Minute No. 649
Report - Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services – September 10, 2007

Item No. 5 **Goose Dispersal Pilot Project - Burland Park, west of Highbury Street (St. Norbert Ward)**
File EL-4

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services and adopted the following:

1. That the Administration, in consultation with the Samuel Burland School Parent Council, be requested to initiate a pilot project at Burland Park, west of Highbury Street, utilizing professionally handled herding dogs for goose dispersal, subject to the following condition:

   A. Consultation with the Legal Services Division (Internal Services Department) relative to the authority required to proceed with the pilot project.

2. That the Administration be requested to provide the Standing Policy Committee with a verbal report on the outcome of the Goose Dispersal Pilot Project at Burland Park.

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing, including the preparation of any necessary by-laws.

Report - Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services – September 10, 2007

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Steeves,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 19, 2007, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendations of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services and the Riel Community Committee, as amended, and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 10, 2007, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services concurred in the recommendation of the Riel Community Committee, as amended, and submitted the following to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the Administration, in consultation with the Samuel Burland School Parent Council, be requested to initiate a pilot project at Burland Park, west of Highbury Street, utilizing professionally handled herding dogs for goose dispersal, subject to the following condition:

    A. Consultation with the Legal Services Division (Internal Services Department) relative to the authority required to proceed with the pilot project.

2. That the Administration be requested to provide the Standing Policy Committee with a verbal report on the outcome of the Goose Dispersal Pilot Project at Burland Park.

Further, on September 10, 2007, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services received submissions in support of a Goose Dispersal Pilot Project at Burland Park, west of Highbury Street, from the following:

- Dan Debreuil, President, Samuel Burland Parent's Association, submitted a communication dated September 4, 2007 and photographs.

Report - Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services – September 10, 2007

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

- Sharon Weins, Samuel Burland Parent's Association, submitted a communication entitled "A Parkland Mews Report for Samuel Burland School" dated September, 2006
- Pat Burgoyne, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, Louis Riel School Division submitted communications dated April 20, 2007 and September 4, 2007

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 17, 2007, the Riel Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS on June 12, 2007, the Riel Community Committee recommended to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services that the Administration be requested to review and report back on the feasibility of amending The Pound By-law No. 2443/79 to allow for the use of professionally handled herding dogs for the purpose of goose dispersal on joint use sites used by schools for recreation and recess;

AND WHEREAS On June 21, 2007, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services did not make a recommendation on the matter due to a tie vote;

AND WHEREAS the proliferation of geese in the City of Winnipeg and the resultant feces generated continues to produce serious health and safety concerns for all citizens of the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the use of herding dogs is a proven and humane means of dispersing geese from ponds and grassy areas at golf courses and other facilities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Administration, in consultation with the Samuel Burland School Parent Council, be requested to initiate a pilot project at Burland Park, west of Highbury Street, utilizing professionally handled herding dogs for goose dispersal;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that representatives from the Samuel Burland School Parent Council and the Louis Riel School Division be requested to attend the meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services on September 10, 2007, and submit written communications outlining their positions on the matter.

Report - Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services – September 10, 2007

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE DECISION:

On June 21, 2007, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services did not make a recommendation on the matter due to a tie vote.

Further, on June 21, 2007, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services received a communication from Councillor Swandel dated June 14, 2007 from the President, Animal Defence League of Canada, with respect to the use of herding dogs for the purpose of goose dispersal.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE:

On June 12, 2007, the Riel Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS on May 15, 2007, the Riel Community Committee recommended to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services that Section 27.1(1) of The Pound By-law No. 2443/79 be amended to expand the criteria to allow the use of off leash dogs for the purpose of goose dispersal;

AND WHEREAS on May 28, 2007, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services did not recognize that the intent of the motion was to allow for the use of professionally handled herding dogs for goose dispersal at locations where school children are using joint use lands for recreation and recess;

AND WHEREAS the amount of goose feces is creating an unsafe situation for school children;

AND WHEREAS the use of herding dogs has proven successful on a number of golf courses;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Administration be requested to review and report back on the feasibility of amending The Pound By-law No. 2443/79 to allow for the use of professionally handled herding dogs for the purpose of goose dispersal on joint use sites used by schools for recreation and recess.

Report - Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services – September 10, 2007

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE:

On May 28, 2007, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services did not concur in the recommendation of the Riel Community Committee to amend The Pound By-law No. 2443/79.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE:

On May 15, 2007, the Riel Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS annually in the Spring and Fall, thousands of migrating geese stop in the City of Winnipeg for an undetermined period of time;

AND WHEREAS the proliferation of geese in the City of Winnipeg and the resultant feces generated creates serious health and safety concerns;

AND WHEREAS the use of dogs to drive away geese from areas used by citizens has proven effective;

AND WHEREAS the provisions of The Pound By-law No. 2443/79 currently prohibit off leash dogs in areas other than those designated as off leash dog parks;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Section 27.1(1) of The Pound By-law No. 2443/79 be amended to expand the criteria to allow the use of off leash dogs for the purpose of goose dispersal.