COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Wednesday, January 23, 2008

The Council met at 9:33 a.m.

The Clerk advised the Speaker that a quorum was present.

The Speaker called the meeting to order.

The opening prayer was read by Councillor Gerbasi.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Mr. Speaker Councillor Lazarenko, His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Gerbasi, Leipsic, Nordman, O'Shaughnessy, Pagtakhan, Smith, Swandel, Thomas, Vandal, Wyatt.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. We have pages, Simone Jaman of Miles MacDonnell Collegiate, resides in Elmwood-East Kildonan ward. Welcome. (Applause).

Motion
Moved by Councillor Swandel
Seconded by Councillor Vandal

That Councillor Steeves be granted a leave of absence from today's meeting due to his absence from the City on City Business.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

MINUTES

Councillor Nordman moves the Minutes of the meetings held on December 18 and 19, 2007 be taken as read and confirmed.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

DELEGATIONS

Delegations, we have none. Who's that? Pardon? I don't have it here. George Fraser. Oh, former Councillor George Fraser. Welcome.

George Fraser: Thank you, thank you very much Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I hope you bring some wisdom to us here this morning.

George Fraser: Always bring wisdom. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Mayor, Councillors, I appear this morning to speak to Executive Policy Committee's report of the January 16th and Mr. Mayor I guess most of my comments will be directed to you as the chair. And I'll make some promises in my comments. I will not talk about the relationship of this that will eventually come later to rapid transit, even though I have had recorded opinions on the rapid transit issue.

I will not make comments about the source of funding which originally was $17 million that was taken from the water utility and the demands that still continue within the water utility, and I will try not to make comments because I don't have expertise in and around the water park concept, although I do have, certainly have opinions and an affinity for private/public partnerships. I will however, make some comments on planning, on budgeting, and on project management. And I will say this is a great morning to be here to talk about an urban oasis concept.

The Public Use Facilities Study which made its way to Council I believe in 2005, affectionately known as the PUF report, was wide-ranging and it made many, many recommendations to City Council and citizens. As a result of some of those recommendations, it had impact on capital budgets. It also had impact on the changes that the Council will consider today with respect to the infrastructure program that was launched with great fanfare on April the 22nd, 2005, in which it identified a number of projects, priority projects. And the second priority in the priority listing was the $9 million dollars allocated to the Kildonan Park Urban Oasis project.

And it appeared at that time, and I think Council knows there are a number of other worthy projects included with that. It appeared at that time, out of the PUF report there was a concept of five regional urban oasis units. And it appeared to me at least, in reading it, and having some discussions about it, that this was a

prototype, the Kildonan Park facility was a prototype. I was further assured, as certainly a taxpayer and someone who has had some experience in honour of being in this chamber that it was moving along quite well.

The financial report of the City in 2006 indicated that the concept planning was indeed in place and proceeding. It moved on to the 2007 Capital. It moved on to the, in fact the 2008 Capital. This Council considered it just before Christmas again, at least in a planning context.

And the other thing I found out too, which concerns me, is that the concept really has no flesh, or had no flesh around it, and therefore I find it difficult to have first dismissed it on the basis of cost, but particularly to have had it dismissed on the basis of planning. There's going, you're going to have debate about this and I will listen as others have done and will do.

Interestingly enough, on this same agenda is discussion with respect to Assiniboine Park. And if everybody knows their history, the Council of that day and that time, at the turn of the 19th century, 20th century I should say, made two great decisions. The establishment of Assiniboine Park followed very quickly by the establishment of Kildonan Park. And in fact, Assiniboine Park celebrates its 100th Anniversary on Victoria Day of 1909. So all of the governance issues that are being talked about today I think are critical and important. The Deputy Mayor indicated that there was $100 million dollars of financing required at Assiniboine Park, and I might suggest to her that she better watch that $100 million very closely. I think it's higher.

And that's part of the reason I'm here is there are very few applicants on behalf of Kildonan Park, the second jewel in the park development in our City. So I think people need to step forward. I have some legitimacy with respect to Kildonan Park. I spent a lot of my youth there as one of my colleagues across here, former colleagues across the way did too. I've lived in the north end of the City for 20 years. I also had the privilege of course of living in St. James Assiniboia for in excess of 20 years. So I know the City quite well.

But it's evident that not only does Kildonan Park need an advocate in respect to park planning so does, as is badly needed, and there's many who are playing this role, so does the entire north end of our City. And this is an important part of the recreation and the activities of north enders for a long, long period of time.

It's also combined from a planning perspective with Kildonan Municipal Golf Course, the busiest golf course in the City of Winnipeg, from an 18th hole perspective. Some 38,000 rounds of golf were played there last year.

What all this boils down to is, even though the report will leave dollars at Kildonan Park, and I have no objection to that. Some of those plans in and around that for a spray park and the upgrading of the outdoor pool, although there can be lots of debate beyond this discussion about the merits of indoor pools or outdoor pools I should say in the Winnipeg context.

But Mr. Mayor, the dollars that are left, I don't believe are adequate enough to do even the projects that are outlined there. The $7 million as I said that are going to the larger water park concept, in a private/public partnership I can't comment on because there is no additional information available to me at this point. But I return to Kildonan Park which requires some attention. It has no master plan.

Mr. Speaker has paid attention in his role in riverbank erosion, and there is a major problem at Kildonan Park with respect to the roadways which the Councillor knows full well. So we may indeed invest in these facilities and find ourselves in some very difficult situations with respect to how we manage on a day to day basis, access even to Kildonan Park.

The riverbank is eroding quickly. It has had some attention but needs very significant engineering support. It is getting very close to closing one of the

roadways. The roadway that runs along the river, very soon, it could even be this year depending on flooding conditions this spring. That is very, very close to Rainbow Stage, and not too far away from some of these facilities.

And I don't want to be alarmist in that respect, but Mr. Mayor, I was concerned that dollars left Kildonan Park, that's a whole other debate, but I am more concerned about the future of the park and the need for planning. And I can't find in the context of current planning anything that would resemble something that I could support.

So I just, I'm here today to draw attention to whoever has to have that attention drawn to them. I challenge the Councillors in the Community Committee to pay attention, and I'm certainly prepared, as other citizens are I know, to play somewhat of a role in being an advocate for that park area. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Fraser there will be some questions. Councillor Wyatt your first question.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Councillor Fraser, (laughing) you get to take the title with you there. My question is it's not just related to Kildonan Park but just the entire park system. In the mid '90s as part of a down-sizing or right-sizing or call it what you like here in the City, we flattened the organization, the City Council of the day flattened the organization and got rid of the, what was known then as the Parks and Recreation Division or Parks and Recreation department. So today, unlike other cities that have Parks Boards, and sometimes they even elect officials to Parks Boards or a Parks and Recreation department, we're one of the few cities in North America that does not have a Parks and Recreation department.

So, do you think that speaks to the fact, it's not just Kildonan Park but other parks in the park system, whether it be St. Vital or other regional parks that, you know Kilcona Park is another one a master plan done has just fallen off the map. Does that not speak to the issue of where we've put our priorities and maybe we have to get back to saying right, parks are a priority and we have to revisit the whole concept of governance?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Fraser.

George Fraser: Well Mr. Speaker, delegations are not supposed to enter into debate. This is opening up you know, a fairly wide discussion. I have opinions on future governance. I recognize the governance model that has evolved at Assiniboine Park has value and it may very well be that that model can be replicated.

But at some point you're absolutely correct, I mean any Council has to have the ability to bring planning to a focus, somewhere, somehow. And in today's challenged world, it's a broader focus. It's not what we knew, traditionally know. History, wherever it is has a vote but it doesn't have a veto. So we have to develop our own context in these times, in these places.

Mr. Speaker: Any further questions? No. Mr. Fraser thank you for your presentation. Well presented.

George Fraser: I'll meet you on the riverbank.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. See you, George. No further delegations. Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Thomas: Yes can I move suspension of the rules to allow Ron Chartrand and Kathy Bent to speak to Motion No. 1 that I've brought forward on the development of the East End Aboriginal Resource Centre at the Kelvin site?

Mr. Speaker: No. Your Motion has not even been considered.

Councillor Thomas: I want to move suspension of the rules…

Mr. Speaker: Okay now that's different.

Councillor Thomas: to allow the delegations to be speaking.

Mr. Speaker: You're moving suspension of the rules. Okay fine. Councillors.

Councillor Gerbasi: Recorded vote please.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Smith, Councillor Thomas' request is it's not on the agenda, there is a Motion that she has presented, has not been dealt with by Council, but it's up to the will of Council if you want to move suspension to hear a delegation, that we don't have anything except a Motion that hasn't been dealt with.

All in favour? A recorded vote. Yes it's noted. A recorded vote.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Gerbasi, Leipsic, Nordman, Pagtakhan, Smith, Swandel, Thomas, Vandal, Wyatt, Mr. Speaker Councillor Lazarenko.

Nays

Councillor O'Shaughnessy.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 14, Nays 1.

Mr. Speaker: Okay would you get the delegation here? Council's made a decision. He'll give us his name for the record. Okay Councillor Thomas, Councillor Thomas. Mr. Chartrand would you give your name and address for the record.

Ron Chartrand: Yes my name is Ron Chartrand. My address is 678 Moncton Avenue.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. You have 10 minutes.

Ron Chartrand: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I want to thank the Worship and Councillors to hear, to hear me speak here. I will be brief. I just wanted to speak on the Motion that was brought forward to the Council here this morning to rescind the Kelvin Community Centre closure. I speak on behalf of the Manitoba Metis Federation. I am the portfolio holder responsible for Heritage, Sports and Youth here in the City of Winnipeg.

I think we pretty well, it's a known fact that we have a large contingency of Aboriginal people living in the inner city and in the City of Winnipeg in general. We like to become on board as, I know it's sort of the 11th hour here, we want to become part of that solution to help stave off closure of any community centres. I think once we start closing community centres in our City here we take away the opportunity to help our youth, and we all know what the options are if we don't have recreation and services for our youth in our City.

The Manitoba Metis Federation as a board, we've spoke, we've come on board as a partner to develop a plan on how to stave off this temporarily hopefully, maybe a window of two years possibly, to have our input and some of the partners we're developing with, develop a plan of action on how we're going to work with all the partners, the neighbourhood, the City of Winnipeg, to make sure that there is viable programming for our youths and our adults in our communities and this is only the thing that we were talking about.

We have discussions primarily with the sport bodies, a lot of Sport Manitoba for example, lacrosse, historically, lacrosse was a hotbed at the Kelvin Community Centre and they're very interested in sitting and developing a plan of action with us and some of the other court sports. Floor ball, Mr. Morris Glimcher from high school sports is very interested in sitting down and helping us to become a partner. And we're willing to sit down with other organizations hopefully that will step up, including the community, the executive committee of the community centres, to develop some kind of plan so we can collectively work together in hopefully revitalizing our communities.

At the moment we just ask that we be given an opportunity. We sent a letter, I

guess, well I haven't received the letter yet, to the Committee, regarding any dialogue that's going to be continuing, or if there is going to be any in the future. But I want to make sure, I want to speak on behalf of communities and the Aboriginal communities particularly. We want to be all inclusive. We want to save the community not only for Aboriginal people but for all community members of Winnipeg, in particular this one in the inner city.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to speak again and I am done with my presentation.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Chartrand. There may be some questions. Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Is the Manitoba Metis Federation prepared to put money on the table to support programs and how much?

Ron Chartrand: Yes, yes we are. We discussed that. I think our figure went at $100,000 dollars but that's not just all in monetary value. There's also a human resources, we're willing to help staff, the community, to help develop some plans and develop some programming. We want to be a partner of course. We don't want to absolve anybody's responsibility to the community centre but we just want it to work, and our objective is just to kick start it with a $100,000 dollars, to make sure that we have some resources immediately to start this process.

Mr. Speaker: No further questions? Councillor Thomas your first question.

Councillor Thomas: Thank you. Ron, thank you very much for doing this. We recently had notice from Statistics Canada that Winnipeg has the highest percentage of Aboriginal citizens as well as the highest number across Canada with approximately 10% of our population being identified as either Metis or First Nation. And I just wanted to let you know that in this particular area, it's almost double that, 19.4% are of Aboriginal origins, either Metis or First Nations.

And I was wondering, you said something about general programming, so you're going to be involved with the programming that would not just deal with the approximately 20% of Aboriginal kids, that it's going to be open to non-Aboriginal people as well is my understanding.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Chartrand.

Ron Chartrand: Yes. I guess a study; I guess the Aboriginal population has been studied pretty often. I think the recent study that I've seen, the demographics for the City of Winnipeg we have a large contingency of Aboriginal people. That being said we do have, like we talk of inclusivity. We want to promote, we want a program for all, all community members. We are spearheading it perhaps through the MMF but hopefully the partners that come on board other organizations to benefit all the communities not just the Aboriginal community of inner city.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Thomas: Yes, in the part that's going to be left after the raising of the community centre, it's basically the soccer fields out there. Can you comment because of the costs of belonging in soccer, can you comment on the kind of programming that would be helpful to low income kids particularly, things like movie nights, and things that don't call for a lot of funds like hockey teams or soccer teams.

Councillor Swandel: Is there a question Mr. Speaker?

Councillor Thomas: Yeah. I want him to comment on the kind of programming…

Mr. Speaker: Okay. Yeah.

Councillor Thomas: that would be more suitable, and the necessity of that to have a centre in which to operate.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor Thomas. Mr. Chartrand.

Ron Chartrand: Yes. Well, as you know Kelvin, the grounds, it's a wonderful space here but unfortunately I don't think it's conducive to even soccer or ball. Perhaps maybe youth soccer probably, the mini-soccer, what do you call it, perhaps something like that. But there is a lot of sports that are inexpensive. I mean you could do some training for track and field all you need is a pair of runners. There is ball hockey, very limited equipment. I know in hockey equipment is very expensive. You know one, those are some of the barriers that we are facing in our communities is a lack of not only registrations but equipment.

So some of the sports that we've been talking about developing partnerships with, like for example, the Bandy Federation, they are interested in developing a plan to come and work with us. Floor ball is very instrumental now, it's really picking up in the junior highs and high school system and they're very interested in coming up with a plan to make affordable recreation for the community.

Mr. Speaker: Your final third question. Councillor are you finished? Mayor Katz your first question.

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Chartrand I very much appreciate your coming here today and bringing forward some concerns that I think we all have.

The first question is, you referred to some of the sports that you would like to see our young children and obviously Aboriginal people as well participating in. Can you, a lot of it is outdoor sports and some of it you refer to would be indoor. Are you aware of the fact that there is a field house there and have you considered putting any capital money into expanding or renovating that facility which could accommodate some of the requests that you've made today?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Chartrand.

Ron Chartrand: Thank you. Good question. Yes I am familiar with the centre there. We are interested in developing a plan. We are talking, in early stages albeit, with other sports, and there is an action plan that's going to be developed hopefully that we can have some capital asset to help the development of the facilities.

You're probably talking about the building that's alongside there that was used for dressing rooms for lacrosse. Yes we're willing to sit down and help out in making that a feasible, making it a quality community. Does that answer your question or?

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Yes, I hear you, yes I think you said it's a viable option.

My next question would be have you sat down and done a business plan and are you aware of how much you may be able to put into this facility as far as capital and then in addition to that operating costs or are you not at that point yet?

Ron Chartrand: Unfortunately we're not at that point at the moment but we are discussing it. When we mentioned $100,000 dollars to kick start this initiative, part of that, we haven't decided how much is going to be for capital costs, or programming or administration. But we're willing to sit down and to see what could be done.

I mean, we could develop a long-term plan, short-term plan. Like I said, like if we can have a window of two years perhaps, maybe we can develop some plan and maybe make that a reality, developing the existing structure, the infrastructure, and moving on with it and offsetting some of these costs.

Mr. Speaker: Your final question Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Thank you. Mr. Chartrand, my last question would be, I believe it was in early January where you wrote a letter asking for the demolition to be deferred. I think you said two to three years if my memory serves me well. I'm just wondering, this debate has been going on, decisions have been made many

times and it keeps coming back. Can you enlighten myself and the rest of Council why you're here now?

Ron Chartrand: Yes I think because, I think, at the, we did discuss the Kelvin Community Centre, what's been transpiring in the past, and we were hoping at the time I guess earlier, that something or plan of action would be developed and it would have been asked in the community not only the community but the City of Winnipeg, because we are all stakeholders in this, to come on board and maybe to help support.

It's not only that we're talking about Kelvin Centre we're talking about all the community centres in general across our City. But I know we're talking about Kelvin here this morning. Now at the 11th hour we've been talking about it and we were just hoping that we were, with us be coming on board with a little bit of an infusion of $100,000 dollars in immediate costs, would open some doors to future people coming on board and really looking at it and say maybe this could happen, maybe we can make this a reality if we all work together on this.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Swandel. Your first question.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Just have a couple of quick questions Mr. Chartrand. Thank you for coming. Are you aware that the proceeds from the lands where the big building is, not the field part of the site, is going to go to help fund the expansion of the Bronx Community Centre?

Ron Chartrand: Well, I'm aware, I've heard that some talking about it. I wasn't aware that all the proceeds from the sale of the land was going to Bronx. We were hoping that, you know Bronx does wonderful stuff out there and they need and I know there is gong to be some wonderful infrastructure happening there or is happening, but I wasn't aware that all of the sale of the, I don't think I've read it anywhere that was public that the sale of the community centre and the assets were going to go towards Bronx. But hopefully that we can really keep the two community centres separated.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Chartrand would the MMF be willing to meet with the Bronx Community Centre if you are not successful today to look at your involvement and bringing some of your funding to programming and the expansion of that community centre?

Ron Chartrand: Good question there. We're willing to speak to all the stakeholders involved. Not only Bronx, but any stakeholder any community centre that is willing to talk to us. At this moment, we don't know, I wasn't aware that Bronx is in dire need of funding. But what we're trying to develop is to develop some initiatives for our youths in Winnipeg and this is one of the opportunities. There's a, I can't say that we're going to give Bronx $100,000 dollars but we're willing to sit down with them and see how we can help out the population right in the vicinity.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Question Period is over. Thank you Mr. Chartrand.

Ron Chartrand: Thank you very much.

Councillor Thomas: I also wanted to move suspension of the rules to hear Kathy Bent, the East End Aboriginal Resource Centre.

Mr. Speaker: Well Councillor Thomas it will be up to the decision of Council.

Councillor Gerbasi: I thought we voted on both the speakers when we voted.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: Yeah (Inaudible)

Councillor Gerbasi: So there is two speakers that were allowed to speak when we voted.

Mr. Speaker: What two speakers? There is only one Mr. Chartrand.

Councillor Gerbasi: Oh I thought we voted for the two at the same time.

Mr. Speaker: Councillors, Councillor Thomas you want to move suspension of the rules to…

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: No we did. We approved both.

Mr. Speaker: We did already. (Multiple voices). You'll have five minutes. Councillor Thomas, Councillor Thomas. She'll find her way here. First the delegation. Councillor Thomas, okay. Would you state your name and address for the record and you have five minutes.

Katherine Bent: My name is Katherine Bent and I live at 1293 Pritchard in the City of Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker: Okay, proceed.

Katherine Bent: Okay. Honourable Mayor, Councilmen, ladies and gentlemen. As I said my name is Kathleen Bent and I'm the acting executive director of the East End Aboriginal Resource Centre and I'm here to appeal on the behalf of the board of directors of the East End Aboriginal Centre, and the community members in the east end of Winnipeg. I'm appealing the closure of Kelvin Community Centre.

We've been in operation for three years and we have not had an opportunity to find a place to call our own, and I actually thought I had longer than five minutes because I wanted to tell you a little bit more about our organization and some of the youths and seniors and so forth that come to our centre. We've been in operation for three years and I, given the five minutes I want to just tell you one story about a particular young man that has been with our, coming to our organization for the three years we've been in operation.

He was 9 years old when he started coming, and he was just absolutely thrilled to be in charge of our craft tables at the many yearly annual events that we have been putting on. And now he is 12 years old and one day he came home from school and his pants were all slashed and his mother asked him what happened. And he said well some boy had slashed his pants. But by the end of the evening she got to the bottom of it and found out that indeed it was the young boy himself that slashed his own pants because of the pressure he was facing as a 12 year old in the schools in the east end of Winnipeg with the racism and so forth. We are only thankful that it was nothing more than his pants that he slashed at this particular time.

However, this is just one example of some of the people that we have been working with in the last three years. And we work, we have the support of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community members alike in the east end of Winnipeg, who want to be a part of ending the kind of story that I just told you, who want to be a part, want to take part and contribute in our efforts to help our young people.

We were lucky to have Lillian Thomas as one of our major supporters. We're lucky to have many supporters but the community members speak loudly for themselves and I'm here to speak on behalf of them. They are tired of hearing about our Aboriginal young people in gangs, our Aboriginal young people with their low educational attainment. They're angry at hearing about the crime rates in their communities, the break and entries, the violent crimes, particularly by our Aboriginal youth.

The East End Aboriginal Centre serves other people but our main focus is on youth. As you know the 2006 census, just some of the statistics were released, this, nearly 50% of our Aboriginal population is below the age of 24. And as Council people, Council members, I hope you have as much concern for our youth as we at the East End Aboriginal Centre do. We have, there's lots of wonderful Aboriginal organizations that are offering programs to youths in the City of Winnipeg, but not enough and the statistics speak for themselves.

So, I'm asking you as Council members to have the foresight and insight that our

young people at EEARC have in wanting to help Aboriginal children and youth live a better life so we do not have to hear about these negative stories. There's a lot of positive stories. I wish I had longer to speak.

But as a spokes member for the East End Aboriginal Centre and particularly our young people, I'm hoping that the decision to demolish the Kelvin Community Centre will be rescinded so that we would be able to use the centre for our endeavours.

And by the way, these two, these young people that, the one young person, I had a couple of other stories to tell as well, they were most proud of being a part of the East End Aboriginal Centre where they belonged and had an opportunity to help themselves and help others like them.

Mr. Speaker: Okay thank you. Councillor Smith do you have a question of the delegation? The first question.

Councillor Smith: I'm wondering how you've been operating for the last three years without a centre. Can you tell us some of the activities and how you've managed?

Katherine Bent: I'm proud to say that we have a dedicated board of directors who have devoted many hours of their own time, their own finances and so forth in order to put on four major events a year.

The East End Aboriginal Centre has offered the community events that other Aboriginal organizations or other nonprofits have not been able to offer their organizations, even though they have operational funding and a building. We've been using the Morse Place Community Centre for our large events. We have partnerships with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority River East Access Centre; we have our meetings there, and so forth. Most of our events were held in the community.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor, I mean Mayor Katz your first question.

Mayor Katz: Kathleen once again thank you for being here today. Based on that first question, can you just enlighten us? Where is EEARC located?

Katherine Bent: Well EEARC is located; well we do not have a building so I was operating it out of my home, with a home office.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question.

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'm just wondering on January the 9th there was a representative of EEARC, it may have been you, it may not, in a CBC interview that basically said at a Christmas party they were actually approached by Councillor Thomas about, at a Christmas party they were approached by Councillor Thomas about the site. We hear all sorts of things in the media. Is that accurate would you know?

Katherine Bent: About the site of the East End Aboriginal Centre?

Mayor Katz: No, sorry, about interest in the site that we're talking about right now, the former Kelvin.

Katherine Bent: Oh okay. I'm not aware of that, sorry.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Thomas your first question.

Councillor Thomas: Yes. Thank you, Kathy for coming here. Can you talk about the difficulty of reaching out to youth with not having a base that you can go to, like sometimes you're at Morse Place, sometimes you're at one of the seniors' centres who has allowed you access. Can you talk about the difficulty of getting stability without having a place to go to?

Katherine Bent: Certainly. One of the primary reasons that we're trying to get a permanent spot is because we do need continuity with the many people that have come to our organizations right now, and the primary obstacle I would see standing in our way of developing a secure place to call our home, is the lack of support from government. Most particularly, I know the City, the government, doesn't

have a lot of money or so forth. However, it's still one of our major stumbling blocks.

We've been able to put on a lot of our events with the support of the United Way, with the support of the Winnipeg Foundation, with the support of east end businesses who have donated food and so forth and even east end Aboriginal organizations that have donated their space at no or very little cost.

But our major stumbling block is not being able to convince government that we are, there is a strong Aboriginal population in the east end. Not just the centre in the north end. There's a strong, vibrant east end Aboriginal community that wants to help themselves. And we cannot do it without the support of government.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have further questions?

Councillor Thomas: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question.

Councillor Thomas: Yes my second question is with regard to you're, you're looking, you and I have been looking for three years, and after the site closed, can you comment on our view, our looking over the Kelvin property and about the subsequent letter that you've sent.

Katherine Bent: Approximately six months ago, Lillian and I had a meeting regarding the use of the Kelvin Community Centre for EEARC's purposes. And at that time I sent a letter to Councillor Thomas, addressing or outlining our needs and she sent it to, I think PP & D and we didn't even, we did not hear one response.

You know I love the City of Winnipeg. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else but I was very, very disappointed in my relationships with City Council here. I understand Councillor Pagtakhan is the Aboriginal representative. I've sent him numerous calls. He has not responded to me. I sent Russ Wyatt numerous email messages, numerous invitations to our events, no reply. Who else? Dan Vandal, I've sent numerous, he did respond, my pal Dan and of course Lillian.

But the rest of Council, we seem to be invisible in the City of Winnipeg here when it comes to even just being heard. I understand the City has priorities and so forth but even being heard, it's a great disappointment to me.

Mr. Speaker: Do you have a further question? Your final question Councillor.

Councillor Thomas: My final question has to do with, it's been suggested that you might want to move to Bronx Park which I think has approximately 3.9% Aboriginal population rather than Kelvin site that's scheduled for demolition. Can you comment about the need to be close to the Aboriginal people and the lack of money that they have to take the bus, et cetera, et cetera?

Katherine Bent: Yes.

Councillor Thomas: And that fact that there is about the age and how that makes it difficult.

Katherine Bent: Certainly. If Point Douglas, Mynarski, are the core area of Winnipeg, Elmwood and that little area that I think there was an argument about at one point on whether we, the City was going to include it within the caption of the inner city, has a high Aboriginal population. Their housing is similar to housing, if not worse than what we find in the core area here in Winnipeg.

And, overall like I said, the Aboriginal population, almost 50%, I think it's 48%, are under the age of 24, with a large number of that 24, that 50%, almost 50%, being 18 or being quite young children and young youth, that need a place in their area. They don't have bus fare. They don't have parents with cars to drive them to their lessons and so forth. To go all the way to Bronx would, to us it's a, people with vehicles that can take our children to these places, it's not in our realm of reality. But this is everyday reality for a high proportion of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal children living within that catchment area.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel you have a first question.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Thank you for coming today. My question is around the fact that a great deal of recreation that happens in our communities happens in schools and in the grounds around the schools. I'm just wondering what involvement your organization has had with the school division and talking about joint-use agreements or shared spaces with the school division.

Katherine Bent: Well we have met with people from Kildonan East, not necessarily about sharing space but about sharing resources. We also are members of the River East Neighbourhood Network and there is numbers of the school, different various schools on that committee as well. And we are in the process of discussing shared resources.

One of the visions and mandate of the Aboriginal Resource, East End Aboriginal Resource Centre as always is ownership. Our young people, the two little, the two Aboriginal boys that I'm thinking of, one at 16 and one that's 13 right now, extremely proud to be in charge of a craft table. They want ownership of their community. They want ownership of their culture. They don't want to be sitting in Kildonan East or one of the other schools as just a component of that school. They want something substantial.

Mr. Speaker: Your final, second question.

Councillor Swandel: I guess, I, what's the reception been from the school boards as far as providing some joint-use space or some agreements for the use for recreation and other resources?

Katherine Bent: We've not talked about sharing the resources regarding schools. You have to understand in our community there is a big trust, distrust towards administrations and schools and so forth. A lot of the people just wouldn't come. We had problems getting some of our community members coming to River East Access Centre because they were discriminated against at the front desk or sensitive about how they were being treated at the front desk. We need, in order to do the job that needs to be done we need a home of our own where our kids can come and feel safe, feel they won't be ostracized or discriminated against because they're Aboriginal. Does that answer your question?

Mr. Speaker: Thank you your time is up. May I suggest consult with your MLA. Thank you.

Mr. Mayor. Report of January the 9th of 2008.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED JANUARY 9, 2008

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items 1 to 3.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Report of January the 16th of 2008, Mr. Mayor.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED JANUARY 16, 2008

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker I would like to introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items 1 to 6.

Councillor Gerbasi: No. 4 please.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi No. 4. Anyone else? Then 1, 2, 3 and 6, and 5.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Item No. 4. Madam clerk.

Item 4 Revision of the Kildonan Park Urban Oasis Project identified under the $43 Million Recreation and Leisure Program, Indoor Water Park Proposal File PR-2(34)

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I think this has gotten ample coverage in the media. I would very much appreciate hearing from Councillor Gerbasi and then I would love to respond.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to put some comments on the record on this because this is something that is going to come back to this Council I assume for a decision about what project is chosen.

Winnipeg is a winter city and I think there's many citizens who do want to see a water park in the City. The question we have to ask of this particular proposal is can the expenditure of $7 million dollars of public money be justified for a private water park? For me, my support for this proposal comes with strong reservations and clear conditions.

First of all, the water park must be accessible to people of all income levels. I'm not sure how this will be achieved. I'm not sure how this Council defines the word accessible especially when you're talking about affordability. So this remains to be seen. I know that when I visited the West Edmonton Mall many years ago with three young children, it was around $60 bucks just to get in the door of the wave pool for a few hours and many families in Winnipeg would not be able to partake of that kind of amenity.

The other key point is location. This money was originally intended for rapid transit. It's been transferred to recreation in the north end. Now it's being transferred to somewhere in the City. And I think that in order to justify the spending of public funds, it has to provide some public good, some public benefit beyond simply building a water park that people pay to go in that's privately run.

If this and I believe that if this project was built in the downtown, it could be a significant, significant benefit to downtown revitalization and there is a much better case to be made for this decision if that's what happens. A water park in the heart of our downtown would attract a lot of people there. It would be accessible by public transit, and it would be part of a larger goal to make our downtown a place full of activity. And we saw with the MTS Centre that it can work. Parking is not an issue for the MTS Centre. Getting there is not an issue and it's been a big success.

My concern about this proposal is though, is that although downtown is weighted heavier in the requests for proposals that may not be enough. And I know some of you were here on Council when the MTS Centre was conceived and built, and it was a very complex and the soccer, by the way the soccer complex went through a similar process and it's in the south end of the City. Now that may be acceptable but if you just put out proposals it ends up in the south end of the City.

This was very complex. The MTS Centre though, back to that, was a very complex process that took a lot of time. The situation was we had a massive, empty building that was effectively a giant hole in our downtown walkway system and there were extensive negotiations that included all three levels of government and the private sector.

It's been talked about that the post office downtown is going to be empty. And that's a big hole in our downtown again and a big opportunity in our downtown again. But if that option is ever going to happen in reality, or a couple of other possible options in the downtown, our Mayor needs to get through to the Federal government very quickly and strongly so that they, because they are an important partner in this.

The MTS Centre did not happen simply by sending out a request and passively waiting for a response. It took a lot of lobbying, cajoling, vision and hard work from this Council and from all the project partners and those of us who were here remember that. What concerns me is that

we are opening the door too broadly to all projects and locations and they are not all created equal.

It's much easier for the private sector to build a suburban water park on a new site where they can have a massive parking lot and they don't have to deal with an existing building such as the downtown post office. It's much easier to build it somewhere else. This Council is all about doing things fast and efficiently. But how about doing it right? And we won't do it right if we give a few months for somebody to come up and we take the proposal that costs us the least and happens the quickest.

It is very hard to justify, for me to justify spending $7 million dollars of public money unless you can demonstrate a real impact for the public good. We have a downtown first policy but it doesn't mean much if no effort or action goes with the words "downtown first". Simply saying yeah we sure hope somebody picks the downtown. It takes more than that to make it happen.

This money was originally, I know people are tired of hearing it, I know it's not going to rapid transit. Now it's not going to the north end. Well where is it going to go? It better go to somewhere that can be justified. Many of my constituents and many Winnipeggers outside of my constituency have been talking to me about this project and they want to see significant public benefit if this money is spent. There are concerns.

So it is my understanding that the chosen bid on the water park will come back for, to Council for approval. I certainly hope so. And I would like to put on the record that my support will only be there if that significant public benefit can be shown.

This is a huge opportunity to do something really exciting in our downtown but it has to be done right and I urge Council to take leadership on this. I urge the Mayor to take a strong leadership role on this with other partners and make something happen because this is a chance that we have that we may not have again. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

(Councillor Pagtakhan in the chair)

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Councillor Gerbasi. Next up we have Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Thomas: Thank you. I cannot support the transfer from Kildonan Park Urban Oasis to somewhere else basically because I don't know where else and I don't know what else. Mynarski is a low income area similar to Elmwood-East Kildonan and I think that we need to have facilities in the area where the low income kids are, rather than have them walk into higher income areas.

And I don't see that anything other than within the City of Winnipeg. It could be anywhere within the City of Winnipeg. I, quite frankly, don't think we should be supporting a private sector development in Tuxedo, because they don't need it as much. They have cottages that they could go to. They don't need it as much as low income kids do and I don't think I should have to state that. The second thing, it just doesn't say where. And that's the issue.

The second thing is, private sector accessible destination, but what is meant by accessible isn't clear. I mean to have appropriate ramping would be nice but if in order to be, you have to spend $10 to get through the door, that's not very accessible to anybody in my area, except for a few, and that's a problem. And I don't see that defined. So where has it been defined, what the accessible thing hasn't been defined and also what's left is spray park and revamping of an outdoor pool.

I think we need to be doing more in low income areas to have all year round access to facilities for recreation. Kids need places to go. Places that they can walk to. Not places that they have to, have to take a long bus ride to or someone is expecting to be driven when people don't have a car, because that's not very helpful to the low income kids who need, who need the facility, and I'm very much concerned that this is not identified.

It seems to be going from something specific, a specific location, a specific design component that the urban oasis concept had been quite defined, down to something that's just generally something like water park facility. What is that? What does that entail? Where is that? What does that entail? Why is there a private sector component? What is it? What are they expected to do and how much is it going to cost? I don't see enough in here that warrants my support or changing it from something I know to something that I don't know and I have too many questions to support this project. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Councillor Thomas. Next up we have Councillor O'Shaughnessy.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: Thank you Mr. Speaker. If I might on a personal note, I would like to correct Councillor Thomas. Kildonan Park is not in a low income area. My ward borders on the park. There is plenty of new home construction within one and two blocks of there. The new homes sell from $260,000 dollars to $1 million dollars. I don't really think that's low income. On the other side we have West Kildonan. I was born and brought up within five blocks of the park and believe me, it's a working class, middle class suburb of Winnipeg. It is not a decaying, poverty-ridden slum.

Some, our staff has done some looking into the urban oasis project plan for Kildonan Park, and the prices were getting perilously close to $20 million dollars for that $9 million dollar budget. We've already taken this recreation money and added over $3 million dollars to Bronx Park. We've added first a million then more to the rebuild of Sinclair Park. Our estimates for the new community centre at the Old Ex grounds are going through the roof. To take not only the whole $9 million originally scheduled but at least double and perhaps more of that into Kildonan Park would kill all these other projects.

What we have left is a completely rebuilt but still outdoor pool. A completely rebuilt playground and tot lot adjacent to it and a new spray pad to replace the old cracked and closed wading pool that was there and still have money to give the extra, which we approved for Bronx Park a short while ago, the money to make sure Sinclair Park happens, and hopefully if we get moving the new community centre by Old Ex. But those estimates are going through the roof as fast as possible, as un-humanly possible. I don't know what's going but even worse than roads recreational facilities are just soaring in cost.

To go out and look for an indoor water park to benefit all the citizens of Winnipeg with some civic help toward it, we're talking about $7 million dollars. I've had some conversations with, well one gentleman in particular who opened one, about 150 miles south of here recently. He is saying it's over $100 million dollars to build a proper indoor water park. Believe me, if the City's contribution, we're talking about here is an incentive, it is not 80%, 50% or even 30% or 20% of the final cost to this type of a project.

And to say it must be within downtown, within the area of the Downtown Zoning By-law as an example, would be cutting off all kinds of possibilities. What if it's in Elmwood? What if it's in St. Boniface? What about the Fort Rouge Yards, the area that we looked at for housing? Why would we cut off these possibilities? Downtown is preferred then other parts of central Winnipeg, the core area, call it whatever, would be secondary. The odds of us supporting an indoor water park in Tuxedo or at the Red River Ex grounds are about zero. No they are zero.

I would like to thank Councillor Gerbasi for stating her position on record and her fears and concerns. I share every one of those concerns or I would have gone nuts trying to divert money from Kildonan Park. The money is not being diverted from Kildonan Park, the money is trying to get the biggest bang we can for our recreation dollar and it's turning into, the whole $43 million is turning into a pop gun and we have got to get building fast and our staff has to be told to get moving because every day that goes by we are losing not just a nail but a whole wing of another recreation component.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Councillor O'Shaughnessy. Next up we've got Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I generally think that this is a positive initiative. I do have some concerns to do with one line and I would like the Mayor perhaps to clarify as he is wrapping up, that City funding for the successful proponent to enter into a satisfactory public access agreement with the City guaranteeing public access to the facility for a period of 25 years. We do know that the private sector is not going to do this for altruistic reasons.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy has just demonstrated that, or provided some preliminary cost estimates in consultation with someone who has had experience of $100 million dollars to actually do this properly so let's add a couple of million to that. And last time I was in Edmonton which was in '97, I think I paid $50 a pop just to get into the doors to go down the waterslides albeit we know that's a larger facility.

My question is then what does guaranteed public access actually mean? Does it mean that we have a developer who is going to be wanting to make some money on this? Does it mean that a $50 a pop to get into the facility is guaranteed public access? Cause you can get in as long as you can pay. Or does it mean that there is a cost threshold that we're willing to, or a cost limit, an entrance limit that we're putting into these negotiations? Will it be $10, will it be $20, will it be $5? What exactly does it mean? So I'm hoping that the Mayor can clarify that in his closing statements.

And I think generally, this is something that our City needs. I'm concerned about, I guess, the time lines that it takes to actually get something constructed in our City. We know that this was money that was originally earmarked for the rapid transit corridor four years ago, going on to Kildonan Park and three, four years later we're talking about a water park where other cities have gone ahead, smaller than us, less exciting than us, have gone ahead and already have a water park constructed.

So I'm hoping that we can actually get this one done, and I know I have a great location for it. But we'll let the process unfold. And perhaps if someone can clarify what guaranteed public access actually means.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Vandal. Next up we've got Councillor Lazarenko.

Councillor Lazarenko: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker. Speaking to, speaking to the clause this is very disappointing to me to have last month in December when we voted on the Capital budget, it was all to proceed as submitted for Kildonan Park. My concern and my question would be what changed from December the 18th to January the 16th, that's two days short of one month when this went before Executive Policy Committee. No consultation. Mr. Deputy Speaker and also to the Mayor, I've asked of this awhile ago when I was sitting beside the Mayor I said this should maybe be referred to have some public consultation.

I'm getting phone calls in respect to what has been in the media and this has to be addressed and I don't know how. I don't have no weight because this decision was made within less than one month. And it's very unfair, I guess not right, to have something approved by majority members of Council then to find out some changes have been made because whatever, I don't know Councillor what Councillor O'Shaughnessy had, had stated, because you know it's not going to say we're not doing this because we're taking a look at the budget.

The questions are coming, as the delegation, the former Deputy Mayor of Winnipeg, Mr. George Fraser was here and had alluded also to the erosion that's taking place at Kildonan Park and its true it is. The erosion is quite bad the, it's very close to the roadway and that has to be addressed in one way or another because we do own that park.

But to refer this for one month I think will give ample time for people that have taken a vested interest in what is happening in Kildonan Park, the jewel of the north end as the delegation had said, and it is the jewel of the north end. Kildonan Park services the new area of Riverbend, Rivergrove, and all of the, all of the areas right up to McPhillips. Thousands and thousands of people frequent that park during the summer and a lot of people are frequenting that park right now in the winter time. It's a beautiful park and it's something that we have an opportunity to correct what has been, what has not been happening at that park for all these years because due to the budget restraint, always we don't have enough money. We can't do it because we can't afford that.

But when you have, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and I'm speaking for what I've been going through for a number of years now. We have beautiful riverbanks that are eroding, $1 million dollars a year erosion. We are allocating $1 million dollars to fix that erosion. So that leaves us in the status quo. We also have a jewel of riverbank properties that we advertise through the whole world. Take Pride does the same thing, beautiful City of Winnipeg. But when you have tourists coming through they take a look and they wonder, just can't believe the trees are lying down, the trees are moving and they're going floating all the way down to Lockport, but this implies also, to the recreation, recreation facilities and grounds and parks that we have.

I know it's not easy for EPC to proceed, to say that this is what we can do because there is certain things that come up and say we can't. But what happened within that 28 or 30 days from the time all the information was made to Council dealing with the Capital budget, including, included what was to be a major, major, major capital works for Kildonan Park. It was talked about in the community, people were just praising Council, saying it's about time and now we've got something to look forward to.

And I seem to be wondering why didn't the administration or whoever, give us this notification before the 18th of December when Council was dealing with this? Now, I don't know what happened with the higher up of the administration, that they couldn't tag this and to say that this, these changes have to come about. And it's so unfair for us to be faced with the dilemma later on that some of us have to get up here and to say and to fight for something that we had approved and then to make the changes shortly after that. This is not right.

And I think that we need answers. And I think the only way we can get answers is to lay this over, refer this for one month, for us to get those answers so every member of Council, because Kildonan Park is on a list now. What's going to be next? We don't know. The admin might come along and say look the budget restraint, we can't. It's impossible. We just can't. I know we're not getting no help from the Province. Their responsibility lies in here more than us. And I've said to the delegation today, dealing with the, with the Kildonan, pardon me on the Kelvin Community Centre, I asked the delegation, talk to your MLA but they don't do that.

And who has more? We don't have. We have a revenue that we have only from taxes. We don't have Provincial Sales tax. It's easy for the Province and I've been saying this over and over again, the Province and the Federal government are, it's a joke to the way the system works with us now. We have to find hard cash and the hard cash we find are from the city taxpayers. With them they've got GST, PST, sure they can say we will contribute to a new arena. We can contribute to whatever facility, anything that is needed because they'll get the money back. Through their revenues they get. We don't. We will not get anything back.

So anyone that targets us is very unfair for the delegation that was here this morning. Where were they prior to that? To say that we haven't talked to our MLAs and our Member of Parliament. I'm tired of seeing the Member of Parliament in my area running around getting snapshots and putting out a piece of literature with photos and photos and photos. This one was here, I was here, I was here, I was

here with this one this one, but when it comes to be constructive there isn't anything.

So I don't want to see the same thing happen Mr. Deputy Speaker to Kildonan Park. It's a jewel. It's as known for many, many years. It's a place that is known throughout the whole world because people send post cards and we have something that has to be cherished.

But the involvement to us, and I don't blame the Executive Policy Committee because they find we don't have the money. Where do we get it? The Province? The Province has the responsibility as well as we do. But even in these chambers no one will say well look, let's get after the, because whoever is in power in government don't rock the boat. We can't rock that boat because hey we're looking for votes, and this is wrong.

We've got people coming in, people don't know, they're confused and this will be confusion Mr. Mayor to the fact that I'll have to respond I guess to a lot of the calls that will be coming in as what the hell happened? And I just don't know what I'll tell them. It's something that happened within less than one month, something happened to make these changes, to make that change. And I as one, I was counting on this and I will be waiting with my ears open to hear.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Councillor Swandel move extension of the rules.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Lazarenko: What the Mayor is going to be, in his closing remarks, what you will be able to fill us in, for me to be able to support what is before us here today. And I hope that it's going to be positive and I really would like to have some consultation even if it means to get members of Council together and get the administration to talk to all of us so we can ask questions like we used to do in the past. Maybe this is what was missing. This is what happened because we did, we did not have that opportunity. You know, the reports that we have, it's not good enough to find out you know what happened in this case.

And to Council members you know, this is Kildonan Park. But what's going to happen when other parks are going to be hit with the same. How do you respond? Because you can't. Unicity is Unicity. We have one City, universal in the whole City of Winnipeg. Everybody is supposed to be treated alike, there is no such a thing as a north end, there is no such as south end, there is no such thing as St., or that part, it's in that part of the City but the regulation, rules and by-laws we have implies to one and all.

So, I would still like to see a, I'd like to see a consultation one way or another to find out because I as one and I'm sure that Councillor Pagtakhan will be getting calls and so will Councillor O'Shaughnessy because it's in our Community Committee. Councillor O'Shaughnessy may be able to answer better than I can because he is the boss of our finances here. So I, not giving you a feather from my hat for that but you are.

So Mr. Deputy Speaker I just hope that you know this could be referred back for further consultation and get even the, our, you know the, our customers who are the taxpayers of the City of Winnipeg so that they have an opportunity to come and listen to what the proposals are, what we intend to do. I don't think it's going to make that much of difference if it's held by back by one month. Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Mr. Speaker Councillor Lazarenko. Next up we have Councillor Vandal or sorry Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker. Just a couple of quick points. On the 16th when this was brought up at EPC, shortly after that, notice went out to all Councillors, included the draft expression of interest that addressed many of the concerns that were raised here today. Location was certainly one of the things that were included in the criteria. We have a downtown first policy, I think, I'm not sure

who it was, I think perhaps Councillor O'Shaughnessy spoke to some of the areas just outside of the downtown that might be ideal places for an amenity like this to exist.

One of the other things that hasn't been spoken about today is that in the expression of interest criteria again that all Councillors did receive, there was the statement that 10% or an amount equivalent to 10% of the City's contribution per year would be given back to the City by way of either admissions or other goods or services in kind so that those that could not afford to attend this facility there would be opportunities for them.

So if you look at that that's approximately $700,000 dollars a year that the City would gain in benefit to be managed as best we can to ensure that those that might not be able to afford on a regular basis or at a full cost, they would be able to have access to a site like this.

This is you know a draft proposal, a draft to the expression of interest and its criteria. There is a great deal of information there. I would encourage all Councillors to go and to look at it in some detail and to ask some questions as to how it will be shaped into a final document.

You know we talk about financial costs and benefits to the City of Winnipeg in there as part of the assessment criteria on the proposals, and I'm confident going forward that we have the ability to properly waive all proposals and make a decision either to proceed with what we look at as the best proposal serving the best interests of all citizens of the City of Winnipeg or to decide that it's not appropriate for us to proceed because we don't have a proposal that benefits all citizens of the City of Winnipeg. With that I will look forward to hearing the Mayor's closing remarks.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you Councillor Swandel. Next up we've got Councillor Smith.

Councillor Smith: Yes, you know, this idea of a water park is exciting. You know I've had more people in the last few days talk to me about it. Look how cold it is outside. I mean it's just impossible to walk out more than a block. You know, so this is a winter city. We need a facility like a water park.

Now I don't like the fact that we're taking away from Kildonan Park and that's another question. But you know I'm prepared to do that because the water park will benefit everybody in the City of Winnipeg, all residents of the City of Winnipeg, not one particular area. So you know, I think they're going to love a water park.

Now we have a lot of things that are vague, like how big a water park would this be? You know the whole question of accessibility. There are many questions with it but let me tell you this, nothing is perfect. But this proposal to having a water park is great. And we should go with it. We should be unanimous today on this item. Thank you.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much Councillor Smith. Next up, before the Mayor closes, we've got Councillor Fielding.

Councillor Fielding: Caught me off guard there. Thank you very much. I rise today to support this initiative that we're speaking to today. Really over the last year or so, more than a year, what I think we've seen in this chamber is an increase in construction costs exponentially go up in the realm of 20% to 30% at some locations and really that $43 million dollars that was first allocated for recreational type of projects has really, really isn't there for what it's intended to do. So we really need to find a way to stretch our dollar and spend our money more efficiently. We need to think outside the box and give our citizens really what they want, the services, as many as they want, at the best price and the most efficient way for our citizens.

To me, what this debate really boils down to is do we want an amenity like this or not? I know we've tried. There has been

numerous different organizations and agencies that have tried to bring a water park to us over the last number of years. Allowing the private sector to build and run makes sense on a variety of fronts for me.

First the City of Winnipeg most definitely is not an expert in building and running water parks. Why not partner with a private organization or nonprofit organization who knows the ins and outs of running a water park, building a water park and making it useable to our amenities. This will allow the most efficient use of our taxpayer's dollars.

Second the access and costs which will remain low for our citizens. The City will enter into as was talked about a public access agreement with the proponents. What that means is the costs will stay lower for our citizens. I am interested, they always say the devil is in the details in terms of the approach of that, so I am interested to see how that will come back and how that will be affordable because I think that's a very important point to it. Otherwise it just ends up as some sort of a cut in corporate subsidy for an amenity.

Third, at the end of the day citizens really don't care whether it's the private sector, it's a nonprofit or it's the City of Winnipeg that's delivering services like that. What they want to know is that a service is there. They can take their children, they can take their families and have a great day whether it's Fun Mountain or anyone else who does it. It doesn't make a difference if the person that's entering the door has the City of Winnipeg logo on their sleeve or it's Canad Inns or it's Fun Mountain. It doesn't make a difference as long as it's affordable for our citizens, the amenity is there. It makes sense for us.

On just a final point, I'd also like to give the Mayor and EPC some kudos for listening to some of the recommendations we put forth in the Economic Opportunity Commission and some of these proposals were something that was recommended in our commission. What the commission found out was that our facilities are running a $10 million dollar deficit right now. The commission recommending using outside providers to run any new facilities that come on line and the rationale for this is of course that our costs are way higher than they run in nonprofit organizations.

A good example of this is the Y.M.C.A. where there are running their facilities either on budget or surplus and we're running at a $10 million dollar deficit. Right in my backyard, I know former Deputy Mayor Fraser if he's still here and Grant, Councillor Nordman, right in our area a good example of this is the Y.M.C.A. versus the Centennial Pool. Both are great facilities. The Y.M.C.A. in St. James makes money, right? The Centennial Pool across the street, the same facilities and actually for a yearly membership it's actually more expensive than the Y.M.C.A. is running an $800,000 dollar deficit. So what does that tell me? It tells me that the Y.M.C.A. is experts at delivering these services. The City of Winnipeg isn't an expert in this. They do a good job but they are not an expert doing these types of services.

Really what it comes down to is the servicing costs. The same 19 year old that's in our facilities that's helping to save the life, lives of people as they're swimming that are working in the Y.M.C.A., in our facilities are making anywhere from $17 to $22 dollars an hour. At the Y.M.C.A. they're making $9 dollars an hour. So you know the going rate is saying that its $9 or $10 an hour, we're almost double with the going rate is. How is that efficient? So this makes, really it doesn't make any common sense to me.

In my opinion we should be looking at other agreements like this to make our system more efficient. Running a $10 million dollar deficit in operating in our existing pools and leisure centres is completely unacceptable in my opinion. More initiatives that allow the City of Winnipeg to stretch our capital dollars and our capital expenditures further makes great financial sense to me. This type of initiative is a step in the right direction and a common sense, brings common sense back here to City Hall. For these reasons I commend the Mayor and EPC and the

Councillors that will be supporting this and thank you once again Mr. Speaker.

(Councillor Lazarenko in the chair)

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. First off I'm very excited by this potential of us having a first rate water park facility here in the City of Winnipeg. I love water parks. I've been to the West Edmonton Mall's water park twice in the last five years. I like staying at hotels with waterslides even whether it's the Russell Inn, the Ramada Plaza Suites in Fargo. I've been to water parks in other cities. The Gloucester wave pool in the Ottawa area, I know one of the leisure centres in Calgary has one, I've seen it but have yet to go on it, and this past Friday, while I didn't go to play actually I went to go meet with people and I didn't go in the water park, I did stop by the Canad Inn's new destination centre in Grand Forks.

Now first off, Kildonan Park is the jewel of the north end. It's very easily accessible from the Chief Peguis Trail. It's even more accessible with all the new trail networks they are going to be linking throughout the North Kildonan community to Kildonan Park across the Kildonan Settlers Bridge and into the park.

$7 million dollars however is not going to build a $20 million water park. It just doesn't work. I understand, although I've never been in there, the large outdoor pool there is a great amenity. The spray pad will be updated and the other amenities that are going in there, I know money needs to be spent on riverbank, you know shoring up, that needs to be done as well.

That said some of these amenities are to be fixed and what this particular approach does by putting out an expression of interest document, which sort of specifies a lot of the minimums that need to be in there, it allows the private sector to use their own imagination and ingenuity to come up with proposals that make sense. When these proposals come before us or before the people who are on the selection committee, I hope they give some consideration to the fact that $7 million dollars is coming out of Kildonan Park.

Perhaps something that is in north Winnipeg makes sense but if the biggest bang for the buck isn't there perhaps it's by Polo Park. Perhaps it's in Councillor Vandal's ward. I don't know but let's keep an open mind about this. But at the same time, I think the expression of interest document does do a lot in terms of protecting the City and making sure that you know that we do, that we do do this in a prudent and appropriate fashion is key. So those are my comments and thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. No further speakers? Mayor Katz closing.

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker. There are days Mr. Speaker where I listen to debate and I wonder why we can't all be on the same page. For anyone not to understand the value of a water park, I don't get it. I guess you have to understand maybe what your vision might be of our City. I'm hoping all of Council would like the City to be exciting, to be vibrant for our young people to want to stay here. For young people from other cities to want to come here, and you know let's talk about some of the things that have happened in recent times.

We now have a world famous skate park at the Forks. Very soon I believe we'll have the Human Rights Museum. As Councillor Gerbasi mentioned the MTS Centre and shortly, we'll have an indoor soccer facility. And Mr. Speaker, I make no excuses for wanting to add to that list on a continuing basis.

And I was very excited and thank Councillor Smith for saying what everybody should be saying. This is exciting! This is wonderful! I look up there and I see Ty Tram. When I was first elected Mr. Speaker I got more emails on a water park than any issue that had ever come to the floor of Council. Ty can probably tell you the thousands, he probably still has them and they want to

see the water park at the old Winnipeg arena. Unfortunately most people are not aware of the fact that could not happen because of an agreement that was signed, end of story.

But I think for all of us what we have to realize is something quite simple here. I think we all believe there is a need for a water park. And I would like it see something very special so when anyone of us walk in on our own with our children, with our grandchildren, whatever the case may be, we all look up and say "wow, this is exciting and yes, this is in Winnipeg, our home that we all love so much".

And Mr. Speaker, I would love to try and address some of the questions that were asked. But here is the dilemma Mr. Speaker. Quite simply put, we and I say Council, supported putting money into our recreational infrastructure, crumbling, falling apart, needed repair, and guess what, Kildonan Park was part of that. The pool is in need of repair. So, Mr. Speaker, we came up with a rather grandiose idea, and we're going to put in $9 million dollars. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, we can't do that. You can talk all you want about what we want to do there as far as an urban oasis. It's not going to happen. We don't have the money. We've seen this picture before. It's not the first time.

And realities are this. We have an opportunity to take a crumbling pool and make it look brand new. We have an opportunity to put a phenomenal play structure and a playground at that same location. And we have the opportunity to make sure that we have a spray pad that will excite our children because right now, what are we looking at? A closed wading pool. We have the opportunity to do something good for all the people who use that park.

And Mr. Speaker like a few others here, I grew up in Kildonan Park. I cut my teeth on the monkey trails. I played football and baseball in that park everyday, including some days I probably shouldn't have been there. But Mr. Speaker, I understand the value of Kildonan Park. And for years, what have we done? Nothing Mr. Speaker, zilch, gornisht, nada, not a thing, okay. Maybe it's time we actually do something.

So we're investing significant money in there and just like this Council, unanimously agreed to, we're into something similar to what we did with the indoor soccer complex. We couldn't build it but with the support of other levels of government we contributed $2 million dollars for a total of $6 million dollars and guess what we're going to have an indoor soccer facility. Should have happened years ago but at least it's happening and now we can do the same thing with a water park.

Now Mr. Speaker, I took the initiative last week to send out a copy of the expression of interest to every Councillor here so they could have an opportunity to get as much detail as possible. It wasn't even complete but I took that initiative to make sure that everybody was informed. I can understand by listening to some Councillors they've actually read it, by the questions they've asked. I'm not sure if everybody has had that opportunity.

Number one Mr. Speaker, I can't tell you if the size is going to be 72,000 square feet or 120,000 square feet. We don't know yet. It's going to be up to the private sector to determine what they want to do.

We talked about public access. Now as Councillor Vandal did point out, there was specific reference to public access. But right now I don't know what they're going to come forward with. It may be free some time of the day. Who knows? We have to wait for that to come forward and I would remind some people with all the due diligence that was done on the MTS Centre are you going to tell me that everybody can afford to go to concerts? I don't think so.

Here is the realities. We are doing our due diligence. The department has done phenomenal, phenomenal work to make this happen. And you know I can already see the debate because I heard Councillor Gerbasi's passionate plea for downtown and I respect that, I understand that. And you know what? The vacant post office could be a phenomenal site for

apartments, for a water park, for retail, but someone has to come forward and the private sector has to step up to say they want to do it.

I heard Dan Vandal, he wasn't specific but we all know what he is talking about, the market site in St. Boniface. A phenomenal facility and I'm sure he'd love to see an array of sports activities there with a hotel, with a water park, and I could go on and on and on. So you know what, everybody probably has a thought or an idea. And we all know this. You can't all have what you'd like to see.

But let's for once try and do what's best for the City of Winnipeg, alright? I know that Councillors have their wards. I'm the Mayor for Winnipeg. It's time we get behind something and support it and see something good happen and here is an opportunity.

And you know what if Councillor O'Shaughnessy is accurate with, or no somebody said a $100 million dollars. I'm not sure who came up with that number. Mr. Speaker I have been told that what we wanted to do at Kildonan Park we'd be running at least $25 million dollars. It doesn't even compare to what we're talking about with a water park with all the amenities. So you know what, maybe it's $50 million, maybe it's $60, maybe it's $100, I don't know Mr. Speaker.

But I do know this, that we can take some of recreational money and make sure that we have something special and we will do our due diligence and the only thing I have to say right now, we can only respond to the expressions of interest that come forward.

So if nothing comes forward from St. Boniface I would have to say to Councillor Vandal sorry nothing came forward, nothing we can do. If nothing comes forward from downtown, which I think would be a major disappointment which I don't think is a reality, but that could happen and we have to deal with the realities, but for people to imply or say that they don't have enough information then ask the questions because frankly speaking, my office door is open. I will answer any question that I am able to and the department is available as well.

But some questions will be unknown, the answers, until we see what the expressions of interest are. And I believe Mr. Speaker we'll be pleasantly surprised with the number, numbers of people that do respond to this EOI. I hope everyone on Council supports this Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Mr. Mayor. On Clause 4 or Item 4.

All in favour? Contrary?

Councillor Thomas: Nay. Record me in opposition.

Mr. Speaker: Council Thomas in opposition.

EPC Motions.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE MOTIONS

Motion No. 3
Moved by Councillor Vandal
Seconded by Councillor Gerbasi

WHEREAS the CPR Rail Yards have dissected the north end of Winnipeg for over 100 years;

AND WHEREAS there would substantial housing, commercial, recreational and transportation opportunities for Winnipeg if the CPR Rail yards could be relocated or rationalized outside of the city;

AND WHEREAS there may be national transportation opportunities for Manitoba in the development of a modern inland port / container terminal which would complement the Asia-Pacific Gateway Initiative and / or Port of Churchill initiatives;

AND WHEREAS the Federal government have enacted the "Railway Relocation and Crossing Act" which facilitates the relocation of railway lines or re-routing of railway traffic in urban areas;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that a preliminary opportunities analysis on the removal of the CPR North End Rail Yards be undertaken by the City of Winnipeg;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg consult with both CPR and the Province of Manitoba on this initiative.

Mr. Speaker: Motion No. 3 by Vandal and Gerbasi is automatic referral.

The By-laws, Mr. Mayor. This is second and third reading.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I move that By-law No. 219/2007 be read a second time.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 219/2007.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker I move that By-law No. 219/2007 be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I move that By-law No. 1/2008 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 1/2008.

Mayor Katz: And Mr. Speaker I move that By-law No. 1/2008 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 1/2008.

Mayor Katz: And Mr. Speaker I move that the rule be suspended and By-law No. 1/2008 be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Speaker: Question Period. Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Mr. Speaker, through you to the Mayor, the word out on our Winnipeg streets is that our City is in trouble. Our City is falling apart. We are having trouble managing our infrastructure challenges. We can't do the necessary repairs and we need help from one level of government or the other. And your office has been pretty steadfast in sending that message.

At the same time though, you as our Mayor are championing a new ring road construction project called the Chief Peguis Trail whose budget is out of control. It's gone from $34 million dollars to $60 million dollars, an increase of $30 million dollars.

My question is if our City really is falling apart, if we can't take care of our existing infrastructure, why are you championing a brand new construction project whose budget is out of control?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, through you I thank Councillor Vandal and I will clarify. One, I don't think there is anybody on the floor of Council who is not cognizant that we have problems with our infrastructure; significant deficit in our infrastructure. Just like every other city in Canada Mr. Speaker, no different.

And how did this come about? One, by neglect, not maintaining properly. I guess not having the money. And number two, by the fact that cities and municipalities are not getting their fair share in order to solve these problems and that is supported by big city Mayors right across Canada.

And there is no doubt that we were very grateful for the Federal government and gas tax. And we fought the battle; yours truly fought the battle to make sure that money got used to improve our roads and our bridges. We took that initiative Mr. Speaker and we fought for what we thought was right.

By the same token I would like to believe that Councillor Vandal believes that in order to have the City prosper and grow, you need to focus on more than just one thing. You have to repair your existing infrastructure, but you also want to grow. It's called progress.

And Mr. Speaker if the only reason Councillor Vandal is concerned about Chief Peguis Trail is because it went up in price, if that was the belief, then I guess he would not have wanted to see Esplanade Riel built because that more than doubled in price Mr. Speaker, and we did not have a problem of inflation like we did, like we do today back then.

The realities are the City is growing. There are things that need to be done and that is one of them. And most importantly, it is something that is very supported by the department, by the experts, not the Mayor, not Councillor Vandal but by the experts. And our job is to do our best to make sure we can meet the needs of the City as well as grow the City. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Your second question Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Mr. Speaker, thank you. It's certainly not supported by Plan Winnipeg. The Chief Peguis Trail is $30 million dollars over budget; $34 million to $64 million dollars. I proposed an audit to get to the bottom of this travesty and you voted against it. Can you remind me and remind Winnipeggers why you don't think an audit is necessary on a $30 million dollar increase?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I've come to know that there are many comments that are made on the floor of Council that have no bearing on the facts. It's not over budget Mr. Speaker. When you start construction and your construction cost is $9 million dollars and you are building it and the construction at the end is $24 million dollars, that's over budget. Esplanade Riel for an example.

This is a number that the administration came up in the past. We haven't even started construction. Costs have escalated. I can sit here and spend the rest of Question Period telling you the number of projects that we've had on the table, put a cost on and they've increased.

And the reason it's not anywhere over budget Mr. Speaker, is because we haven't done the detailed costing yet, unlike we did with Esplanade Riel. So for Councillor Vandal to even draw a similarity between the two is totally unfair.

We just spent about 40 minutes discussing what we wanted to do, what we wanted to do at Kildonan Park and what we're going to do and why we're not. Did you hear anybody call for an audit? Until you have detailed drawings, you don't have a price. Until you start construction with your price you can't be over budget.

You know Mr. Speaker it's time people grew up and stopped playing these silly games, okay. If you don't like the idea of the Peguis Trail, say so. That's fine. I can deal with that. I can live with it. That's okay. But don't use this phony nonsense as a reason, okay.

If you have to know something about construction, I've built a few buildings in my day Mr. Speaker, some small, some big. I know what the construction cost is. I know when you go over budget. And you don't have a price until you have detailed drawings and everybody on this Council should know that.

And Mr. Speaker we're also aware of the fact that we've changed that system. We've hired a new person to make sure that these things don't happen in the future. We're getting our act together Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Your final question Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Well Mr. Speaker I've been enlightened. $34 million to $64 million is not over budget. Mr. Mayor are you saying that in the 2007 Capital budget that $34 million dollars was not a real number? And are you saying that the increase to $64 million dollars is not inflation? It's not a hundred percent increase? I'm not sure what you are saying. As far as Esplanade Riel, you're the one who keeps bringing it up. I'm not drawing any comparisons to Esplanade Riel.

Mr. Speaker: Okay thank you Councillor Vandal. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I can understand why Councillor Vandal doesn't get it, okay. There are many areas that he is an expert in. This is not one of them Mr. Speaker. Okay, nobody's fault. All of us here have expertise in certain areas. Nobody has expertise in everything. Alright?

The facts of life are that this City for many years, when you do your Capital budget, you come up with a number Mr. Speaker. And you know what Mr. Speaker, years go by, one or two and guess what, the number is never changed. No one takes into consideration inflation or anything. That same number that you had three or four years ago would appear. It's a Five-Year Capital budget. They make no changes. A flaw in the process. Mr. Speaker guess what, we're changing that too. We're making things right. End of story.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Gerbasi your first question.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question has to do with the Canada Post office building and I'm wondering if the Mayor or any staff or representatives are planning to or have had discussions with the Federal government on that property and are taking any initiative to encourage any action on that?

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker through you I thank Councillor Gerbasi. I can certainly speak for myself. I have had two conversations with the representative of the Postal Service and that was actually as a courtesy Mr. Speaker, where they informed me what their intention was. The fact that they were planning to sell that facility, hopefully see it developed and they were going to move and invest a significant amount of money into a new location.

I may be, I don't want to read between the lines so I'll wait for a follow-up question but if Councillor Gerbasi is asking me whether I would talk to them and maybe try and motivate them to work with others to see something special and wonderful happen there, it would be my pleasure Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi. That's it? No further questions? Thank you. Standing Policy Committee on Finance, Councillor O'Shaughnessy.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE DATED JANUARY 15, 2008

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Unaccustomed as I am to actually having a report to bring forward, it's an honour and a pleasure to move adoption of Consent Agenda Item 1 and the report of January 15th, 2008.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

No Motions. Consideration of By-laws. Do you have a question? No, you wait. I didn't get to that yet Dan. Dan, I know you're all full of fire but just wait. No By-laws.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
QUESTION PERIOD**

Mr. Speaker: Question Period. Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Yes to the chair of Fiscal Issues, I'm wondering if you can share with us what the, Finance, I'm sorry, what the schedule is for the adoption of the Operating budget for this year.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor O'Shaughnessy.

Councillor O'Shaughnessy: The only thing cast in stone is that it will be to this Council before the 31st of March, which is a Provincial law that we do so.

We have begun, myself and the administration with the help of other members of Council have started looking at the estimates, plan to bring you first update to the Mayor the middle of next week.

I don't imagine we will be having a balanced, have balanced estimates before the 15th of February, at which point there are two seminars for all members of Council planned, plus the bringing of the estimates to all Standing Committees for public input and to Council. My best guess and it is a guess at this time is the 15th of March. It would be a shock to have it any earlier.

And I would, as the Mayor anticipated a possible question, I'll anticipate a possible question. This is the, this will be the toughest budget to bring to zero without a tax increase that I've ever had to face and never say die but it's not looking good.

Mr. Speaker: No further questions? Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development. No report. Motions, none. By-laws, none. Question Period. None. Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, report of January the 8th of 2008, Councillor Swandel.

**REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
DATED JANUARY 8, 2008**

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Speaker I'm pleased to introduce the report and move adoption of the Consent Agenda Items 1 to 9.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Motions.

**REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
MOTIONS**

**Motion No. 1
Moved by Councillor Thomas
Seconded by Councillor Vandal**

WHEREAS the Chalmers/Glen Elm neighbourhoods have the highest portion of Aboriginal youth in the Elmwood/East Kildonan area;

AND WHEREAS the East End Aboriginal Resource Centre (EEARC) has been searching for a facility for three years from which to run their programming to serve these youth;

AND WHEREAS the EEARC requested six (6) months ago the opportunity to utilize the now closed Kelvin Community Club for their programming;

AND WHEREAS the Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) has volunteered to partner with the EEARC to offset some of the costs of operating this centre;

AND WHEREAS this would be a cost-neutral proposition for the City of Winnipeg;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the decision of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development to raze the Kelvin Community Centre be rescinded;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City be requested to enter negotiations with the MMF and the EEARC to operate the East End Aboriginal Centre programming out of the old Kelvin Community Club site.

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Speaker we have in front of us the Motion from Councillor Thomas seconded by Councillor Vandal. In light of the impact that this could have on the expansion of the Bronx Community Centre I'm going to move suspension of the rules and ask that we deal with this matter immediately. I also ask for a recorded vote on that Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Okay. All in favour of suspension of rules?

Opposed? Recorded vote pardon me. Recorded vote. Suspension of rules a recorded vote.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Gerbasi, Leipsic, Nordman, O'Shaughnessy, Pagtakhan, Smith, Swandel, Thomas, Vandal, Wyatt, Mr. Speaker Councillor Lazarenko.

Nays

None.

City Clerk: The vote is unanimous Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Thomas this is your Motion would you want to open?

Councillor Thomas: Thank you. A little bit of history on this. After the Kelvin Community Centre closed, Kathy Bent of the East End Aboriginal Resource Centre, who had been looking for a space for over three years, approached me to see if the Kelvin site might be available. We took a look at the Kelvin site, walked over it. While it has been said that it's old and rundown, right now as she made it very clear, East End Aboriginal Resource Centre is operating without a home. And they were willing to take to take this site over. She sent me a letter. I forwarded this. She has not received anything back. On November, I asked Councillor Swandel with regard to it, why there hadn't been any response. I got a response from him that said something about there being only one person interested which it didn't make sense to me at the time.

Anyway, at a Christmas party at the Manitoba Metis Federation, I was chatting with a few people there and they said at that point that they'd be willing to give some operational funds and they asked me how much there had been in operational dollars from the City and I said I believed that it was approximately $45,000 dollars that the City was giving to Kelvin for heat and light and to employ a person to take care of the site, including janitorial services and flooding the rinks and the rest of that. And they said well I think we can come up with that. I was quite pleased to find out that they're willing to come out with more than that. They're willing to provide programming dollars, staffing dollars as well and I'm really quite thankful to the Manitoba Metis Federation to come forward with this.

They need a site. We've been looking for a site for the longest time. Programming is offered here, there. The kids need a place to go that's consistent. Now, as I made it clear in my questions in the Glenelm and in the Chalmers neighbourhoods, the Aboriginal population is the highest that it is in my area. It's 19.4%. The average for the City is 10%. It's been suggested that these people can go to Bronx. Now, Kathy Bent made the insight that the Aboriginal kids would like a place that they feel comfortable in.

Now, for your information, the Aboriginal population around the Bronx Park site is 3.9%. All these figures you should have because I brought them forward on the debate on Kelvin's closure to begin with. But now we're talking about something

that's not going to cost the City any money. The operational dollars are there.

The argument of the Greater Council of Winnipeg Community Centres for closing the site is there was no operating board. Well now there is. The East End Aboriginal Resource Centre is volunteered to be the operating board and take care of it and they have programs and they need a place.

Manitoba Metis Federation has come forward with operating dollars and I've heard from Kathy that she's had other people who are willing to come forward with operating dollars as well and she's in the middle of negotiations so I'm not going to be too specific about who the other sources are who have approached her and said that they're willing to come forward with operational dollars and they need a place.

Now it's been suggested that selling off this parkland will help Bronx Park down the road. I don't think that people realize that to knock down that it's going to cost over $200,000 dollars to knock that down. What it said is that in dealing with Bronx Park is that there is supposed to be $500,000 dollars provided from the sale of the old East Kildonan city hall and this site. I think the $500,000 can more than adequately come from the sale of the old city hall when the Good Neighbours move out of there and move in to a new site that they are jointly utilizing with Bronx Park. I think that will adequately cover it and we don't have to spend any money knocking down any old building.

There has been a precedent for closed recreational centres, community clubs becoming resource centres. It's happened at least a couple times that I can think of that that has occurred even coming with some City money. They're not asking for City money. They're not asking for anything except space. They've been looking for space for three years and I'm disappointed that in the six months that this has gone forward that no one's contacted them. I don't understand what the problem is with letting them have the space to operate their program in the area of highest need, 69.4% of the kids are under the age of 9.

In the Bronx Park area there is about 700 kids. In this area there's about 2,000 kids. You're wanting the lowest income part of my ward to walk into an area that if it was a school, they'd be bussed there for free of charge. Over 1.6 kilometres you get a free bus ride to school. Asking them to walk, most of whom are under the age of 9, 69.4% are under the age of 9, into an area that they would feel uncomfortable, when you have someone who is willing to operate something right in their own backyard.

And by the way, both Glenelm School and Lord Selkirk, the principal of Lord Selkirk School was here this morning because she feels really strongly because they both are on very small sites. They have a large number of low income kids; both of them were using the Kelvin property for additional programming. Not available to them anymore.

It's unrealistic to have kids from Lord Selkirk, which is over 2.3 kilometres away, for those kids to walk past the Polson School, to walk past the Prince Edward School in order to use the site at Bronx Park for their programming. It's nowhere near their area and they want something in the area where they can take the kids. They can't expand anywhere. They're on a small piece of property totally surrounded by residential area. There's no place for either Glenelm School or Lord Selkirk School to expand. They were using this for programming. They were using this for a site and that's not available to them anymore. So they're anxiously looking forward to having something available to them.

Now, you have the lowest income kids, with parents who are least likely to have a vehicle, being responsible to get their kids to a site that's very far away from them. You have a group who is willing to come forward and for no money to the City, take over that site, give culturally appropriate programming to all the kids in the neighbourhood, not just limited to the Aboriginal kids, but to all kids in the area. You have one group in Glenelm where

the average income is $37,000. You have the Chalmers, which is across the street and the Kelvin Community Club now could be the East End Aboriginal Resource Centre its right between those two communities, their income is $24,000, most of whom in both sides own their own homes and are working hard to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Smith moves extension of two minutes.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Thomas: Thank you. They don't have cottages to take their kids to. They have very little disposable income to provide programming. They can't afford $600 dollars plus for, to register for soccer or even more to register for hockey. They need a site where kids can go and drop-in, work on crafts, have their movie night, work on developing in some cases because there's also a high immigrant population in the area, English as a Second Language program that was operating out of there, the Chess club. All those things that would be available plus more, culturally appropriate crafting, Aboriginal dancing, all sorts of things that would be available to those kids that they don't have them in Bronx Park.

And by the way, there had been a commitment made for over the hundred volunteers in 12 programs, to find alternative spaces for the programming, not one space has been found for the Wrestling club. Not one space has been found for the Chess club. They need a place to operate the programs in the area close to the kids. It's not going to cost you any money. Please do it. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor. Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just rise in support of Councillor Thomas' initiative. It, I never, we have had this issue here many times. We've debated it. It's never made sense to me, never made sense to me then why it was being closed. It still makes no sense to me now why we would tear it down and not even explore this initiative. I'm surprised the Property Committee wouldn't at least explore the initiative further when $100,000 dollars of operating money, if that was in front of me, I'd be looking at it a little more seriously.

I just don't understand why this is being ignored. I don't understand why these community people who are struggling to deal with very, very difficult issues, very challenging situation in their neighbourhood and are trying to do something and we just keep stomping on them. I don't understand why we can't listen and why we can't find a way on the size and the scale of things we do in the City, its part of what we're trying to do.

You know we're hearing about an Aboriginal youth strategy. Why in one of the most hardest hit, lowest income areas of the City we would just be so hard on, so harsh on these people. I don't understand. I heard them come here. They had a board and we said no you don't have a board, we don't recognize it. I just don't understand any of this that has gone on and usually I am able to make sense of what goes on here, at least most of the time, but in this case it still makes no sense.

So, I urge Council to reconsider this. Once you tear the building down it's gone. So it really, you know, then you can sell the land and its over. I guess you could make this go away but the problems are not going to go away if we ignore them. And here we have citizens, we have community groups willing to help us and I don't understand why we aren't taking them up on it. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Smith.

Councillor Smith: I rise to support the clause. You know it doesn't make any sense whatsoever. You're destroying a building. There is no cost involved. I mean wake up! You know, the kids in that neighbourhood obviously need activities, recreational activities. You know, it's not going to cost the City a cent.

You know it reminds me you know, I persuaded the Provincial government to go ahead and sell a double lot on

Sherburn to the City for a dollar. You know, it was a difficult time to get the City to agree to pay the dollar because they didn't want to cut the grass. It's that type of reasoning that we have here with the Kelvin Community Club.

You know, look it, just regardless of who is saying what today, think of the need in that neighbourhood and support this clause. You know, there is no argument on your side to oppose this clause.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I think it's telling that this is, that almost one year since the original debate, it was January the 24th, 2007, we had the great debate in this chamber regarding Kelvin at that time. And I'm hearing a lot of the same issues again which I find disappointing because I think with one year having passed there was more than enough time to do something Mr. Speaker, instead of waiting for a clause to come forward to a Property Committee calling for the demolition of a building which was decided on January the 24th, 2007 by this Council.

Mr. Speaker, at that meeting and I went back into the Hansard and had a look at a lot of the different comments that were made at the time. But at that meeting Mr. Speaker, residents came forward as you recall and they spoke about what they would like to do and the desire they had to keep the centre alive and keep it going.

Based on the GCWCC's recommendations Mr. Speaker they felt it was crucial that based on the resources that they needed for northeast Winnipeg and the Bronx Community Club expansion that they needed to shut down Kelvin because of the lack of interest in the community over the long run. And that Mr. Speaker, I don't know, it sounds like to me it has not changed.

I can tell you Mr. Speaker that we made the decision on January the 24th, 2007 and at the time we said very clearly the fields are staying. If you recall right Mr. Speaker, there is two baseball diamonds there, they're staying. There's a soccer field there, they're staying. There is a playground, it's been rebuilt. Thanks to a lot of efforts, thanks to Councillor Thomas. So Mr. Speaker, the efforts have been made in many ways.

And then one of the issues that came up was the state of the existing building and how it has been run down into the ground over many years and over many years Mr. Speaker, many years. And the fact that really it's dilapidated and also the field house is also dilapidated. The field house is 1,266 square feet. It has to be removed. The GCWCC supports rebuilding a new field house.

And at that meeting Mr. Speaker, the Mayor extended an offer to the community saying you know nothing is never over if the community wanted to get going and wanted to fundraise and make something happen we can rebuild that community, the GCWCC supports rebuilding the field house. Let me tell you something Mr. Speaker, 1,200, 1,300 square feet that's bigger than most houses that people in the City live in including myself you know. And I can tell you Mr. Speaker that that makes a difference.

If we had gone let's say right after that meeting and the community said right let's get going, let's make something happen, today we would not be discussing this. Today we'd be maybe going to tender and rebuilding a field house. And a field house Mr. Speaker depending on how you design it could be a wonderful, a wonderful venue for programming, a wonderful site for programming. The residents at the time Mr. Speaker and I recall it very well said they were not opposed to it being a satellite office or satellite community club of Bronx Park; very clear on that, extremely clear. They weren't opposed to that.

Shortly after I want to tell you Mr. Speaker, I made the point of going out of my way and contacting the leaders or the leader of the resident committee because I listened to him when he came to Council and I felt very sympathetic to a lot of the things that he had to say and you know I felt his concerns were genuine. And at

that time I offered, I said look you guys need to do a business plan. You need to pull together some fundraising committee. You need to make this happen.

Guess what I have per capita grant funding. Even though this is not my ward I'm prepared to come to the table with not just a minor amount, but a significant amount toward per capita grant funding to help you out if you need to get the resources to make this happen. And I made a point of telling the ward Councillor that I was, that I had done this as well, because I didn't what to, you know say that I'm meddling in somebody else's ward, no but I want to help. I've heard nothing since then Mr. Speaker and that was last February or March, it was shortly after the January meeting and then all of a sudden this appears.

Mr. Speaker I believe there is an opportunity here. A field house has to be rebuilt. If the Metis Federation is sincere and I believe they are, that they want to contribute, that's wonderful. If they want to come in as partners Mr. Speaker, in helping rebuild the field house I think that offer still stands. We need the resources to do it anyway. And there might be an opportunity for the East End Aboriginal Centre.

But to come and regurgitate the same debate over again for a building that's falling apart that we know will cost way more than $100,000 dollars, and I beg to differ where I heed them saying this is not going to cost the City anything. Where is the business plan that these Councillors are quoting from? Where are they quoting from a business plan from this new proposal? I haven't seen any business plan saying that there is not going to be one dollar to the City, costs to the City. We know it's going to cost a lot more to rebuild that building then $100,000 dollars Mr. Speaker. We know that for sure. It's $100,000 dollars just to demolish the darn thing, never mind rebuild it.

So Mr. Speaker, there is no business plan in front of us. We have no proposal, concrete proposal that I've seen come forward to all this Council saying this is what its going to cost, this is how we're going to take it off your hands, this is how its going to work. We do have an offer that's been outstanding for a year now to rebuild the field house. Nothing has happened. And rather than just reacting because a report has come forward of Property and Development and that's what really sears me here Mr. Speaker is that it's just reactionary politics, old time politics. Why aren't we being proactive?

If the community is proactive, the Council, if the MLAs are proactive, we had a MLA who ran a big advertising campaign. Well where is their money at the table here Mr. Speaker? You talked about MLAs earlier, where is their money at the table to help rebuild the field house? What's happened in the last year? It's almost like you know it was great headlines for the MLA who was grandstanding and running his advertising across it. What has happened? What have they done, in a year, one year Mr. Speaker?

So now we have a clause come forward because this is basically the administration doing housekeeping to look after this matter and we have, and now it's the reaction. This proposal could have come forward a long time ago and the issue with regard to the field it's almost like it dropped off the map and yet it has to be rebuilt because those fields are staying. And it has an opportunity Mr. Speaker to be used for programming as well.

And the Mayor, his comments are right in Hansard, he said you know what if the community comes forward I'm definitely open into looking at it because it makes sense. We have to rebuild and GCWCC says we have to rebuild this field house. It's there for the record if anybody wants to see in Hansard.

So Mr. Speaker we've gone by a year, we've got nothing done because I haven't seen any initiatives in that year other than the reactions that are coming forward now. And that's disappointing. I would hope that if there was a sincere effort to renew that field house we could get underway and do it, a sincere effort to renew those fields and to make them part of a satellite of Bronx Park, that's

happening already but the community definitely can be involved.

And that offer has been there. I've personally extended it and said that I'm prepared to help out with funding through my ward, per capita, and in any other ways I can by the people that I know that I've been involved with in the private sector, in the public sector, who have also worked on recreation in my end of town. I'm prepared to assist but the end of the line is silent Mr. Speaker. So thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: No further speakers? Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Sorry Mr. Speaker. I rise to just hopefully bring a little bit of clarity to this issue. I agree strongly with most of what Councillor Wyatt has said. You know we've been working on this for a number of, for a long time, you know. And the term reactionary was used by Councillor Wyatt but it seems like every time something to do with this piece comes to an agenda and its going to come before Council, then we have a reaction and out of the blue you know, some new means to try and address this issue.

You know, we need proaction. What we need is in that neighbourhood if there is this need to serve all of these many pieces of the community that are out there, then somebody, a leader in that community who will sit down, bring the pieces together, develop some business plans, look at where resources are, how they can be addressed.

You know regardless of where EEARC is located, I have a strong sense that their programming is not going to be done all in one facility. Regardless of where they are located not every individual is going to be in close proximity to that location, every individual of Aboriginal ancestry. Many will be closer to the Bronx Community Centre. Many may be closer to a school just down the road that has a much better amenity for programming to offer than this site.

You know, I've heard terms like "I don't understand" or "wake up", you know, "what are we doing here". Well, how about terms like you know, like "take off the rose coloured glasses". You know we have a responsibility here to look, to weigh and to deliver for the people in all parts of this City and we set out on a path to do this. You know, proceeding, you know getting off our path right now at this time would just be inappropriate. It's not an appropriate option at this time.

You know I look forward to and I was encouraged to hear Mr. Chartrand speak and talk about financial resources coming from the Manitoba Metis Federation to provide for programming in the City and especially in the inner city. That certainly is something that I look forward to working closely with MMF in the future, how we can assist and how we can leverage that funding and other funding to create much better amenities in our communities.

You know, and if the issue is one of transportation, the proximity to facilities in order to get people into programs, perhaps you know the Councillor for the area could take something out of the book of former Councillor Al Golden who established the, what did he call it, the Golden Retriever Seniors bus. You know, you can knock it, you can laugh at it, you know but at the end of the day, he moved a lot of people around to get to places where they needed to get to. Not just for recreation and to look after their health and wellness but you know to go shopping and you know it was done and he was a sitting City Councillor. It might be a bit quirky but it was innovative. It was thinking outside of the box and he actually got the people to the places they needed to get to.

So the solution to many of the issues that Councillor Thomas raises is not just one of this building. You know we always like to attach some bricks and mortar somewhere to talk about our issues. Our issue here is one of enhancing programming for all people in the City of Winnipeg and especially in areas where there is a great need to provide quality programming as an alternative to some of the other pieces that exist, you know, some of the other attractions for young

people that aren't positive in any way shape or form in those neighbourhoods.

So I look forward, you know in working closely with organizations like the MMF and EEARC and how we can facilitate. You know the question shouldn't be should we be in this building? You know the question should be to Council is how can you help us accommodate our objectives? And you know my strong sense looking around this table is each and everyone of us wants to help these organizations achieve their objectives, to get as much as we can delivered in these communities to provide a positive alternative to some of the negatives that are put in front of the young people in these communities on a day by day basis. And I look forward to doing this.

I won't be supporting the Motion. I think its ill-thought. It's not, it doesn't have the depth that would be required at this time. I see it as being extremely harmful to our project that we have ongoing at the Bronx Community Centre and I encourage all my colleagues to stand with me, support some well thought out programming and resource initiatives that we can continue to work closely with not just the Aboriginal community but all those in need of positive recreation programming and the amenities required to deliver on them throughout our City.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you Councillor Swandel. Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Thank you Mr. Speaker. It's deja vu all over again. Or deja voodoo in this case. The solution to this issue is quite simple. We should just treat Elmwood the way we treat St. Vital. In St. Vital the Norberry Community Centre and the Glenlee Community Centre have agreed to amalgamate. Norberry will be expanded and I believe they're going to tender or they're going, they're beginning the process now, and upon completion of the Norberry project, Glenlee will close.

In the Elmwood situation, Bronx Park and Kelvin will be amalgamated, albeit there wasn't an agreement there, but they will be. Bronx Park is going to tender I believe this month. It's going to take two years to complete. But until the completion let's keep Kelvin open. I proposed that a year ago. It got shot down a year ago. The solution is very, very simple. Treat Elmwood the way you treat St. Vital.

In the interim, Councillor Thomas has managed to talk to the Manitoba Metis Federation, the East End Aboriginal organization and they have plans and they have money to use the existing Kelvin Community Centre for programming. Is that going to succeed? It's really too early to tell but let's give them a year. They have their own money. Its' going to be cost neutral to the City and we give them a year and we evaluate what they've done after one year. If they've done good work we give them another year. And with Councillor Thomas' leadership, she will be able to find other funds to keep this programming going.

After the second year we evaluate it again. It could be this thing is not going to work for a whole bunch of reasons; it could be it's going to be a great project but give them an opportunity. And the solution is crystal clear. Treat Elmwood the way you treat St. Vital and we could solve this. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: No further speakers? Councillor Thomas will you close debate.

Councillor Thomas: Thank you very much. I think it's very ironic when I look at Executive Policy Committee Kildonan Park Urban Oasis. We've taken money out of a planned project and thrown $7 million dollars at the private sector to build, I don't know what it's going to look like and I don't know where it's going to be, but with all the plans that this community has come forward, I'm being chastised because it's not detailed, that there is not a huge list of things that are going to happen. And I have not been even given the opportunity to develop that list.

As I said, when Kelvin Community Centre closed that's when East End Aboriginal Resource Centre thought that it was an opportunity for them to move in there. It's

not the only closed community centre that has been turned into a resource centre. This is not a precedent. So, they put a proposal, nobody talks to them. That's not my fault that six months has gone by and nobody has talked to them.

Now, where is the detailed proposal? Just in talking to the Manitoba Metis Federation about my frustration, yes of course, when I was asked they said oh, well if part of the problem happens to be the money, we'll come up with money. Wow! So here we have a group, here we have the money.

While before I could even get a chance to get the two groups together I find out in the first day back from our Christmas vacation that it's on there knock down the building. I am very suspicious. I asked about a letter that has been sent six months ago. I asked questions about it in November, the next thing I come back and it's being proposed to be knocked down. I'm very suspicious about those coincidences of timing.

This is proactive. This is utilizing resources. And every time I turn around this community is being stomped on. A community that has limited resources but has gone out there and have proven that they have the expertise. Have proven that they have the money, Manitoba Metis Federation was willing to come forward here today and talk about their $100,000 dollars. I've told you that's not the only group that has been approached by the East End Cultural and Leisure Centre for funding.

And what has happened to the $1.7 million dollars for Aboriginal funding? I haven't heard anybody come forward and say that any of this money is going to be used to help out the East End Aboriginal Resource Centre. Nobody has even volunteered that. This community has done it all by themselves and they are not being given the opportunity to show what they can do.

I'm very disappointed in some of the comments that have been made. I'm very disappointed that this community is not given an opportunity to show what they can do. That's all I have to say.

Mr. Speaker: Councillors I believe a recorded vote will be called for. Councillor Gerbasi does so.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

Councillors Gerbasi, Smith, Thomas and Vandal.

Nays

His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Leipsic, Nordman, O'Shaughnessy, Pagtakhan, Swandel, Wyatt and Mr. Speaker Councillor Lazarenko.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 4, Nays 11.

Mr. Speaker: The Motion Lost.

Councillors, we have, it's going on to 12:00 noon. Do you want to go right through? It's in favour? Members of Council are you in favour of continuing right through to the end?

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Okay Consideration of By-laws. Councillor Swandel.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I will move that the following By-laws be read a first time, By-law No. 2/2008, By-law No. 3/2008, By-law No. 4/2008, By-law No. 5/2008, By-law No. 6/2008.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 2/2008, By-law No. 3/2008, By-law No. 4/2008, By-law No. 5/2008 and By-law No. 6/2008.

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Speaker I'll move that By-laws No. 2/2008 to 6/2008, both inclusive, be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws No. 2/2008 to 6/2008.

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Speaker I will move that the rules be suspended and By-laws No. 2/2008 to 6/2008, both inclusive, be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Question Period. None. Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services. Councillor Steeves, Councillor Swandel are you reading the? Okay. Councillor Swandel.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DATED JANUARY 11, 2008

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Speaker I'm pleased in Councillor Steeve's absence on his behalf to introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items 1 and 2.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Motions. None. By-laws.

Councillor Swandel: No questions?

Mr. Speaker: No after. There's two motions. Motion 2.

STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES MOTIONS

Motion No. 2
Moved by Councillor Fielding
Seconded by Mayor Katz

WHEREAS crime in the City of Winnipeg remains a major issue for our citizens;

AND WHEREAS deploying additional police officers on our streets since 2004 has helped, but serious crime continues to be a major concern;

AND WHEREAS public opinion polls have shown that over 50% of Winnipeggers have recently identified crime as the most important issue facing the City

AND WHEREAS crime cameras (video surveillance cameras) have helped to augment crime reduction strategies and have been successful in reducing crime and assisting in making hundreds of arrests in the U.K. and cities throughout the US;

AND WHEREAS crime cameras are a tool used by police to identify crimes and arrest criminals, and crime cameras also work as a deterrent and make high risk communities safer;

AND WHEREAS in December, the use of video surveillance helped to capture an individual accused of sexually assaulting a 13 year old girl in downtown Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS corporate sponsorship has been used by other cities to help fund crime camera programs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Winnipeg Police Service be directed to investigate the feasibility of developing a pilot project utilizing monitored crime cameras in high crime areas in the City, which pilot project should include:

(i) partnerships with community groups and businesses to link existing video surveillance systems together in the City of Winnipeg;
(ii) corporate sponsorship to help fund the program; and
(iii) an implementation plan with timeframes;

and report back to Council on April 23rd, 2008 through the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services, with its recommendations.

Mr. Speaker: And on Motion 2, automatic referral.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Okay now the By-laws, Councillor Swandel on behalf of Councillor Steeves.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS**

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I will move that By-law No. 7/2008 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 7/2008.

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Speaker I will move that By-law No. 7/2008 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 7/2008.

Councillor Swandel: Mr. Speaker it excites me greatly on behalf of Councillor Steeves to move that the rules be suspended and that By-law No. 7/2008 be read a third time, and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steeves I know your watching and you see the good job your colleague did.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Question Period. Question Period none. Standing Policy Committee Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works report of January 8th of 2008. Councillor Clement.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS DATED JANUARY 8, 2008

Councillor Clement: Thank you Mr. Speaker I'm pleased to introduce the report of January the 8th and I'll move Clauses 1 to 3 as Consent.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Councillor Clement: By-laws.

Mr. Speaker: By-laws. Motions, there is none. By-laws Councillor Clement.

**STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS**

Councillor Clement: I'll move that By-law No. 7070/97 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour?

Councillor Clement: Actually it's No. 8/2008 I guess.

Mr. Speaker: No. 8/2008.

Councillor Clement: Yeah 8/2008.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 8/2008.

Councillor Clement: I move By-law No. 8/2008 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 8/2008.

Councillor Clement: I'll move that the rule be suspended and that By-law No. 8/2008 be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

Questions? None. Who moves adjournment?

Councillor O'Shaughnessy moves adjournment.

All in favour? Contrary? Carried.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Mr. Speaker Councillor Lazarenko, His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Clement, Fielding, Gerbasi, Leipsic, Nordman, O'Shaughnessy, Pagtakhan, Smith, Swandel, Thomas and Wyatt.

Council adjourned at 12:02 p.m.