STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 57
Councillor Gerbasi inquired if the administration, as part of the review of The City of Winnipeg Zoning By-law No. 6400/94, was currently looking at making industries that have a huge impact, such as the recently debated hog processing plant, a conditional use so there would be a public process and citizens would have a voice.

Councillor De Smedt advised that By-law No. 6400/94 was being assiduously reviewed by the administration in consultation with an advisory committee, and stated that he was quite certain it was one of the issues that would be considered but asked the Councillor to follow up with an e-mail to ensure that the department takes note of her suggestion.

Councillor Gerbasi requested clarification on what the timeline was for completion of the Zoning By-law review and asked if it was to be done before the election. Councillor De Smedt responded that the timeframe was not as important as aggressively pursuing the review and the analysis so that something was in place for the present Members of Council to provide advice in relation to the public consultation. Councillor De Smedt added that the advisory committee was a very significant one that was providing a high level advice that was representative of all areas of industry and by using that experience the timeline was realistic and achievable and had nothing to do with the election timeframe.

Councillor Gerbasi voiced concern that there would still be adequate public consultation and in noting the changes suggested to some of the public consultation processes in the Red Tape Report requested assurance that public consultation would still be adequately explored.

Councillor De Smedt indicated that there was questions in the Red Tape Commission report in regards to the continuance of the Community Committee and Property and Development Committee consultation processes, but that this was a separate issue. In relation to the Zoning by-law review, he stated that the department has the experience of other jurisdictions and, because of the consultant and the advisory committee that has been put in place, they were very confident that it could move ahead in a proper way with an opportunity for consultation.

Councillor Wyatt requested an update on the status of the impost fee report. Councillor De Smedt noted that the report was not ready to come forward for further analysis but advised that the matter falls under the authority of the Executive Policy Committee and will proceed from there.

Councillor Wyatt inquired if it was not be fair to ask that Members of Council be consulted and informed before the report comes forward inasmuch as the industry members and business community had already been consulted.

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Councillor De Smedt noted that when that stage was reached, there would be opportunity for Members of Council to make representation accordingly.

Councillor Wyatt again questioned if there would be an opportunity to be consulted and have input before a report was issued inasmuch as the industry had already been consulted and Council has not. Councillor De Smedt responded that the industry had to be consulted at the outset in order to have input to frame the analysis, which was still underway. He reiterated that Members of Council would be invited to participate and provide input when the time came.