Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – October 26, 2011

REPORTS

Item No. 1 Old Market Square

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 4, 2011, the Access Advisory Committee passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Manitoba League of Persons with Disabilities (MLPD) has advised the Access Advisory Committee of their concerns regarding the Old Market Square project relating to the ramps, the seating wall, the steps, the grassy area; the contracts with those organizations utilizing the space for their events and the future work that is needed to make this an inclusive and accessible City square;

AND WHEREAS the Access Advisory Committee heard the concerns as they related to accessibility which included:

- *Ramp Access to the square from the North east side – Although completed in Phase 2 it has been continually covered by electrical wiring, snow fencing for beer gardens, and sound equipment.*
- *Ramp Access to the square from the North west side – Although completed in Phase 2 the slope is too steep for a sidewalk, and allowable to be ramp, and handrails will be required.*
- *Handrails on the stairs – not completed*
- *Grass area is often muddy and not wheel able - Options for hard surfacing should be considered.*
- *Seating walls have poor edging identification and becomes difficult for Visually Impaired persons.*
- *South end steps require handrails, and maintenance to avoid trip hazards identified.*

AND WHEREAS the Access Advisory Committee has learned that the project has now run out of funds and that there are no immediate plans to complete;

AND WHEREAS it was reported that the Old Market Square project was initiated in January 2006 through a Revitalization Study and Master Plan Implementation Strategy;

AND WHEREAS accessibility was one of the main recommendations in the Revitalization Study and Master Plan Implementation Strategy;

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS the Access Advisory Committee felt that the MLPD had some very legitimate concerns;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Access Advisory Committee recommend to the Executive Policy Committee:

1. *That the Old Market Square project should receive additional capital funding to complete the accessibility deficiencies;*

2. *That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to provide for provisions/rules within the contracts/lease agreements with the Exchange District BIZ to ensure that inaccessible situations on-site are not allowed to occur;*

3. *That the Access Advisory Committee be part of the consultation process before the work to complete the accessibility deficiencies is undertaken and finalized;*

4. *That the City of Winnipeg Legal Services Department should be consulted for advice in regards to liability during special events run by outside organizations.*