertise to enter the Canadian labour force.

The application falls outside the intended purpose of the Community Incentive Grant Program, and does not meet the following eligibility and selection criteria contained in the Program, namely:

1. The organization is to be a non-profit community recreation and sport organization or a non-profit organization offering recreational services;

2. The project is to make a significant contribution to the long term benefit of the community-at-large in terms of improved facilities;

3. The project is not to compete with or duplicate other community facilities;

4. The project is to include confirmation of sufficient resources to maintain and operate completed projects;

5. The project is to clearly articulate a plan of activities including projected work schedules, material, labour, equipment and other project requirements, and lead to the completion of a substantial physical product; and

6. The applicant has requested seventy three percent (73%) of the project cost, and therefore would not be contributing fifty percent (50%) of the capital costs from their own sources.

On March 11, 1997, the City Centre Community Committee recommended that a Community Incentive Grant in the amount of $10,000.00, be approved for the purpose requested.

The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture concurred in the recommendation of the City Centre Community Committee, and therefore recommends:

I. That the criteria for the Community Incentive Grant Program be waived in this instance.

II. That a Community Incentive Grant in the amount of $10,000.00 be approved to the Central American Canadian Institute for Community Development for the purpose requested, subject to the following conditions:

(a) Confirmation of other funding sources;

(b) Approval of final plans and specifications for the project by the Director of Parks and Recreation; and

(c) The applicant entering into a formal agreement with the City of Winnipeg.

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

Adopted by consent.

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture dated April 14, 1997

Community Incentive Grant Program - Sunnyside Daycare Centre Inc.
File PR-2.6(31) (Vol. 4)

609 - 4. The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture has considered an application from the Sunnyside Daycare Centre Inc. for a Community Incentive Grant in the amount of $80,000.00 to assist with the construction costs for a Child Care/Community Use Centre on the grounds of Dieppe School at 530 Dieppe Road.

Advising that the application does not meet the eligibility criteria contained in the Community Incentive Grant Program, inasmuch as the Sunnyside Daycare Centre Inc. is not a non-profit community recreation and sport organization, nor a non-profit organization offering recreational services.

On March 18, 1997, the Assiniboia Community Committee recommended approval for a Community Incentive Grant in the amount of $80,000.00, not to exceed fifty percent (50%) of the total project cost, for the purpose requested, subject to a joint (community) use agreement being developed with the City of Winnipeg, Parks and Recreation Department.

The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture concurred in the recommendation of the Assiniboia Community Committee, and therefore recommends:

I. That the criteria for the Community Incentive Grant Program be waived in this instance.

II. That a Community Incentive Grant in the amount of $80,000.00 (not to exceed a maximum of fifty percent [50%] of the total project cost) be approved to the Sunnyside Daycare Centre Inc., for the purpose requested, subject to the following conditions:

(a) Confirmation of other funding sources;

(b) Approval of final plans and specifications for the project by the Director of Parks and Recreation;

(c) The applicant entering into a formal agreement with the City of Winnipeg; and

(d) A joint (community) use agreement being developed between the City of Winnipeg (Parks and Recreation Department) and the applicant for the use of the facility.

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

Adopted by consent.

1997 Primary Operating Grants to Cultural Organizations - Final Instalments
File FG-1.1 (F)(M)(P)(R)(W)

610 - 5. On November 7, 1984, Council established the Winnipeg Arts Advisory Council and delegated it with the responsibility for screening grant applications, defining criteria and making recommendations as to appropriate grant levels for cultural organizations. The Winnipeg Arts Advisory Council transmits its recommendations to the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture.

On April 14, 1997, the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture considered and approved recommendations from the April 2, 1997, meeting of the Winnipeg Arts Advisory Council for final instalment operating grant funding to various cultural organizations.

The Council Policy on Cultural Grants administered by the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture provides that the Committee shall adjudicate all applications within the global allocation and have final authority to approve grants which qualify under this policy, to an amount of $50,000.00 per individual grant. The Committee shall submit to Council, with its recommendation for approval, all requests for grants in excess of this amount.

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture dated April 14, 1997

The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture therefore recommends:

I. That the final instalments for the 1997 Primary Operating Grants be approved to the following cultural organizations:

Organization	Category	1997 Interim Operating Grant Received	1997 Final Operating Grant Recommendation	Total 1997 Operating Grant Recommendation
Festival du Voyageur Inc.	Festivals	$37,800.00	$56,700.00	$94,500.00
Folklorama (Folk Arts Council of Winnipeg Inc.)	Festivals	47,800.00	69,200.00	117,000.00
Manitoba Opera Association	Music	18,000.00	36,200.00	54,200.00
Manitoba Theatre Centre	Theatre	75,000.00	84,500.00	159,500.00
Prairie Theatre Exchange	Theatre	30,000.00	30,000.00	60,000.00
Royal Winnipeg Ballet	Dance	110,000.00	154,000.00	264,000.00
Winnipeg Art Gallery	Museums/Galleries	152,200.00	227,800.00	380,000.00
Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra	Music	55,000.00	119,400.00	174,400.00

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

Adopted by consent.

Additional Ambulance Services in the City of Winnipeg - Funded by the Province of Manitoba Health Department
File GF-3 (Vol. 24)

611 - 6. The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture has been advised that at a meeting held on February 26, 1997, with the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Province of Manitoba Health Department and members of her support staff, the Ambulance Department was requested to provide a quantitative analysis showing how random hospital closures and institutional restrictions affect the day-to-day operations of the City of Winnipeg's Ambulance Department. This information was requested as justification for the continued funding by Manitoba Health Department of an additional transporting ambulance, which was added to the Ambulance Department's minimum staffing complement in 1995.

As background history, the Ambulance Department maintains a minimum staffing objective of nine transporting ambulances on a twenty-four hour basis. In September 1995, as part of a contingency plan during a strike threat by Emergency Department physicians, the Manitoba Health Department requested the Ambulance Department to place one additional transporting ambulance into service on a seven day, twenty-four hour basis. This was in recognition of the fact that the strike and consequent closures of hospital Emergency Departments would significantly affect ambulance response times and patient transport times, either of which could compromise patients in a pre-hospital care environment. The staffing costs of operating the additional unit were underwritten by the Provincial Government, who agreed to cover all overtime costs associated with this staffing arrangement. This agreement required the call in of off-duty members to perpetuate the ten transport ambulance configuration.

A post-strike analysis of the ambulance service decision supported the need for the tenth transport ambulance, as neither pre-hospital care nor the public were compromised. Furthermore, the community's standard for ambulance services remained intact during this labour dispute. Following the resolution of this strike, representatives of the Manitoba Health Department requested a continuation of this staffing agreement for an indefinite period.

In a letter addressed to Commissioner L.H. Reynolds dated June 24, 1996, the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Manitoba Health Department requested a proposal to identify costs associated with this level of coverage for six months, one year, or an indefinite period. A proposal addressing this arrangement has been provided.

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture dated April 14, 1997

Statistical analysis shows that the overall response times of the City's ambulance response system have increased. A quantitative analysis by the Ambulance Department points to a multitude of changes in the health care delivery system as having caused this increase. The volume of calls serviced by the Ambulance Department has remained relatively constant since 1994. The minimum number of ambulances in service since September 1995 has been ten, (one more than the normal departmental minimum objective.) The Department's deployment model has remained unchanged for this period, and the geographical response area has not increased. In other words, all of the components of the pre-hospital ambulance system in Winnipeg (with the exception of the tenth ambulance) have remained as they were in 1994. The Ambulance Department's analysis shows that since September 1995, there has been a twenty-one percent increase in transport times (reference Table 1) and a twenty-seven percent increase in Paramedic in-hospital time (reference Table 2). The causes of these increases appear to be directly linked to actions taken by hospitals, both in restricting access to their Emergency Departments and in the amount of time ambulance crews are required to spend in hospitals.

TABLE 1

TRANSPORT TIME		
PERIOD	AVERAGE	CHANGE
Pre-September 1995	9.2 minutes	-
September - October 1995	12.5 minutes	36% increase
November 1995 - November 1997	11.1 minutes	21% increase in comparison to Pre-September 1995

The increase in patient transport times is directly attributed to the restrictions, (ie: closures, diversions, etc.) placed upon the Ambulance Department by the hospitals. During transport, the hospital is notified of the condition of the incoming patient. Each patient is prioritized according to the severity of their condition. Patients in life-threatening condition are coded "Red", patients who are classed as unstable are coded "Amber", and stable patients are coded "Green". A system of strategic restrictions causes the City's ambulance personnel to divert patients away from any hospitals which advise that diversionary measures are being implemented by their institution. Since 1995, the number of diversions by City hospitals has increased significantly. In addition to diversions, hospitals have been notifying the City's Ambulance Department that they are closed to ambulances carrying certain classifications of patients, (ie. a "Green and Amber" closure). Once the diversions and closures are in effect, the results are felt in the pre-hospital setting through increases in lengthy response and transport times. Until September 1995 closures were virtually non-existent. Since that time they have become almost common place. In 1995, the City's Ambulance Department was affected by hospital restrictions and closures fifty-two percent of the time. In 1996, this figure grew to eighty-nine percent, and for the first two months of 1997, closures and diversions were in place ninety-one percent of the time (as outlined on Appendices A, B and C, which are on file in the Office of the City Clerk).

TABLE 2

IN HOSPITAL TIME		
PERIOD	AVERAGE	CHANGE
Pre- September 1995	22.0 minutes	-
September - October 1995	22.5 minutes	2% increase
November 1995 - February 1997	27.9 minutes	27% increase in comparison to Pre-September 1995

Ambulance crews waiting to transfer patient responsibility to hospital staff are delayed in three ways: during the triaging (sorting) of patients, which has taken on a very methodical "one-at-a-time" approach in some hospital Emergency Departments; waiting to give reports to the hospital staff on the status of their patient; or waiting for the hospital staff to find and/or assign a bed for the patient. These delays have led to extended response times. Because of the Department's deployment model, these types of delays within a hospital cause an ambulance crew to be lost as a resource for response to incoming emergencies, or at the very least, extends the response time by having to dispatch the next closest crew to an incoming request for service. Industry standards that relate to response times target arrival of an ambulance to ninety percent of all emergency calls in less that eight minutes.

Since 1994, response times for calls that normally would have a greater than eight minute response have increased by four percentage points.

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture dated April 14, 1997

In addition to the factors mentioned above, there are other system changes that affect the operation of the City's Ambulance Department. Hospitals are selectively (and more frequently) requesting that emergency ambulances staffed by personnel who have a higher level of training to accommodate inter-facility transfers. This assists the hospital by not having to call in extra personnel, or send an on-duty physician and nursing staff to escort an unstable patient to a tertiary care facility.

The removal of services such as Obstetrics from the community hospitals has an impact on the transport times of the City's ambulances, as they now have to carry the patient to designated centres. There have been strong indications that there will be further specialization and designation of some Winnipeg hospitals. These measures would see one hospital becoming a designated Trauma Centre, while another becomes the centre for cardiac care, etc. The concept of a Central Bed Registry also has been touted as a solution to the bed management situation in Winnipeg hospitals. The impact of such a system upon the City's Ambulance Department would be to worsen the already existing problem with patient access restrictions. If the ambulance system is expected to provide patient distribution services based on bed availability for the entire city, the impact will be even greater than diversions and closures that currently clog the system.

The provision of health care in this province is in a state of ever-changing dynamics. Many of the changes that surround the in-hospital management of patients have had back-spill effects out the door of the hospitals into the pre-hospital setting, and directly into the lap of the City's Ambulance Department. More change appears to be just over the horizon.

The Department's pre-hospital delivery system is maximized. As Manitoba Health continues with its health care reforms and unilaterally attempts to streamline the operations of its hospitals, the Ambulance Department expects to see more predictable results. There will be an exacerbation of the extended response and transport times for ambulance calls within the city. Furthermore, if negotiations with Manitoba Health fail to produce an agreement that allows for a continuation of full-time staffing of ten transporting ambulances, the community standards of pre-hospital care will be compromised, beginning with a greater response time if the department returns to a nine transporting ambulance deployment model. Continuing to staff a tenth vehicle with call in overtime is a questionable management practice that requires an immediate long term solution (reference Table 3). Over utilization of Paramedic staff for overtime duty on their days off can lead to burnout and other job related issues.

TABLE 3

COSTS TO MANITOBA HEALTH FOR STAFFING A TENTH AMBULANCE		
PERIOD	METHOD	AMOUNT
1995	Overtime	$82,015.20
1996	Overtime	$262,355.85
January, February 1997	Overtime	$60,427.58
1997 (Projected)	Overtime	$362,565.48
RECOMMENDED SOLUTION:		
1997 (Projected)	8 Additional Employees	$331,288.00

The Ambulance Department contends that the cause of the erosion of response and transport times is not a simple matter, but rather is multi-faceted and originates within the hospital system.

Given adequate resources, the Ambulance Department has clearly demonstrated that it is capable of managing system changes and mitigating against unnecessary exposure to the citizens of Winnipeg from a pre-hospital emergency care perspective. The long term solution is to hire and train an adequate number of Paramedics and maintain a street response complement necessary to service the emergency medical needs of this community.

The Commissioner of Protection, Parks and Culture tabled for the information of Committee, copies of communications dated March 26 and 27, 1997, from the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Province of Manitoba Health Department and himself respectively, pertaining to the continuation of overtime staff funding for a tenth transporting ambulance in Winnipeg.

The Commissioner of Protection, Parks and Culture also tabled for the information of Committee, a copy of communication dated April 14, 1997, from the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Province of Manitoba Health Department, wherein it is proposed that a working group, with representation from the Winnipeg Ambulance Service and the Province of Manitoba Health Department, be formed to conduct a review of the total ambulance/emergency department system.

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture dated April 14, 1997

The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture therefore recommends:

I. That the necessary documentation be submitted to the Province of Manitoba Health Department, to support a long-term funding agreement for the additional personnel needed to staff a tenth transporting ambulance for the City of Winnipeg.

II. That the Winnipeg Ambulance Service participate in a working group with the Province of Manitoba Health Department to review the total ambulance/emergency department system, as proposed by the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Province of Manitoba Health Department, with a view to obtaining permanent funding for the tenth transporting ambulance, or alternatively work towards keeping the hospital emergency wards fully open so as to avoid longer transport time by ambulances.

III. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary in order to implement the intent of the foregoing recommendations.

Copies of Appendices “A”, “B” and “C” are on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

Adopted by consent.

Proposed Declaration of Surplus Park Property - West Side of Garden Park Drive, South of Farlinger Bay - Chochinov Park
File FI-2.4(34) (Vol. 2)

612 - ***Note: Clause 7 has been referred back by the Executive Policy Committee to the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture with instructions.***

Referred back by the Executive Policy Committee to the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture with instructions

Proposed Sale of Ritchot Park to the Province of Manitoba - Proposed Acquisition of the "Ramsay" Property located west of La Barriere Park and south of the La Salle River
File PR-7.10 (Vol. 1)
[c/r FI-2.4.4.1 (Vol. 5)]

613 - 8. The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture has been advised that following lengthy earlier discussions, by letter dated November 26, 1996, the Province of Manitoba (Land Management Services Branch) advised the Land and Development Services Department of the City of Winnipeg of its intention to acquire Ritchot Park for highway development purposes.

As background history, during the period between 1990 and 1996, representatives from the Province of Manitoba Department of Highways and Transportation and the City of Winnipeg Parks and Recreation Department have met on several occasions to discuss the implications of the proposed upgrading of Highway 59 upon Ritchot Park.

An administrative report dated December 13, 1989, from the General Manager of Parks and Recreation, proposed the acquisition of the “Ramsay” property.

On June 18, 1992, the Board of Commissioners considered report dated June 4, 1992, from the Director of Land Surveys and Real Estate, and requested that negotiations be terminated for the acquisition of the “Ramsay” property.

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture dated April 14, 1997

Ratchet Park, as identified on Plan No. 24-87, is situated east of Highway 59, south of the Seine River, outside the City limits. The Park is approximately 133 acres and is comprised of a riverbottom forest area situated along the Seine River with an adjacent backland area which is used for a variety of purposes by Scouts Canada and a local Remote Control Airplane Association.

The riverbottom forest area is continuous along the Seine River and is comprised of mature oak trees and a native species understorey. A Natural Habitat Analysis review of Ritchot Park indicates that the forest area is environmentally significant and should be preserved to a distance of at least 200 feet south of the river's edge to protect the woodlot and existing wildlife migration routes. The remaining area of Ritchot Park is primarily a flat grassed area, which is not environmentally significant, and therefore does not require protection, however, the area has several improvements situated on site including a picnicking area with benches and a model airport with runways that would need to be relocated.

The Highway 59 Functional Planning Study proposes to relocate the highway through the middle of Ritchot Park. This alignment effectively divides Ritchot Park in half and dramatically compromises the utilitization and planned organization of the existing 133 acre property. Existing user groups of the park would have to be relocated elsewhere.

The position of the Parks and Recreation Department is that since the proposed highway realignment will adversely compromise the value of the property for parks purposes, the Province of Manitoba should take over ownership of the entire holding and provide the City with a comparable property within the Winnipeg region.

As such, the Parks and Recreation Department is supportive of declaring Ritchot Park as surplus to departmental requirements provided that the following two conditions are met, namely, a suitable replacement site is provided in exchange for Ritchot Park, and that all costs associated with relocating existing user groups to alternate locations should that be necessary be borne by the Province of Manitoba.

After extensive investigation of existing provincially-owned land in the Winnipeg region, it was determined that none was available of equitable quality to Ritchot Park. The Province of Manitoba has indicated that it would consider purchasing a property suitable to the Parks and Recreation Department in order to facilitate a land transfer. The administrative report dated December 13, 1989, outlines that the Parks and Recreation Department indicated a need and interest in acquiring the "Ramsay" property, which is situated adjacent and west of La Barriere Park (shown on Plan No. 83-89).

The "Ramsay" property is approximately 132 acres in size comprised of a riverbottom forest adjacent to the La Salle River (61.5 acres) and a grassed backland area (70.5 acres). The property is approximately the same size as Ritchot Park (133 acres) and is comprised of the similar quality of riverbottom forest.

The Parks and Recreation Department remains highly desirous of acquiring the "Ramsay" property for the same "needs" assessment as referenced in the aforesaid administrative report, namely, the preservation of riverbottom forest, extension and consolidation of the public ownership of riverbank lands along the right bank of the La Salle River, and the availability of a large land grassed area suitable for regional recreation uses in conjunction with the expansion of La Barrierre Park.

Although previous efforts to acquire this property were unsuccessful in the past primarily due to a value differential of approximately $1,000.00 per acre, the Parks and Recreation Department is supportive of attempting to obtain the lands within the new context of securing an alternate replacement site for Ritchot Park at the sole cost of the Province of Manitoba. In the event that very limited partial funding is required from the City to finalize the land exchange, the Parks and Recreation Department would still be supportive of same.

Given that the Province of Manitoba requires Ritchot Park to facilitate the relocation of Highway 59 as part of its highways projects, a replacement site is being requested from the Province of Manitoba, the "Ramsay" property is representative of a suitable replacement site and provides significant parks and recreational benefits to the Parks and Recreation Department, the Department is supportive of declaring Ritchot Park as surplus to departmental requirements in accordance with terms and conditions contained herein, and coincidentally acquiring the "Ramsay" property.

On April 11, 1997, the Committee on Finance and Administration considered administrative report dated March 20, 1997, from the Chief Financial Officer, in this connection, and concurred in the recommendations contained therein.

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture dated April 14, 1997

Pursuant to Section 156(2) of The City of Winnipeg Act, the sale of City property designated or acquired for parks purposes requires the approval of at least two-thirds majority of Council.

The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture therefore recommends:

I. That Ritchot Park be declared as surplus to Parks and Recreation Department requirements to facilitate the proposed upgrading of Highway 59 south of the Perimeter Highway, subject to the City of Winnipeg obtaining a suitable replacement site.

II. That the Director of Land and Development Services be authorized to initiate negotiations with the Province of Manitoba to determine the terms and conditions for the provision of Ritchot Park to the Province of Manitoba and the process of substituting the "Ramsay" property.

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

Copies of Plan Nos. 24-87 and 83-89 are on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

Adopted by consent.