REPORT OF THE

COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION, PARKS AND CULTURE

DATED FEBRUARY 5, 1996

On motion of Councillor O'Shaughnessy, the Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, dated February 5, 1996, was considered clause by clause.

Moved by Councillor O'Shaughnessy,
That the Consent Agenda, Clauses 2,3 and 4 be adopted.

Carried.

Her Worship the Mayor and Councillors:

Property Acquisition Program - North St. Boniface, north of the C.N.R. Highline
FI-2(35) (Vol. 2)

Note: This clause has been referred back to the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture.

413 - 1. On January 26, 1995, and March 22, 1995, Council resolved the following with respect to the acquisition of property in North St. Boniface, north of the C.N.R. Highline, as shown on Misc. Plan No. 9301/3, namely:

1. That Council rescind its decision of October 20, 1993, which declared thirteen properties in the subject area surplus to parks needs and which authorized their disposal.

2. That the Planning Department be authorized to make application to amend the North St. Boniface Secondary Plan to designate the area north of a line drawn 100 feet north of the centre line of rue Darveau west of rue St. Joseph to the Red River to future park lands.

3. That, subject to Recommendations I and II, the Director of the Land Surveys and Real Estate Department be authorized to commence negotiations for the acquisition of the privately owned properties in the area as they become available for sale.

4. That, subject to Recommendation III above, Council authorize on an interim basis, the use of funds currently committed against the Niakwa Road land acquisition project.

5. That the Parks and Recreation Department and the Budget Bureau be directed to identify an appropriate funding source for the acquisition of the private lands when the properties become available for sale.

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

On April 8, 1995, a one-day workshop was conducted by the Old St. Boniface Residents' Association to consider future planning of the neighbourhood. Various motions were passed by the Residents' Association during the course of the workshop, and in particular one motion in opposition to the purchase of residential properties north of the C.N.R. Highline for public parks purposes.

On May 1, 1995, the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture heard representation from the Old St. Boniface Residents' Association in opposition to Council's decision of January 26, 1995, to acquire the entire subject property for parkland. Committee subsequently passed a motion instructing the Administration to meet with representatives of the Residents' Association and the St. Boniface Ward Councillor, regarding the January 26, 1995, decision of City Council to resume acquisition of property for parks purposes north of the C.N.R. Highline in North St. Boniface, and report back on the status of the matter.

On June 6, 1995, the Riel Community Committee also considered the various motions of the Residents' Association and requested the Committee on Planning and Community Services to instruct the Administration to provide comments on each of the motions.

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture dated February 5, 1996

On June 20, 1995, the Committee on Planning and Community Services considered the motions and the request from the Riel Community Committee and referred the matter to the Commissioner of Planning and Community Services, who in turn requested the Parks and Recreation Department (along with two other departments) to review and provide comments on the various motions passed by the Old St. Boniface Residents' Association.

The several motions of the Residents' Association pertaining to the jurisdictional interests of the Parks and Recreation Department have been reviewed, in consultation with the (former) Ward Councillor and representatives of the Residents' Association, Festival du Voyageur and the Chambre de Commerce Francophone de St. Boniface.

On January 30, 1996, the Committee on Planning and Community Services considered and laid over consideration of a report dated January 18, 1996, from the Commissioners of Planning and Community Services, and Protection, Parks and Culture, wherein it was recommended that the purchase of the residential properties north the C.N.R. Highline for public parks purposes be suspended, except riverbank property, until such time as a secondary or other appropriate plan can be developed in consultation with the affected stakeholders.

In summary, although the Parks and Recreation Department is supportive of many of the motions passed on April 8, 1995, by the Old St. Boniface Residents' Association, it must be acknowledged that the Department has no funding identified in the current Five Year Capital Budget with which to contribute towards implementation of the various projects identified, and only limited staff resources available to participate in the planning of the various projects. Regarding this latter statement, it would be beneficial if the Residents' Association were to assign priorities to the motions/projects in order to facilitate staging of staff participation.

On February 5, 1996, the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture considered the administrative report dated January 18, 1996, from the Commissioners of Planning and Community Services, and Protection, Parks and Culture. Committee also heard in delegation David Dandeneau, President of the Chambre de Commerce Francophone de St. Boniface, who indicated the Chambre's opposition to the acquisition of all residential properties north of the C.N.R. Highline, and the Chambre's concurrence with the recommendations contained the January 18, 1996, administrative report.

On February 5, 1996, the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture established a Sub-Committee, to be chaired by Councillor Vandal, St. Boniface Ward, to examine the feasibility and ramifications of implementing the current Action Area Plan, which is consistent with Plan Winnipeg, including an outline of the full costs to the City relative to the subject property.

The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture therefore recommends:

I. That Council rescind its decision of January 26, 1995 (and further amended by Council on March 22, 1995), as outlined on Appendix "A".

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

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

(See Minute No. 423 for attachments)

Proposed Development of a Paddling Training Centre by the Manitoba Paddling Association Inc. in Churchill Drive Park - City Centre Community
File PR-7(32) (Vol. 1)

414 - 2. The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture has been advised that the Manitoba Paddling Association Inc. submitted a communication to the Mayor dated June 8, 1995, requesting approval to develop a paddling training centre in Churchill Drive Park.

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture dated February 5, 1996

On September 9, 1994, the Paddling Association advised the Parks and Recreation Department of its interest in five separate potential locations for a new paddling centre. On December 5, 1994, the General Manager of the Parks and Recreation Department advised the Paddling Association regarding the feasibility of establishing a paddling centre at each of the five locations.

On January 13, 1995, the General Manager of the Parks and Recreation Department provided additional information to the Paddling Association regarding the Churchill Drive Park site.

During the period between February 1995, and May 1995, the Paddling Association and the Wildewood Club discussed the relocation and development of a paddling centre at the Wildewood Club; however, an agreement could not be obtained.

The Manitoba Paddling Association was formerly located at the Winnipeg Canoe Club. Following the demise of the Canoe Club, the Association was requested to relocate in 1993, however, to date, has not been successful in locating a permanent alternate site. For the past two years, the Association has been temporarily located at the Winnipeg Rowing Club premises on Lyndale Drive.

The Manitoba Paddling Association Inc. has been recently awarded a sum of $80,680.00 by the Winnipeg Sport Facility Committee for the development of a new paddling centre. The Association's centre proposal involves the placement of a mobile home and storage trailers being 20 feet by 40 feet onto a site within Churchill Drive Park and utilizing an area of approximately 100 feet by 200 feet in proximity of the water's edge. It is further proposed that the paddling centre would install siding on the trailers and mobile home to improve the aesthetics of the centre, as well as install docking and services to the building. Although the facility would only be operational for seven months each year, the buildings would remain on the site year round.

As at July 1995, the Parks and Recreation Department had not received a concept plan identifying the facility; however, it has been verbally advised that plans are being prepared. The Association has indicated that it wishes to construct the facility in proximity of the former Municipal Hospital site adjacent to Eccles Avenue, east of Churchill Drive as shown on Plan No. 25-95.

Conceptually, the Parks and Recreation Department is supportive of the proposal to develop such a facility in Churchill Drive Park, at no cost to the City for either construction, maintenance or on-going operations, for the following reasons:

1. The facility is required to support the development of amateur athletes for competitions such as the 1999 Pan American Games.

2. The facility is a proposed recreation activity which will improve the use of an existing waterway and provide a unique opportunity within the Churchill Drive Riverbank Parkway for viewing and observation by Parkway users.

3. The facility is primarily a non-motorized youth activity which will not compromise the quiet linear character of the Parkway.

4. The minimal space requirements of the proposed facility, being only approximately 28,800 square feet (approximately ½ acre), suggests it can be accommodated within the Churchill Drive Park without unduly affecting the spacial needs of activity inter-relationships of other park facilities.

The following comments are provided to illustrate that, while the Parks and Recreation Department is supportive, in principle, of the concept of the paddling facility; it nevertheless has several concerns with the proposal as currently articulated. These concerns, as follows, must be satisfactorily addressed by the proponents before the Department would recommend entering into a formal agreement between the City and the Manitoba Paddling Association Inc.

1. The Parks and Recreation Department must be satisfied that the Manitoba Paddling Association has consulted with the local community and appeared before the City Centre Community Committee in order to resolve any impacts that the facility would have upon the Community including design, parking (along Churchill Drive) and hours of use.

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture dated February 5, 1996

2. The Parks and Recreation Department and the Rivers and Streams Authority Engineer must be satisfied that any proposed improvements will not adversely compromise the stability of the riverbanks or result in soil erosion.

3. The appearance of the facility is of concern to the Parks and Recreation Department from the perspective of overall park aesthetics. Such a facility would attract visual prominence in Churchill Drive Park and consequently, its design appearance must compliment the Park setting year round.

4. The proposed location of the facility is situated east of the primary dyke line and as such, appropriate discussions and design measures will have to be incorporated into the design of the structures and site.

5. The service requirements of the facility will require a review of existing available services and as such, costs associated with extension of services to the facility will have to be borne by the Association.

6. The area adjacent to water's edge is primarily treed in proximity of the former Municipal Hospital site and as such, special care will be required in order to minimize impact on the treed area preferably using an existing open area to gain access to the water for paddle boat launching in a manner satisfactory to the City Forester.

On July 24, 1995, the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture heard in delegation the Ward Councillor G. Murray, recommending a community consultation program be undertaken.

On December 12, 1995, the City Centre Community Committee considered the proposal and recommended the addition of the following condition, namely, all plans for development of a Paddling Training Centre be subject to the approval of the City Centre Community Committee.

The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture therefore recommends:

I. That approval in principle be provided for the development and operation of a Paddling Training Centre by the Manitoba Paddling Association Inc. in Churchill Drive Park subject to obtaining all Civic approvals and the submission of detailed design plans and specifications for the review and approval of the Director of Parks and Recreation and the Rivers and Streams Authority Engineer.

II. That pending all Civic approvals and approval of detailed design plans and specifications, an appropriate management agreement be entered into between the City and the Manitoba Paddling Association Inc. for the construction of the facility commencing in 1996.

III. That all plans for development of Paddling Training Centre be subject to the approval of the City Centre Community Committee.

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

Copy of Plan No. 25-95 relative to the Paddling Training Centre facility in Churchill Drive Park is on file in the City Clerk's Department.

Adopted by consent.

Proposed Amendment to the Community Incentive Grant Program - Criteria for Eligible Applicants
File PR-2.6 (Vol. 9)

415 - 3. On June 7, 1995, the Executive Policy Committee requested the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture to undertake a review of the Community Incentive Grant Policy, including the criteria and who could apply for the grant. The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture subsequently referred the item to

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture dated February 5, 1996

Community Committees for review and comment.

On December 7, 1995, the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture directed the Administration to review the eligible applicant criteria of the Community Incentive Grant Program, in particular, the recommendation from the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee relative to the criteria involving organizations/groups providing recreational services within the community. No other Community Committees submitted recommendations for proposed changes.

Based on experience with the administration of the Community Incentive Grant Program, and the recommendation of the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee, the Parks and Recreation Department recommends a change in the allocation criteria, whereby eligible applicants would include non-profit community and recreation sport organizations serving a given neighbourhood or community within the boundaries of the City of Winnipeg. Also, organizations deemed to have been created to apply for the Community Incentive Grant Program would not be eligible.

The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture therefore recommends:

I. That the allocation criteria for Community Incentive Grants be amended to include the following statement under Eligible Applicants:

Eligible applicants will include non-profit community recreation and sport organizations and other non-profit organizations providing recreational services serving a given neighbourhood or community within the boundaries of the City of Winnipeg. Organizations deemed to have been created solely to apply for this Program are not eligible.

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

Adopted by consent.

Council Liaison to the Film Commissioner
File G-3.1.2 (Vol. 6)

416 - 4. On February 5, 1996, the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture passed the following motion, and submits same to Council for favourable consideration, namely:

WHEREAS City Council established the position of Film Commissioner at its meeting held on March 23, 1994;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba Motion Picture Industry Association has just released its Five Year Strategic Plan which indicates that the level of film and video production should double within the next five years;

AND WHEREAS there has been an increasing interest towards more fully developing the City's potential as a location for film and video production;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the mandate of the Film Commissioner be to review the opportunities for expansion of the film industry in Winnipeg, including:

1. Identification, preservation and/or development of urban film locations and venues;
2. Incentives, promotions and marketing strategies to establish Winnipeg as a film centre;
3. Evaluation of the feasibility and potential for expansion of the film industry and review of the success of other cities in establishing a significant film and video industry;
4. Recommend policies and strategies to City Council to support expansion of the film industry;
5. Establish a protocol in consultation with the film industry to govern the use of civic buildings and property for film shoots;

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture dated February 5, 1996

AND THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Councillor Lubosch be designated as the Council Liaison to the Film Commissioner to assist and facilitate the aforementioned.

Adopted by consent.

COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION, PARKS AND CULTURE

MOTIONS

Moved by Councillor O'Shaughnessy,
Seconded by Councillor Lubosch,

417 - WHEREAS the "Lights of the Wild" at Assiniboine Park Zoo was a successful event attracting more than 68,000 visitors to the Assiniboine Park Zoo over the Christmas Holiday Season;

AND WHEREAS this event was made possible due to the dedication and volunteer assistance of the 1995 "Lights of the Wild" Organizing Committee;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That this Council formally thank the 1995 "Lights of the Wild" Organizing Committee for their hard work and initiative towards making The City of Winnipeg the Christmas Capital of Canada.

Carried.