Minutes - Executive Policy Committee - January 9, 2008

REPORTS

Minute No. 109 **Public Library Review Final Report – Reaching Our Vision: Providing High Quality, Sustainable Public Library Services for All Manitobans**
File L-1

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommends to Council:

1. That the December 19, 2007 Council Motion be concurred in and the Province of Manitoba be requested to give favourable consideration to the following three (3) recommendations from the Public Library Review Final Report, Reaching Our Vision: Providing High Quality, Sustainable Public Library Services for All Manitobans, as part of its 2008/2009 budget, namely:

    A. Recommendation #10 – That the Province and Municipalities establish a funding mechanism to address current trends in population and operating costs.

    B. Recommendation #11 – That the annual Collection Development Grant be extended to include all library branches in the province that meet the qualification of being open at least ten hours a week, and agree to share their collections through the MAPLIN system.

    C. Recommendation #13 – That an annual technology maintenance grant be made available to each library branch including Winnipeg Public Library to be used for hardware or software replacement, for purchase of digital content or Internet access.

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:

Moved by Councillor Steeves,

That the December 19, 2007 Council Motion, pertaining to three recommendations contained in the Public Library Review Final Report - Reaching Our Vision: Providing High Quality, Sustainable Public Library Services for All Manitobans, be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

Heather Graham, Chairperson, Winnipeg Public Library Board, submitted a copy of the Public Library Review final report "Reaching Our Vision: Providing High Quality, Sustainable Public Library Services for All Manitobans", dated May 23, 2006, as well as her presentation in support of the Council referral with respect to the related report.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On December 19, 2007, Council ruled automatic referred of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan,
Moved by Councillor Smith,

WHEREAS Libraries are an essential public service by enhancing literacy, providing access to technology and by making our communities better places to live;

AND WHEREAS in 2005, the Province of Manitoba appointed a committee to conduct a Public Library Review, with the findings released in January 2007;

AND WHEREAS three (3) recommendations of the Public Library Review could have a positive financial impact on the Winnipeg Public Library system;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Manitoba has just completed the public consultation portion relative to the 2008/2009 Provincial Budget;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that City Council calls upon the Province of Manitoba to give favourable consideration to the following three (3) recommendations from the Public Library Review final report, Reaching Our Vision: Providing High Quality, Sustainable Public Library Services for All Manitobans, as part of its 2008/2009 budget, namely:

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

a) Recommendation #10 – That the Province and Municipalities establish a funding mechanism to address current trends in population and operating costs.

b) Recommendation #11 – That the annual Collection Development Grant be extended to include all library branches in the province that meet the qualification of being open at least ten hours a week, and agree to share their collections through the MAPLIN system.

c) Recommendation #13 – That an annual technology maintenance grant be made available to each library branch including Winnipeg Public Library to be used for hardware or software replacement, for purchase of digital content or Internet access.

Draft notes for presentation to EPC Wed, Jan 09/ 08

1. Hello, my name is Sandy Hyman and I am Chair of the Winnipeg Public Library Board. I am pleased to be here with Councillor Pagtakhan who moved the motion to Council on Dec 19/ 07 for the Council to call upon the Province to give favourable consideration to the 3 recommendations outlined in the motion that have a major impact on the Winnipeg Public Library Services. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. I will provide you with some important information.

2. Most important – I am representing the Winnipeg Public Library Board . We are not here asking for money. Instead we are here to help you to get more funding to support the Winnipeg Library System. I was able to locate for your information comparative circulation numbers. They are as follows: 1993 circulation – 4,339,516, 2006 (latest calculated) circulation – 5,532,720

3. Purpose of our presentation
I am here representing the WPLB to alert EPC of the Manitoba Public Library Review. There are 20 recommendations in total outlined in the report Reaching Our Vision Providing High Quality, Sustainable Public Library Services for all Manitobans which we have provided to the Mayor's Office. As I mentioned, the 3 recommendations that have the greatest impact to the Winnipeg Public Library are contained in the motion made by Councillor Pagtakhan at the December 19, 2007 Council meeting and referred to EPC today as the matter is an intergovernmental concern.

4. Background
In 2005, the Province approved a review of public library services in Manitoba and established a review committee on which the Winnipeg Public Library and Winnipeg Public Library Board had representation. The committee reviewed research and conducted surveys. The review committee submitted its report in 2006. The Minister for Culture, Heritage, and Tourism, the Honourable Eric Robinson, released the report in 2007. The 2 main objectives of the report are

1) To improve access to library services throughout Manitoba
2) To explore long term sustainability of library services.

5. I would now like to make some brief comments on each recommendation..

Recommendation # 10 That the province and municipalities establish a funding mechanism to address current trends in population and operating costs.
In 2003, WPLB representatives met with Minister Robinson to stress the need for the Province to remove the ceiling on its annual grant to Winnipeg Public Library, capped at $1.9 million since 1993.
In 2004, Board reps met with Sandra Hardy, the Deputy Minister, again on this matter.
In 2005 the Review Committee was established. In 2006 they released their report. In 2007 Minister Robinson released the recommendations.

The implications for removing the cap – what are they?

There needs to be a recalculation to better reflect today's changing and increased population in the City of Winnipeg as well as the library's operating costs. – exactly what the recommendation reads.

Recommendation #11 That the annual Collection Development Grant be extended to include all library branches in the province that meet the qualification of being open at least ten hours a week, and agree to share their collections through the MAPLIN system.

The Winnipeg Public Library is on the MAPLIN system – which is an online catalogue. There is a link to the WPL catalogue in the MAPLIN database. When people search MAPLIN they can also search WPL using Z39.50 functionality. We currently interlibrary loan materials to and from other libraries in the province.

The Winnipeg Public Library meets all the criteria of recommendation #11.

Recommendation #13 That an annual technology maintenance grant be made available to each library branch including Winnipeg Public Library to be used for hardware or software replacement, for purchase of digital content or Internet access. In December 2006, the Manitoba government News Release announced: Culture, Heritage and Tourism Minister Eric Robinson announced today (December 6, 2006) that Manitoba's rural and northern public libraries will receive $1.1 million: to improve technology infrastructure.

6. In closing, the Public Library Board does not want to see a reduction in the Winnipeg Public Library's operating budget. We urge you, Mr. Mayor, as the City's Intergovernmental Affairs representative, to discuss these recommendations with the Premier in order to bring benefits to the Winnipeg Public Library. We want to stress the point that these funds, when received by the City, be additional to the Library's current operating budget.

Councillor Pagtakhan now has some comments.