Agenda - Council - January 29, 2003

Report - Executive Policy Committee - January 28, 2003

Item No. 2 Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra
File FG-1.1 (W) (Vol. 12)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 28, 2003, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion and recommends to Council:

WHEREAS the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra (WSO) has been in financial difficulty for some time;

AND WHEREAS the financial situation of the WSO has deteriorated to the point where it can no longer finance its operations;

AND WHEREAS in late 2002 the Board of Directors of WSO approached the Government of Canada (Canada), the Province of Manitoba (Manitoba) and the City of Winnipeg (City) requesting funding to assist in its continuing operation;

AND WHEREAS the WSO, Canada and the City have acknowledged a joint role with Manitoba in facilitating the artistic excellence and financial viability of WSO;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that Canada, Manitoba and the City adopt a course of action similar to that undertaken to assist the Winnipeg Blue Bomber Football Club which would allow:

a) the operation of WSO to be taken over by an Interim Management Committee;

b) the WSO Board of Directors to act in an advisory capacity to the Interim Management Committee;

c) the Interim Management Committee to report back on a number of issues within 90 days;

d) Canada, Manitoba and the City to address agreed to financial expenses during such 90 day period.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the City enter into an agreement (the Stakeholder Agreement) with Canada, Manitoba and WSO to provide for the appointment of an Interim Management Committee of WSO made up of two (2) representatives from each of Canada, Manitoba, the City, WSO musicians and Board of the WSO.

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2. That the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated authority to finalize the terms and conditions of a Stakeholder Agreement and such other ancillary or supplemental agreements as may be required to implement the Stakeholder Agreement.

3. That Rose Passante and Christian Sinclair be appointed City Representatives to an Interim Management Committee of WSO.

4. That bridge financial assistance up to the amount of $200,000.00 be made available to the Interim Management Committee in respect of WSO operating expenses, subject to such funds being provided for within the City's budget for 2003 and subject to matching funds by Canada and Manitoba.

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