STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 686
Councillor Gerbasi questioned if there was going to be some work on updating or refreshing CentrePlan to which Councillor Wyatt replied that an update would either take place at the next meeting or the following meeting.

Councillor Gerbasi requested some information about a downtown housing plan that would be a significant piece of the downtown strategy to which Councillor Wyatt replied that the administration was working on a strategy that would hopefully be available either at the end of this year or early in the new year.

Councillor Swandel noted the number of incidents in the downtown mostly around drinking establishments. He questioned if anyone had been in contact the Manitoba Liquor Control Commission regarding the policing from a liquor licensing perspective to ensure that the businesses are being held to the appropriate standard, and that all was being done to ensure the safety of citizens visiting these establishments in the downtown to which Councillor Wyatt replied in the affirmative.

Councillor Swandel asked if the Downtown Zoning By-law provided any opportunity either in its current form or through amendments to the Zoning By-law, to hold these establishments to a standard of security that would ensure safety in the downtown to which Councillor Wyatt replied that he would take the question under advisement.

Councillor Vandal requested an update on the Ryan Building on King Street.

Councillor Wyatt advised that Crozier Kilgour had been hired by the City to undertake engineering studies on the building and that it was expected the contract would be awarded to them to perform work to secure the building.

Councillor Vandal advised that his information suggested that the City was prepared to spend upwards of $1 million dollars to do the restoration to which Councillor Wyatt replied that it could be as low as $800,000 or as high as a million dollars.

Councillor Vandal noted that it was a significant sum of money not likely to be recouped and questioned if consideration was given to closing the gap of what he understood was a viable redevelopment option for the block rather than spend a million dollars on an empty vacant building to which Councillor Wyatt advised that the cost of the expense would be recouped by applying it to the property owner's tax bill.

Councillor Vandal requested an update on the Metropolitan Theatre to which Councillor Wyatt replied that he would take the question under advisement.