Minute No. 352
Report - Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development - March 25, 2008

Item No. 2 Spence Neighbourhood Association Inc. - Land Dedication Reserve File EP-2

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and adopted the following:

1. That the City of Winnipeg's acquisition of 433 Furby Street be approved.

2. That funding to assist with the cost of the City of Winnipeg's acquisition of 433 Furby Street to expand the Spence Neighbourhood "Kids Garden", in the amount of $20,000.00 be allocated from the City Centre Land Dedication Reserve.

3. That the Winnipeg Public Service be requested to enter into a management and maintenance agreement with the Spence Neighbourhood Association Inc. for the subject property.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Swandel,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 9, 2008, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and the City Centre Community Committee and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 25, 2008, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development concurred in the recommendation of the City Centre Community Committee, with the following amendments, namely;

- Add the following Recommendation 1. and renumber the remaining recommendation accordingly:

    1. That the City of Winnipeg's acquisition of 433 Furby Street be approved.

- Add the following Recommendation:

    3. That the Winnipeg Public Service be requested to enter into a management and maintenance agreement with the Spence Neighbourhood Association Inc. for the subject property.

and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued)

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 26, 2008, the City Centre Community Committee recommends to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development:

1. That funding to assist with the cost of the acquisition of 433 Furby Street to expand the Spence Neighbourhood "Kids Garden", in the amount of $20,000.00 be allocated from the City Centre Land Dedication Reserve.

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

Spence Neighbourhood Association Inc.

430 LANGSIDE STREET. WINNIPEG, MANITOBA R3B 2T5 (204) 783-5000 FAX: (204) 986-7092

Feb. 5th 2008

To: Councillor Harvey Smith,

Re: Acquisition of 433 Furby Street for consolidation with city owned, 435-37 Furby Street to expand the Spence Neighbourhood "Kids Garden" adjacent to Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre (MERC).

As you know, the Spence Neighbourhood Association Image Committee continues to support community development and particularly the improvement of parks and green spaces in the inner city. We strive to help the residents of Spence to feel pride in their neighbourhood by maintaining the green spaces, boulevards, and community gardens. We see the members of the Spence Neighbourhood helping to reflect a more positive perception among the community at large through this work.

The SNA 5-Year Green Plan, which was endorsed by the City Centre Community Committee September 6, 2005, supports the above by working in tandem with the City of Winnipeg to implement and further build on projects including the "Kids Garden", located at 435-437 Furby. Implemented in 2002, the Kids Garden has become one of the most important green spaces in the community to preserve. With the recent fire and demolition of the house adjacent to the gardens at 433 Furby we are requesting that the City purchase the lot to enable the Spence Neighbourhood Association to partner with the City to expand the "Kids Garden" by formally designating the land park space and entering into a management and maintenance agreement with the SNA to develop the site and maintain our youth programs on the lots. The expansion of the "Kids Garden" has been supported by city staff at MERC and the Urban Design Branch, the residents of the area and the SNA Board. Over the past several years our committee have increased the involvement of youth in the garden by hosting youth programming through the SNA's Building Belonging Program, the Urban Green Kids program, the UofW Eco-Kids Program and others. The proposed expansion of open green space at this site would mean better opportunities for working with youth to learn about their environment, their health through growing fresh food, to better life choices through connections to positive members of the community and by decreasing their chances of involvement in the gangs by further engaging them in alternatives and programming.

The landscaping and development of this site has been ongoing since 2002 and due to the recent demolition of the house at 433 close to $5,000.00 worth of damage has been sustained which includes: destruction of curbing, limestone pathways, commercial grade chain link fencing, soil, sod, and levelling of the site. We are hoping that a new site plan for a future larger green space would include changing the location of the fencing and there fore allowing us to work with the unfortunate changes rather than fight against them.

Please call for me for any more information or documentation as needed-thank you for your time considering this request and for your continued support of the Spence neighbourhood.

Kathryn MacKenzie
Image/Greening Coordinator
Spence Neighbourhood Association
615 Ellice Ave.
#783-2834
greenimage@spenceneighbourhood.org

The Spence Neighbourhood Association is a non profit organization working to improve the Spence community for those who live, work, and visit here.