Report - Executive Policy Committee - October 17, 2007

Item No. 7 Red Tape Commission, Recommendation 14 – Simplified Rezoning Process
File EZ-DAZ

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 17, 2007, the Executive Policy Committee recommended to Council:

1. That in time for consideration at the regular Council meeting of December 19, 2007, the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to draft necessary by-law and procedural amendments to:

   Draft Proposal Discussion Period

   A. Create a distinction in procedure and law between the informal tabling of a draft proposal with City officials by a proponent and a proponent's decision to formally proceed with a rezoning or development application, thereby creating a clear legal period during which proponents, public servants, councillors and interested citizens can informally resolve disputes before a formal application moves forward for public hearing;

   Signal Priority Power

   B. Where there are no objections or amendments introduced for a rezoning or development application by any party, including planners, Councillors and/or residents, allow Community Committees to refer proposals directly to the Executive Policy Committee to reduce the number of required steps in the process;

   Time Limit on Layovers

   C. Set a maximum adjournment limit of 60 days for Community Committees to consider development (rezoning) applications, with the intent that 60 days is the total time period allotted to Community Committees to submit their recommendation on development proposals, thus ensuring that disputes are not left unresolved indefinitely,

   and other related recommendations considered by the Red Tape Commission on rezonings be considered independently of these changes.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 17, 2007, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion, namely:

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg Red Tape Commission, in conjunction with the BDO Dunwoody Customer Experiences Study found that Winnipeg's rezoning process was unusual, confusing, had too many decision-points and emphasized negatives rather than solutions, for both opponents and proponents of developments alike;

AND WHEREAS improvements to the rezoning process will complement proposed changes to the Winnipeg Zoning By-law No. 6400/94 now under consideration;

AND WHEREAS the Red Tape Commission's Recommendation #14 proposed that Winnipeg's political decision-making process for rezonings be consistent with those in other cities in order to ensure a faster, more decisive process with fewer steps and decision points;

AND WHEREAS the Red Tape Commission also recommended that a "signal priority model" be adopted to encourage pre-application dispute resolution and allow Councillors to reward positive community support for a proposal by reducing the number of steps to be taken to approve that proposal with no objectors or objections filed;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Policy Committee recommends to Council:

1. That in time for consideration at the regular Council meeting of December 19, 2007, the Public Service be directed to draft necessary by-law and procedural amendments to:

    "Draft Proposal Discussion Period"

    A. Create a distinction in procedure and law between the informal tabling of a draft proposal with City officials by a proponent and a proponent's decision to formally proceed with a rezoning or development application, thereby creating a clear legal period during which proponents, public servants, councillors and interested citizens can informally resolve disputes before a formal application moves forward for public hearing;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

"Signal Priority Power"

B. Where there are no objections or amendments introduced for a rezoning or development application by any party, including planners, Councillors and/or residents, allow Community Committees to refer proposals directly to the Executive Policy Committee to reduce the number of required steps in the process;

"Time Limit on Layovers"

C. Set a maximum adjournment limit of 60 days for Community Committees to consider development (rezoning) applications, with the intent that 60 days is the total time period allotted to Community Committees to submit their recommendation on development proposals, thus ensuring that disputes are not left unresolved indefinitely,

and other related recommendations considered by the Red Tape Commission on rezonings be considered independently of these changes.

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