Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – May 12, 2010

REPORTS

Minute No. 281 Mayor's Environmental Advisory Committee – Fourth Quarter Report 2009 eFile E

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee received as information the Fourth Quarter Report 2009 from the Mayor's Environmental Advisory Committee.

Further, the Executive Policy Committee referred the following recommendation of the Mayor's Environmental Advisory Committee to the Winnipeg Public Service for recommendation and report back to the Executive Policy Committee in 90 days, namely:

1. The Winnipeg Public Service explore options and possibilities to encourage the use of environmentally friendly vehicles, including but not limited to:

    (i) incentivized parking for low emissions vehicles and electric vehicles;
    (ii) free parking for PHEVs and EVs;
    (iii) the City and Province exploring amendments to The Highway Traffic Act, which would allow parking of vehicles perpendicular to the curb."

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

The Chairperson called Deputy Mayor Swandel to the Chair in order to move the following motion.

Moved by Mayor Katz,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg is taking a leading role to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the city through the September 30, 2009 Council adoption of corporate and community-wide Climate Change Action Plans;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Manitoba provides tax incentives to all Manitobans to purchase low emission vehicles;

AND WHEREAS on July 9, 2009, the City of Vancouver approved the *Electric Vehicle Charging* report that requires 20% of parking stalls in new multi-unit residential buildings to be installed for charging electric vehicles ("EVs");

AND WHEREAS the Calgary Parking Authority offers a 25% discount on short-stay, on-street parking for small vehicles 3.8 meters or less in length (Mini Cooper, Smart Car, etc.);

AND WHEREAS the City of Kelowna offers a one year eco-pass for free on-street parking in downtown for fuel-efficient hybrid vehicles;

AND WHEREAS the Greater London Authority's Electric Vehicle Delivery Plan in Britain aims to integrate plug-in hydro electric vehicles ("PHEVS") and EVs into their local transportation system to achieve 100,000 electric vehicles on the city's streets, 25,000 charging spaces in London's workplaces, retail outlets, public car parks, and at least 1,000 Greater London Authority fleet electric vehicles by 2015;

AND WHEREAS the City of Portland offers a $15.00 monthly discount to hybrid vehicle owners under the "Drive Green Save Green" program;

AND WHEREAS the Mayor's Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) has recommended that "the Winnipeg Public Service explores options and possibilities to encourage the use of environmentally friendly vehicles, including but not limited to:

(i) incentivized parking for low emissions vehicles and electric vehicles;
(ii) free parking for PHEVs and EVs;
(iii) the City and Province exploring amendments to The Highway Traffic Act, which would allow parking of vehicles perpendicular to the curb."

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the recommendation of the Mayor's Environmental Advisory Committee be referred to the Winnipeg Public Service for recommendation and report back to the Executive Policy Committee in 90 days.

Carried

The Mayor resumed the Chair.

The Mayor's Environmental Advisory Committee submitted its Fourth Quarter Report 2009.

MAYOR'S ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FOURTH QUARTER REPORT 2009

The Mayors' Environmental Advisory Committee is pleased to submit a summary of its activities for the fourth quarter (October 1st – December 31st) of 2009:

GOVERNANCE AND MEETINGS

MEAC held two regular meetings on October 23, 2009 and November 27, 2009, and a full day strategic planning session on October 17, 2009, which was the second segment of a 1.5 -day planning event.

DELEGATIONS HEARD

At its October 27th meeting, MEAC heard a presentation from David Hill, COO of the Winnipeg Parking Authority, regarding the role, services and future initiatives of the WPA; as well as a discussion regarding the potential for parking incentives to encourage hybrid and electric car use in Winnipeg.

Also at its October 27th meeting, MEAC heard Darryl Drohomerski, Manager of Solid Waste with the Water and Waste Department, who provided a report back on the first "Giveaway Weekend" held September 26th and 27th in Winnipeg. Darryl also addressed a citizen suggestion to provide more recycling depots in Winnipeg.

RECOMMENDATIONS MADE TO THE MAYOR

Following is a summary of the recommendations made by MEAC to the Mayor during the third quarter of 2009:

1 Environmentally Friendly Car Policy for Downtown Parking

David Hill, COO of the Winnipeg Parking Authority attended the October 27th MEAC meeting to discuss the concept of parking incentives for hybrid and electric vehicles.

RECOMMENDATION: "*That MEAC recommend to the Mayor that the Winnipeg Public Service explore options and possibilities to encourage the use of environmentally friendly vehicles, including but not limited to:*

1. *Incentivized parking for low emissions vehicles and electric vehicles;*
2. *Free parking for plug-in hydro-electric vehicles and electric vehicles*
3. *The City and Province exploring amendments to the Highway traffic Act, which would allow parking of vehicles perpendicular to the curb".*

CITIZEN SUGGESTIONS

MEAC considered the following citizen suggestions:

- A proposal and presentation by Mr. Don Woodstock recommending the establishment of a prestigious award for environmental contributions. This suggestion has been incorporated into the MEAC strategic planning exercise.

- A suggestion from Mr. James Cohen, of Gendis Inc. to implement an incentive (such as rebates for green actions) to encourage businesses to engage on environmentally friendly behaviours such as recycling, greening of fleets and so on. This suggestion was incorporated into the MEAC strategic planning process.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

Community-wide Green House Gas Reduction Strategy

On September 30, 2009. Council approved the creation of a Community-wide Climate Change Action Plan for Winnipeg. MEAC will act as the Steering Committee for the Community-wide Climate Change Action Plan, along with representatives from other sectors. The Action Plan will be created through a process involving community partners and organizations as well as citizens through a community engagement process. The draft Community-wide Climate Change Action Plan will be submitted in August 2010.

In its role as Steering Committee, MEAC has provided guidance, input and advice regarding the approach for promotion of the initiative and on stakeholder involvement for the development of the community-wide project inventory. The creation of the Action Plan will be a standing item on the MEAC agenda for 2010.

Our Winnipeg Initiative

At the November 23rd meeting, MEAC members received the draft *Call to Action for Our Winnipeg*, and the survey instrument utilized at the Open Houses, and were invited to provide feedback using the survey tool, through the *Our Winnipeg* website or through one of the eight Open Houses held in November 2009.

PLANS FOR 2009 AND BEYOND

1 Strategic Planning Session

On September 22nd and October 17th MEAC met for a Strategic Planning Session. During the session, MEAC members learned about the City of Winnipeg's political and administrative structure, current and capital budget processes, services, current issues and challenges. MEAC also spent time clarifying their role. MEAC engaged the capable facilitation services of Sheldon MacLeod, and through the course of the

1.5 day session, MEAC identified 7 key priorities – some short, some medium and some long –term - that they would like to support and advance in conjunction with the *Our Winnipeg* Initiative and other processes:

- ***A "Green Club" recognition/ rewards program for sustainable activities by citizens and businesses***
- ***A passive solar demonstration project***
- ***An education program around the environment and sustainability***
- ***A regional approach to transit***
- ***A carpool program for Winnipeg***
- ***A policy for active transportation amenities in all City infrastructure projects***
- ***A ban on the sale of phosphorus***

2 Our Winnipeg *Direction Papers*

During the first quarter of 2010, MEAC will be involved in the review of the four Direction Papers that constitute the next deliverable for the* Our Winnipeg *Initiative. Winnipeg's new municipal development plan,* Our Winnipeg*, will be completed by the end of April 2010.

HISTORY

Section 4.1 of the Terms of Reference for the Mayor's Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC) states that *"MEAC shall provide advice and informal reports to the Mayor as requested and shall report formally to the Mayor with recommendations on a quarterly basis. Recommendations provided by MEAC will flow through the Mayor to City Council and / or the City's Public Service, as required."*

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY

Jeffrey Hartry
MEAC Co-chairs on behalf of MEAC members:

Miriam Cohen-Krajden
Amanda Dunnigan
Dr. Michael Mehta
George Toth
Kelsey McCuspey

Councillor Russ Wyatt

William Dowie
Dr. Arne Elias
Anders Swanson
Stephanie White- Willitts
Neil Cunningham (ex-officio – Province of Manitoba)