COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
Wednesday, May 25, 2011

The Council met at 9:32 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 Swandel.

ROLL CALL

Clerk: Mr. Speaker Councillor Nordman, His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Eadie, Fielding, Gerbasi, Havixbeck, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Sharma, Smith, Steen, Steeves, Swandel, Vandal and Wyatt.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME OF GUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Today we're joined by our Page, Madison Fedyck from Glenlawn Collegiate who resides in the North Kildonan Ward. And in Saturday's paper, it was noted that Madison celebrated her birthday last week so happy 16th birthday, Madison. (Applause)

We also are joined today by a special group, and I invite Councillor Havixbeck right now to introduce them and have a few words.

Councillor Havixbeck: Yes, good morning, thank you. I'm very pleased to welcome the Grade 4 class from St. John Brebeuf School, who is here today in the gallery and they are studying government, so welcome to them. (Applause) We have no other guests or announcements, so we will proceed. We would invite Councillor Steeves to move the minutes of the April 27th meeting.

MINUTES

Councillor Steeves moves that the Minutes of the meeting held on April 27th be taken as read and confirmed.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

DELEGATIONS

Mr. Speaker: Delegations. Mr. Murray Gibson on behalf of the Manitoba Tobacco Reduction Alliance and John Douglas from the Canadian Cancer Society. Mr. Gibson will have 10 minutes. Mr. Douglas will have 5 minutes. We'll have questions for them at the end of both presentations. Good morning.

Murray Gibson: Good morning, Mr. Mayor, Members of Council. I want to thank you for the opportunity to present on behalf of the Manitoba Tobacco Reduction, and I just have three things I would like to say to you this morning. Number 1 is that the By-law that you are considering regarding outdoor smoking is the right thing to do. I would just encourage you to realize that there should be no hesitation but more than that, you're supported in this action. You have previously heard from the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority both by letter and in the person of Dr. Harlos who is here this morning, and we wholeheartedly support their contribution to the process and the amendments that have resulted. You will also be hearing from the Canadian Cancer Society in just a few moments, and they have also been a very strong advocate for smoke free spaces in facilities. How much support is there for this By-law? To help you answer that question, I have solicited responses from a number of partners and as Slaw Rebchuk was once said, let's get that in black and writing. So in the portfolios that you will have received this morning from a number of organizations. You will hear from people such as Dr. Dhaliwal from Cancer Care Manitoba; Doctors Manitoba, through their Public Health Issues Committee, the Manitoba Dental Association, the Lung Association, the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba, the Alliance for the Prevention of Chronic Disease, and Sport Manitoba, and as you recognize this By-law began the Winnipeg Soccer Association and Rick Lambert who is a member of, a board member of Mantra also sat on a Committee that we had established over a year ago to work on tobacco-free sports. There are also individuals who wrote letters of support or sent emails and I would like to just highlight a couple of those individuals. One was Roger Tam, who's a pharmacist. He has worked with us over the last couple of years and has been a strong support in terms of assisting hundreds of individuals to help them with their smoking cessation, and he also affirms the Report of Smoke-free Sport and Recreation Fields and Facilities. And then there's Reesea Simmons, she's a third year medical student who also has the honour of being Manitoba's top ranked female marathoner and as part of her training she literally runs from one part of the city to the other and she speaks of her

personal encounter with secondhand smoke and its impact on her as an athlete . And finally, I've presented a number of individual e-mails that come largely from members of the Manitoba Fitness Council. Professionally many are fitness experts, instructors, therapists but even more importantly they are parents, and are concerned about their children. Their comments range from something as simple as "go for it"; to "would like this ban to include rural playing fields as well". Second thing I would like to say is thank you. All of these letters are not just about urging you to pass a By-law. There are also words of appreciation and thank you. I would like to personally and collectively say thank you to Chairman Gord Steeves and members of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services. Councillor Steeves, I'd like you to know that at least one of your constituents who listens to what you have said and are saying. And I was most appreciative in one of the earlier encounters with the media that your comments were to remind them that times are changing and that what we're asking for is inevitable. I think we've seen those changes and we know that they are going to continue. Kudos for your insight. Thank you to members of the Committee for seeing that this is about more than just one playing field or one sport. You've looked at the larger picture and quickly moved to expand it for getter benefit. To Mayor Sam Katz for vocalizing your opinions on secondhand smoke at EPC. Sometimes those of us who have given years on this issue just need to know that our leaders do have opinions and aren't afraid to voice them Thank you. To members of City Council, on February 23rd, I had the privilege of speaking to you on this issue along with Dr. Sandy Harlos. It's a credit to this Council that even though the Province was not willing to act, you have allowed this issue to move forward quickly and we're confident that you will demonstrate leadership by passing the By-law and implementing it in time to benefit summer sport, recreation programs. You may ask the question, "What about smokers who speaks for them?" I'll give you one thought. From the last three years of our work, we know that at least 75% of them would like to quit. They also know that supportive environments help them to accomplish that desire. I'm convinced that were they here today, they would also thank you. Finally I have a third thing to say to you and is actually in the form of a request. It is simply this: Please do not close the door on this issue. There sometimes a tendency to say well, we've done our part. For me, it has been 15 years of working with the Canadian Cancer Society and 8 years now with Mantra. If I've learned anything it is that there is always more than can be done. No, I am not asking you to do it all. We're willing to do our part. Let me just tell you about something that's coming up on June 25th. A number of us will be at the Ex on family day. We are hoping to start a new trend of smoke-free family days. The WRHA, Public Health Nurses, Pharmacists, Lung Association, Canadian Cancer Society, Mantra staff will all be there. We'll be giving out free samples to over 2,500 people, samples of the gum and the patch to help them accomplish their desire to quit. Just in case you are wondering now what you might do next, I'll leave you with a challenging thought from one individual who wrote the following, "I completely support the ban on smoking at all playing fields in Winnipeg. I would also like to draw attention to the new Football Stadium as well at this time. This is my emphasis, but her words, "Even in Saskatchewan, they do not permit fans to smoke in the Stadium." and in brackets "would be great to get this on the table now as construction is under way." hum, something to think about. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mr. Gibson. John Douglas, are you with us? Good morning. You have 5 minutes.

Will Cooke: Good morning. I'll actually be speaking for John Douglas, my name is Will Cook and I also work at the Canadian Cancer Society. And I'm actually from Saskatchewan originally and I didn't know we were seen as such a progressive province but thank you Murray for that plug. I'm pleased to be here to speak in favour of this By-law and support a prohibition on smoking at all youth recreational sporting events and activities that take place on City property. We at the Canadian Cancer Society commend the City and particularly the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services for taking this step and bringing this By-law forward. The Canadian Cancer Society has just released its 2011 statistical review. The report shows that lung cancer continues to be the number 1 killer of Manitobans. This year alone, 900 new cases of lung cancer will be diagnosed. 880 Manitobans will lose their battle with this disease. A By-law that protects vulnerable Manitobans from the dangers of secondhand smoke is an important step for this community. We believe that this is a matter of urgency and requires action now before the City's spring soccer season ends. To be clear, in addition to a smoking ban, on play grounds and sports fields the Canadian Cancer Society supports extending smoke free zones to include things like beaches, public events, Provincial Parks. The science is clear on why we need to move in this direction and the societal and health benefits are enormous. Banning smoking at all youth recreational sporting events and activities that take place on City property is a relatively simple thing to do and we know that there is widespread support for this. By putting in place this ban now, the City would be empowering parents and others watching the events as well as those officiating the games to enforce these no smoking bans. Why act now? That is simple. Everyone in this room has been affected by cancer, either directly or through someone we know and love. The single biggest contributor to all of this misery is tobacco. It is estimated that smoking is responsible for 30% of all cancer deaths. It is related to more than 20,000 lung cancer cases in Canada each year. Today you have the opportunity to not only protect the kids on the field, but also the others around them. Every year more than a thousand Canadians who do not smoke die from secondhand cigarette smoke. Secondhand smoke contains more than 50 carcinogens. It is so toxic that the US Surgeon General and the World Health Organization have determined that there is no safe level of exposure.

A study conducted by engineers at Stanford University found that someone smoking outdoors exposes everyone within a few feet around them to the same level of toxic smoke as someone in a smoky bar. Hundreds of cities and towns throughout Canada have taken action to reduce the exposure of children to secondhand smoke. And they have illuminated the opportunity for adults to model a healthy behaviour to young, impressionable children. In Winnipeg, the need for similar ban is great. The smoking rate among Manitoba's youth is significantly above the national average and we know that without reducing youth exposure to tobacco, two things will happen. Young people will continue to use tobacco. The number of cases of cancer associated with smoking will continue to rise. Don't let those opposed to a ban get away with saying things like smoking bans are not enforceable. The reality is a 2006 Minnesota study found that in municipalities with smoke free recreational policies; only 26% reported any enforcement problems. This City took a leadership position when it came to restricting smoking indoors and Winnipeg and Manitoba are a better place because of it. We're now asking that you do the same at sport and recreational facilities that are so important to healthy lifestyles and a healthy community. I urge you to take a stand against tobacco exposure and act now to prohibit smoking at all recreational sporting events and activities that take place on City property. Thank you for your time.

Mr. Speaker: Do we have any questions from the Council? Seeing none, thank you, gentlemen we appreciate your presentation today. Our next delegations are Mike Davidson, President of CUPE 500, and Wally Skomoroh of CUPE 500. Mike, you have 10 minutes and Wally has 5 minutes. We'll take questions afterwards.

Mike Davidson: Good morning Mr. Mayor, Councillors, staff and good morning to the children here as well. Local 500 also always appreciates the opportunity to speak today and bring forward its views on this matter that I'm speaking about this morning, Winnipeg Golf Courses. Our Municipal operated golf courses have a huge and proud history. We have members that work at Crescent Drive, Windsor Golf Course and Kildonan. And many families, senior leagues, children have enjoyed our Municipal Golf Courses for decades. Many reunions with families, old friends, work colleagues have taken place at these golf courses. These golf courses are affordable and are not at the same level as many private golf courses. My three children, their very first game that they golfed at was Crescent Drive. They don't have banquet facilities there, they don't compete with private courses. Many senior leagues golf out of there. There at a different level and the expectations are for people that use these golf courses, they realize that and just recently and I believe it was in the "Globe and Mail", there was an article where the head of Golf Canada spoke to the matter of the importance of Municipal Golf Courses in our communities in Canada. They are an entry level golf course, makes it affordable for young children to start off and many of them have gone on to have a good golf career. Bob Hope played his very first golf game at Kildonan and he went on to be a very strong ambassador for golf. Councillor Browaty might be too young to remember Bob Hope but everywhere he went, he had a golf club with him and so his experience at Kildonan Golf Course was very good. We have also seen a lack of infrastructure funding going back into our City run Golf Courses. Capital improvements have been neglected for many years and the signs are evident and I'll just talk about Windsor Golf Course. Last year, I've golfed there, I've golfed there for many, many years but the drainage in the back 9 was poor, the tee boxes weren't good, the pathways have been caved in so there was lots of signs, lots of evidence that it needed infrastructure to improve on the golf course. We believe that before any recommendation to contract out the operation of our City-owned golf courses there should be a full business plan that reveals figures on how this would benefit the citizens of Winnipeg. Page 12 indicates that contract management could save the City 14 and a half million within the first five years. It also indicates that this spec that is provided that a vendor would be willing to invest 1 million per course. We suspect that this would only be the case if it generated corresponding revenues. We would support the sale of memberships at Municipal Golf Courses to increase general revenue. We think this makes good business sense, Mr. Speaker I believe that this hasn't been done before. At our Municipal Golf Courses this would help with planning, this would help with the needed duties to put funding in, and what would be required. And I think a lot of people that use the golf courses, a lot of our patrons, would like this as well. They could go in, they would have a card, they wouldn't have to be paying there, we think it would be more efficient for everybody. We believe Capital improvements would also boost revenues by making our City run Golf Courses more attractive to play on, we believe patrons would welcome capital improvements. And I just spoke about Windsor Golf Course but in some cases it's as simple as having more flowers there, or fixing up the pathways. The expectations are when people use a Municipal Golf Course, they don't expect it to be at a private level, that level there when you belong to that course which you would expect. Municipal Golf Courses have their niche in the market and they do a good job. Although transfers to general revenues had stopped in 2009, there was a 1.7 million transferred from the years 2003 to 2009 that revenue could have been used to reinvest in the infrastructure at our City operated courses, so that's just within that time period there, had improvements been made before, where they could have generated profits back into the golf courses, they would be in a different state right now. The business arrangement as it stands now for semi-private courses should change in the best interests of the citizens of Winnipeg and in our view, we believe the $1 fee for semi-private courses can no longer be offered. We believe that things have changed significantly from decades ago. We see that as something that can't continue. Local 500 would urge City Council today, to work on any decision or put off any decision today and provide details of any business plan that would involve a private vendor. So we think by going ahead to privatize

any City-operated golf courses should be held off. Let's get some more figures, let's get…if that is the case, let's get a full comprehensive business plan that would make sense to the citizens of Winnipeg. So that's my, our position today. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mike. Wally Skomoroh.

Wally Skomoroh: Thank you. Good morning Mr. Mayor and City Councillors. I'm actually, a little bit surprised to be in front of you, I just found out late yesterday, excuse me, that I would be speaking before you. I don't have too much more to offer than what Mike Davidson has previously said. I also…I am employed by CUPE. I'm the National Staff Representative that represents the workers at Golf Courses. I think Mr. Davidson covered off on most of the key issues. I do want to stress though as a citizen of Winnipeg, the Municipal Golf Courses are our lifeblood, they're our legacy. I think the Bob Hope story, how the ambassador for golf, got his beginnings at Kildonan. Kildonan is such a unique golf course. I mean, what other golf course can you go, when you go to the 10th hole and you've got a bridge as one of your obstacles when you're trying to get to the green. It's a very unique course that people around the country talk about, they go to Kildonan. Kildonan's such a unique golf course and I would think it would be a shame to have that no longer be a Municipal Golf Course, absolutely. Like I said, Mr. Davidson touched on most, I just want to stress that, there's many solutions to the problems we are facing with the golf courses and the lack and that the declining revenues. The weather, the last couple of years and I think the weather patterns, I'm not a meteorologist but I think the weather patterns are, we're getting wetter weather that will impact golf and there's no doubt that the Tiger Woods phenomena has dwindled out, much like his career and so really, rounds of golf are down around North America. I think the report that was before you indicates that rounds of golf are down, that is true. We can't dispute that, however, having said that, there's other solutions. I think, I applaud Council for their initiative with Crescent Park, with Crescent Drive. I mean, the idea of putting the spa in there, that's a way to me to generate interest in the spa of course but also it will generate interest in the golf course. That's a creative solution. I think Kildonan and Windsor also can have those same creative solutions. There's opportunities there. We know golf is more than just going and doing your 9 or 18 holes. There's the 19th hole. A lot of people enjoy the 19th hole more than the first 18 holes. And I think that's important you know, we can do something at Kildonan and at Windsor to make it a total experience beyond golfing on a Municipal Course for 18 holes. And so I think there is opportunity there. And the City itself is not necessarily in the food and beverage business but there's you know opportunities there, so I think we need to explore these things to attract people to our Municipal Courses, keep them municipal but there's all kinds of solutions out there, so I think before we throw out the baby with the bath water, I wish we'll take a look at all possibilities. And in closing, there's one thing the report that struck me as a very creative idea, an interesting idea, is the idea of you have St. Boniface Golf Course and you have Windsor Golf Course, they are side by side. The idea of them merging and amalgamating the golf courses, creating a world class, PGA type, tour type Municipal Course that we could bring in tours, LPGA, PGA, CPGA, tournaments into that course, have them municipally run, I think the interest would be there plus you know, there is enough land for other developments, green space, what other developments the City wishes to get into. So there is an opportunity for all people interested in that property that keep the golf course thriving and yet taking care of the interest of all, to the betterment of the citizens of Winnipeg. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, gentlemen. Councillor Smith, you have a question.

Councillor Smith: Yes, Mr. Davidson, are you saying one of the main problems with the golf courses, city-owned golf courses that we haven't maintained them? Is that the basic problem for our financial difficulties?

Mike Davidson: Well I think for many years, decades, the infrastructure has suffered, yes. I don't think that there has been enough reinvestment going into them. I golfed, I didn't golf at all three last year but usually I do and that's what I would have to conclude that you can see signs of it that have taken place year after year where, where they have suffered, yes.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Yes, I see the recommendation before Council this morning is to conduct a competitive bid process for the operation of City Golf Courses and you represent the workers who are your members who work at our golf courses. Were you not informed by the Administration or anybody from the City that this was coming, that Council was making a decision? Did I hear you correctly that you only heard about this yesterday?

Mike Davidson: Well we knew that there was a report out, the audit report was out, but I guess we weren't too sure of the flow of it. Our understanding was that this was going to be going to ASD or ASD would be calling a meeting and then we would try to get in front of the ASD Committee; but we were aware that the report was out, both Wally and myself, we've gone through the report, and we've sort of picked out pieces of the report that are of huge concern

to us. I guess the motion here today or part of the motion here today does indicate unless I'm reading it wrong, that Council would have an opportunity to go towards this bid process and that's of huge concern to us, to make a move like this but, I guess in our view that appears to be kind of quick. We would like things to slow down a bit and work with Council as best we can to sort of you know, as Wally spoke to and alluded to in his points, improve on these golf courses in everybody's best interest, particularly the citizens of Winnipeg.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you. I was reading through this auditor's report and there is reference to basically, it alludes to unqualified people working at our municipal, like unqualified people to manage our golf courses. Can you tell me a little bit about how some of the people are quite qualified in running these?

Mike Davidson: Well I'll just speak, thank you, I'll just speak through CUPE's jurisdiction, I won't comment on Management's position on this, whether they are qualified or not. We work well with management but I know there are members, many of them have taken various courses. You know, we spotted that in the report as well. In terms of qualifications for management of municipally run golf courses I don't think it really be appropriate for me to say anything about that because I don't know what qualifications they have or don't have. I don't know if that answers that for you but maybe add something here, Wally.

Wally Skomoroh: We have a…of the staff we have one permanent CUPE staff and 51 seasonals, golf being a very seasonal operation. Having said that, we have a mix in our seasonals. We have some 25 year veterans and we have some new hires so we have quite a mix and the idea is for the veterans out there for 25 years that have been working strictly at Golf Courses to pass on the knowledge. We believe that the skill set is there. There is training, people go for insecticide training and pesticide and the various trainings, equipment operating trainings so the people running the equipment are trained. I think one of our problems is and I know the old adage is a poor worker that blames his tools, however, having said that some of the tool…some of the equipment is broken down. It's antiquated and our mechanics and maintenance staff do a terrific job with elastics and bubble gum to keep it together but that maybe part of the problem but I have no doubt in my mind, and I'm not just saying this because they are my members but they are fully qualified and able to do the work. I, like Mike, I'm not going to comment…I don't want to comment on the management. I do…we do work well with the management. They have been nothing but professional in our dealings. Unfortunately, I don't know enough about their operation to make a comment but I would say that the front line field staff is absolutely qualified to maintain a golf course.

Councillor Eadie: Just a follow up question. In terms of Golf Courses and booking, are you aware of how much money is actually transferred from the Golf Courses to 311, to handle bookings that used to be handled I think, probably in a more cheaper manner?

Mike Davidson: Well yeah, we saw that line there and I would think that if there was a challenge there, that and they were to be contracted out to a private vendor that vendor would be dealing with 311 as well. I think 311 does a good job. I don't know all the details with the booking times involving 311, but that…

Councillor Eadie: Do you think that's reasonable for a charge?

Mike Davidson: Well, I'm not sure about how many calls they're actually making whether that's reasonable or not but I would think that a private vendor would have that same challenge if it's there.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Fielding.

Councillor Fielding: Just a question, you know, during our delegations we did have Ian Day come and do a presentation, and you know, I think it has been widely reported that there is a difference between the wages that (inaudible) for a CUPE person that run a course versus a private sector be a Shooters or you're playing at another course that's there. So, what's your sense on terms of the wage differential between the CUPE worker that's working on our golf courses versus a privately run or one that's tendered out to another private consortium.

Mike Davidson: Well I had a feeling that you were going to ask that Councillor Fielding but this is what I would say to that. Just going back and I'll just revisit this. Transfers to generate revenue have stopped in 2009 and there was 1.7 million transferred from 2003 to 9. That being said, I can only conclude that despite the fact that there was a CUPE Collective Agreement in place that they were making a profit. So if that's the case, and it was explained to me sometime back that Golf Courses is like farming. Some years you're not going to make a profit and some years all golf courses aren't going to make a profit. They have two rough years they're not going to make a profit. But that being said, just on that item right there from 2003 to 9, that's what was transferred, that's what they…so despite the

fact that there was a Collective Agreement in place, I don't think that hindered anything that obviously shows that money was transferred from there that they did in fact make a profit. That's what I conclude.

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker. First of all, Mike and Wally thank you very much for being here. It's always a pleasure. Wally, if I might just for clarification, I just want to follow up on Councillor Gerbasi's question. I interpreted what you were saying is you just found out yesterday you were actually going to appear and speak here. My understanding is that the day the report was released, you had a meeting with the Deputy CAO, Alex Robinson and Ian Day, who is in charge of Golf Services. Is that correct? If you could please just make sure we understand it clearly.

Wally Skomoroh: You're absolutely correct, Mr. Mayor. I only thought I would be speaking before you yesterday late afternoon, in fact, I really, I knew I would be here this morning. I didn't even know I would be speaking until it was announced that I'd be speaking that's why I don't have any notes in front of me, I just…I winged it. No, so you're right. I did meet with Alex Robinson and Ian Day. I believe it was the 27th of April, it was the election day, so I did meet with them so absolutely we were aware, we just didn't know that we would be, I didn't know I would be speaking before you directly just until this morning, for the record to clear that up.

Mayor Katz: And Mr. Speaker a quick follow up which is more of a comment, to Wally, in spite of the fact you just found out you did a wonderful job, thank you for being here.

Wally Skomoroh: Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: We have one question from Councillor Fielding.

Councillor Fielding: Sorry, just one final question. It sounds like you guys are supportive somewhat of development. I think you talked about the Kildonan or the other courses that are there. Was it Crescent?

Mr. Speaker: St. Boniface/Windsor.

Councillor Fielding: Okay, anyways, you're open to the idea of having some sort of development happen on our Golf Course if it can be configured probably? Would that be enough?

Mike Davidson: Yeah, we would want be included and hear what it is but hey, we're not for leaving things the way that they are. We know that the general infrastructure needs to be fixed. We know that there's problems with our semi-privates, we know that the scenario that exists in front of the citizens of Winnipeg should change and it can be a lot better. We realize that.

Wally Skomoroh: We want to be a partnership with Council because we know the real problem to us is revenue. And I guess that I'd…climate's one thing we can't control that but how do we raise the revenues? We know Golf Courses can thrive but we're not…CUPE is not a union that's going to say, you know this is the way it is, we like it, we enjoy it, we're comfortable, let's keep it. We know that we have to progress and we have to go with the national or international trends, so we need to get creative, work with Council to keep the courses municipal. Doesn't mean we don't get creative and work together, so we're open to that kind of process but you know, we do believe in our Municipal Golf Courses more than just because it's our members' work.

Mr. Speaker: That concludes our Question Period. Thank you, gentlemen. We appreciate it. Thank you, Council. Okay, we'll move into our reports and Mr. Mayor, if you'd like to…the Report on May the 4th.

REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED MAY 4, 2011

Mayor Katz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Item 1.

Mr. Speaker: Seeing nobody's wanting to speak to it. All those in favour? Opposed? Carried. May the 11th.

**REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED MAY 11, 2011**

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I would introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items 1 to 4.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi, three. Three, the only one. All right, so 1, 2 and 4, all those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Item 3 - Winnipeg Golf Services Operational Review

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I'd love to hear comments from Councillor Gerbasi and then of course I would be more than happy to address them at that time.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Obviously I have no problem with receiving our auditor's report as information, that's clearly obvious, but there is other Clauses here that we are voting on today that didn't seem to sneak up on us a little bit in terms of the short-term decision to conduct a competitive bid process for the operation of City-run golf courses: You know, there's a few things that…it brings to mind, a few concerns that I have about this issue. First of all, I found it a little disconcerting that the consultant in the auditor's report who's not from Winnipeg or Canada, tells us that we have too much green space in his view as a city. And I guess maybe we do have more than average as a city but that's what it says in that report that we have too much or we have more than other places, somehow that's, somehow a bad thing and I guess if we have more than other places, I think that's a good thing and I think that's one of the things that makes us the City we are. So I'm not sure and so, and then they talk you know, about selling off this green space for various development purposes and I guess I just wanted to put up a red flag and say that we need to look at those, that very, very seriously, and I hope that if this approach does proceed, as is recommended in here, that there is a very significant and rigorous public consultation involved because once you sell off green space, it's gone forever and is gone, if it's gone for residential then it's private and it's no longer there for the public use and I think that's a very important point that speaks to the values of Winnipeggers and I don't, a lot of people are very uncomfortable when they hear the kind of language in this report of selling off green space for development. I think we just have to think about those things very, very carefully and consult with the public first. Another thing that comes across loud and clear in this report is that this consultant clearly believes that our unionized staff and our collective bargaining process are basically a nuisance or something and that…you know, and that's an ideological view that others seem to share around here. You know, these are jobs that our citizens have that 60 or so of our staff, some of…for long term have been temporary employees but seasonal I should say, for a long term and they do have a lot of knowledge and ability and I believe they should be valued. It's not just dollars and cents and you know, let's just go for the lowest wage possible. I mean I don't know how many of you around this table have tried to live on $10 and $12 an hour, you know, I think that's out of touch with ordinary people and ordinary citizens to make comments like that. I think it's very insensitive. I don't know how any of you would live on that kind of wages and I'm sure people who do, probably are feeling rather uncomfortable hearing that kind of talk in this Chamber. So, you know, it's disconcerting. These are real people with families who have served the City of Winnipeg for 25 years and I just hope you think about that when you make these decisions. I'd also, as has come quite clear in the…from the delegations, and we all know this that one of the reasons our golf courses aren't as successful as they could be is a lack of investment, we all know that, and there's various reasons for that. One of which is the way the SOA was required to give profits back to the City rather than having those profits reinvested which was an unfortunate decision because they really are an asset. Our golf courses are an asset and could be in fact a revenue source for the City or at least pay for themselves and provide recreational activity that's affordable to citizens. So that's a positive and it'd be very sad I think if we lose that. I'd also like to speak, mention the recent decision regarding Crescent Drive Golf Course which in my ward and I supported a very difficult decision. It wasn't easy, there were some residents and there's still are some residents who oppose it, who I hear from regularly, who oppose the fact that we're allowing a development within Crescent Drive Golf Course, a public golf course, but I agreed to support that because I felt it was a way to keep that Golf Course, the Nordik Spa that's going in there to reinvigorate our municipal and public Golf Course and I believe I made comments on the Floor of Council that I was supporting of this with the good will that I hope to see from this Council that we were going to have a public Golf Course and this was going to lead to that. Now I'm looking at a motion talking about contracting out, privatizing possibly selling off our golf courses. It's only been a few months, in fact, they haven't even signed the lease yet with this group, so it didn't take long and you know I just hope this isn't some sort of betrayal here because I put good faith, I bent to the philosophy of allowing private sector development in public park space to make something viable and now I see a motion before us to contract out the operations and I don't know where that ends. And in fact, the company that is building the Spa has first right of refusal in purchasing it so I don't know what's going to happen tomorrow on this but I put some trust in this process

and supported private development and I hope that that trust is going to be appreciated and at least understood and remembered. Because I still have some…I have residents that are contacting me that are very concerned as they've seen these reports come out and read in the media what we're doing with our golf courses. So, my concern in conclusion, is that while I appreciate some of the comments, this is a very lengthy report. It's 150 pages, there's a broad range of approaches and I do agree that we need to look at creative approaches. I demonstrated agreeing with that by supporting the Spa development within a public park which was not an easy thing to do. It is a spa, it's the Nordik Spa and it's going to be great and I do support it but my point is that this goes too far too quickly. We don't have a business plan in front of us identifying, you know, when the ASD, I was here when we started the ASD process originally and it does seem to me that we've really strayed from that original model which was to look at if we want to bring change in the way we deliver our service, we look at the status quo, we look at you know, adjustments we can make to the status quo within the public sector. We look at different options. I mean, look at the whole range of options objectively and decide what makes the most sense to the citizens. It's not always, oh this isn't working perfectly, contract it out or sell it off. That's not the original model of ASD. And it really concerns me that we are being driven here by ideology, the private sector is better, the wages are lower, let's go for it but there's other factors including social factors and the people who have to live on those wages and the fact that the experience that exists within public service employees that we've had for 25 years is worth something and I hope this Council understands that and is aware of that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thanks, Councillor Gerbasi. Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. It's a very interesting report and if you actually get into it and people spend a little bit of time, especially if you get into the numbers, you can see how some of this makes sense and some of it really doesn't make sense. And I think any of us could get up and speak to this report from a variety of, you know from our own perspectives and we would come out with something different to say, I think. Councillor Gerbasi's opening comments this morning hit on some of the things that aren't in the report, for example, green space and their use of green space and the amount of green space in our city is something that wouldn't be considered in an operational or business review by some golf guy from a golf operating / consulting firm. So those pieces, you know, this isn't there to rationalize green space this report, this is here to talk about the Golf Course and Golf Course Operations. But I do want to get back to something that Councillor Gerbasi mentioned, that was the original selection report and why we created the Golf Special Operating Agency. It was created, it started January 1, 2002. The City moved land and buildings to the SOA and immediately started depreciating the buildings and charging interest on the value of the buildings. So there's actually, it is moving from the City into the SOA and that's all part of what people are talking about as losses. In addition, $695,000 from the Golf Reserve was moved to the SOA and used to make Golf Course improvements and the SOA had to start paying interest on that at the going rate at that time for the City which was 6%, so you'll see in their financial statements on that $600,000 interest payment every year, 6% of that $695,000. The original plan was to grow revenue by $1.2 million over five years but expenses would only grow by 300,000. For a variety of reasons, the City would take $775,000 annually going to 890,000 in the fifth year. Some of these things are payments or property taxes that were never paid before. And a return on investment you know in the area of $220,000 a year and the property taxes were about $225,000 a year. So you can see where I'm going, you start adding all these things up but the City really isn't responsible to pay but when they are using the SOA they create these payments and that's how you get this accumulated deficit. The actual results of the Special Operating Agency over the first five years were a net loss of $640,000 with 836,000 going to the City. So in the fifth year in 2006, the SOA lost $840,000 but the same year gave the City $836,000. And interest, depreciation, you know, whatever that's how they got to that number and also a return on investment still, I think at that time it was almost $300,000 that they were giving to the City. So when you wash it all out in this consolidated statements of the City this $8 million that you have bandied out there, isn't really $8 million dollars, yes it take $8 million dollars if you are looking at the SOA strictly as an independent business but it's not, it washes out in our consolidated statements. I think there was talk and made mention I think it was Wally Skomoroh that mentioned that there was $4.5 million gain if you were to contract services out, well, that's not actually correct. You stop losing this million dollars a year, which includes in 2010 or 2011, $675,000 I think going to the City. Also year when in 2006 we projected the golf revenues would grow from just over 2 million to just over 3 million over that first five years. The 2011 we were down at still at 2 million, you know so those are because of the really the worst weather years that we've ever seen. So you've got to look at this in much bigger and much longer term. Moving ahead to 2010, we've seen some of the worst years for golf weather in our history. In 2010 there was also an increase of 13% in salaries. The salary and benefits costs to 2010 jumped by 13%. There is no explanation in the report. There is no explanation any where, where that 13% came from. That's a significant number, another couple hundred thousand dollars I think. So you know we're not sure where that came from. At the same time 2010 the City took another $600,000 from the agency and they realized another 200 that business plan realized another $275,000 in depreciation on those old assets. The reality on the depreciation is that they should've been fully depreciated before the assets were ever transferred to the SOA. How long will you go to depreciate these ancient assets? I'm not sure and buildings what the lifetime for that is, where you are allowed to depreciate but that's just some of the numbers. The reality is though when you look at the creation of the SOA when

it started back in 2001 or 2002, prior to that, we weren't really keeping a good count of what we were doing with Golf Courses. The land was in Property and Development and there was other pieces going on in Parks and it was kind of all over the place and we couldn't look at it, so we've done a better job than what we were doing before, before the SOA was created. The SOA was a tool to help us see what the real costs were and compare it to a real business but we're not a real business and we must remember that when using this tool. We are the City of Winnipeg. So what did this tool teach us, what did we learn from it? You know that being said, when we're using this tool; we can do better. I think Councillor Gerbasi's comments on how we realize a bit more revenue out of Crescent Drive which is really where the operational bleed is in the Special Operating Agency, it is at Crescent Drive. That Golf course has lost money every year, every year, every year, on the operating side and real expenses. The other courses, Kildonan and Windsor, which is the other City Operated Courses, that hasn't been the case. So, how do we use this tool and how do we move forward. I would remind people too that in the creation of the Special Operating Agency there's also a section in here on public good and if the Agency is directed to contribute to City Policy Objectives that run counter to pure business principals, the cost of these contributions may be adjusted against the bottom line targets of the agency and are covered by way of tax supported funding. These public good allocations are assessed annually as part of the Agencies Business Plan Review. So we do do a lot of stuff at our Golf Agency that you would normally do in a business. 311 was a good example where now the Agency is paying $80,000 a year for 311 services to take bookings for the Golf Courses but the Golf Courses still have phone lines and still take their own bookings at the Golf Course, so why would they pay the $80,000 and why would you rationalize it in a business plan? There's other environmental issues that are going on that are far more aggressive with the City than they are in the private sector. And I think that's a good thing. But that should also be washed out of the business plan. When this operational review was asked for, it was myself that asked for this review. It wasn't to do it as a rationalization for the City, it was to look at how the Golf Operating Agency was being run what changes we should make to the tool to make it run better, to do a better job of running Golf Courses. Somehow it ended up back of the hands of the city through the City Auditor to do this operational review and to bring in this outside piece but that was not the intent of what I had asked for when this Motion was made at the ASD Committee. It was in all of the…at that time we did it for all the SOA's ask because we wanted to go in and see, take all our Administration out, take their…they're working with these Special Operating Agencies there.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steen moves extension. All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Councillor Swandel: (Inaudible) taken away from the equation Let's go get someone from the outside to come in and look at it and bring us reports on all of them not just on Golf but that wasn't what happened. We get into this where we're sort of set up these numbers, we don't put them in context, we don't understand, we don't go back to the very beginning to the Selection Report of what we were trying to do with these Special Operating Agencies. So, we're not in this business, we are the City at the end of the day and that's, you know, the idea of doing these Operational Reviews was to do a better job of running these entities as the City, for the City, for the people of Winnipeg. I think there is some sense to making some changes. I don't disagree with that. I think we can do better. There's the idea of management contracts, we've seen that they work better but don't forget when you create these management contracts you're not going to be getting that…the depreciation is not going to be in your business plan any more. You're not going to be getting the other transfers to the City when these other people are operating the Golf Courses for us. So you've got to make sure you do the full analysis and you understand what is real money and what is no show allocations or pieces that wash out in the Consolidated Statements of the City of Winnipeg and mean nothing to the City of Winnipeg. They are there in a Special Operating Agency but they're not there in the big picture of the City of Winnipeg. I made some comment already on the rationalization of green space not being part of this but I think it certainly is something that policy wise, this whole Council would want to consider, and if we're going to change anything to do with the amount of green space, because I truly believe one of the things that makes Winnipeg a very attractive city is our green spaces, the rivers, the repairing the zones along our rivers, the river banks, our Golf Courses, Our Parks. The trees that line many of our streets, through River Heights and Wolseley, Elmwood and some wonderful foliage in our city that it's not found anywhere else in this country and we should be proud of it and we should market it. I'll leave it at that thanks.

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

Councillor Vandal: Thank you Mr. Speaker. It's an interesting issue, it's been around for awhile but, we can do better. I mean when I read the report, having often playing Windsor Park and St. Boniface in my ward, I know where there is improvements that are necessary. We certainly can do better and very briefly, Mr. Speaker I want to put it on the public record that I'm going to support the Clause. I did at EPC but I'm supporting it because we need to explore all options in order to do better. We need to put everything on the table for all of our Golf Courses so that we can ensure that the citizens are getting the best value for the money. I am supporting that, I am not supporting the whole sale, getting rid of, selling golf space land for residential development or commercial development at this point, unless there is a business plan that's been made. ASD are going to start this process, we're going to be involved. There's

going to be consultations with the citizens, with certainly the Unions, with the managers and everything going to come back up through ASD, through Executive Committee and back to the Floor of this Council as is outlined in this report. So I want to make it crystal clear and put it on the record I am not approving the divesture of any golf land. I am not approving any wholesale contracting out of any golf course. We need to send it out there. We need to cast the net wide. We need to see what the opportunities are, because Councillor Gerbasi is right, and Councillor Swandel, one of the main impediments to doing better is a lack of infrastructure certainly I'll speak from Windsor because I play there often. The fairways are like washing boards, the drainage needs an incredible amount of help and in order to get the clubhouse painted we need to politically intervene. Thank you Councillor Browaty for longer than you should. We need to look at these things as assets if they going to actually turn a profit but unfortunately at the City of Winnipeg, we don't look at them as assets much like our other recreational facilities, we look at them as entities that eat up money and there's not that attitude that let's make it happen, I agree. Let's make the 19th hole at Windsor wonderful. I mean the sight lines are tremendous and you're certainly not going to get that overlooking the Saine River at too many courses. There's also huge implications for St. Boniface here, one of the recommendations is make an 18 hole world class course between St. Boniface and Windsor and maybe that's a good idea, maybe it's not. I know nobody has talked to St. Boniface, it's a surprise to them and I've been talking to them a lot lately and what worries me about all that is that there's nine holes unaccounted for in St. Boniface and before I say that we're going to go down that route, there's got to be a lot of conversations that take place because nine holes unaccounted for means either commercial development, residential development or it could be more, it could be more park space but apparently we've got too much park space. So, I'm going to follow the recommendations to this point but everything is going to come back through Executive Committee to the Floor of this Council and we'll see what the business plans say, so, I just want to put that on the record Mr. Speaker. Councillor Swandel's comments are appreciated, because I've long looked at this issue and realized that all is not as simple as it seems as Councillor Gerbasi's comments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thanks Councillor Vandal. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you Speaker Nordman and I appreciate the comments of the other Councillors to at least give me some background, Councillor Swandel thank you very much for presenting what the original intention was. In reading over this Audit Report it seems to me the audit, when they began it, it didn't really start from the perspective that Councillor Swandel mentioned that he had brought to the Alternative, to that Committee. It seems to me that the premise it proceeded on was one in which we have too much open park space and that this is not a service that the City should be involved in in terms of recreation that the City should, there's a comment in there that, you know, the City is really Fire, Protection and whatever that is. It's not into recreation well, I'm sorry the reason we gathered together in a City is that we are able to then create things for people to use that are affordable because not everybody can afford to join that private Golf Club. The premise of our Golf Courses starts out with the whole fact that most people have begun their golfing activity on a public golf course in this City. And I can't tell you how many people I remember from High School including some people who still work on that Golf Course, went to Kildonan Golf Course when they were supposed to be in class and started golfing around this time of the year and they became very good golfers. And they still golf today and they'll golf into the future. So we are, and I believe the City should be in the business of providing a publicly offered, more affordable option for golf for the people in this City. I would also point out that our Golf Courses, the three publicly run ones that we're talking about right now, I utilized the Windsor Park Golf Course not for golf, I actually cross-country ski there every winter. And I would be very afraid as to what would happen to my experience as a cross country skier at what I think is one of the best cross country facilities, well, I haven't tried any in Vancouver because they don't have them but anyway the point is though is that it's a very good cross country place to go and if you privatized the management of that, my experience of how much does that cost, is that going to cost me more money? Is it going to cost the other people who use that more money? It's a service that is provided on that Golf Course. So as I read through this particular report, I was really concerned that they moved from this thing and one of the reasons Winnipeg is not an average city and you know what, it's great to live in a city that has lots of park space because we use it and we love it. That's who we are. Most of us came, we loved this city for that. So to start with the premise like that, it is in the report or it was based that somebody used it, to do some evaluations and then to proceed along the idea that we need to divest of open space it seems to me is what drove this Audi, and for me, and it's good to have a little historical perspective but I think that Councillor Swandel and his request made a very good request. Is…are our golf courses being managed in an appropriate way in order to deal with what is becoming a very competitive industry? Golfing, there's less golfers but and you know what, this report seems to say that the private golf courses seem to do better. Well, that's not true, they are not doing better and as a matter of fact, I was in talking to people about this, Councillor Wyatt mentioned the whole concept that gas prices are going up. Well, people from the City won't be going to some of those private golf courses outside of the City, those new 18 holes that were created because there not going to want to pay the high gas prices to get out there. So they need good, affordable golfing alternatives right here in Winnipeg. So this whole basis of making sure that we've managed our golf courses properly, I think and you know, I don't know that I'm in a best position to say this but, I think in some respects we've been some what negligent in not utilizing some of the experienced people that we have

working at our Golf Courses to make our Golf Courses more competitive, more affordable because I think right now the prices of our Golf Courses are up there and in some cases are a bit more than some of the private golf courses and there is no reason that we need to do that. If you want to get rounds of golf up at our public Golf Courses, bring the prices back down because that's really why, we had a lot of people golfing at our golf courses. Right now, Kildonan Golf Course is competing with a couple others and If they could offer certain times and a better rates, they could actually be bringing back the people that were golfing at their Golf Courses to come there to ensure that the revenue is there. You know, I'm not…I shouldn't use the word negligent, but I have to say, I was looking, and you know, there's all these different transfers and it makes it very complicated because we are the City and what is a transfer in that? But the, anyway, it mentions in there about us subsidizing our Golf Courses over 50 years, $25 million. Well, how much are we subsidizing over twenty-five years the new Football Stadium? We'll be subsidizing that to the order of 75 million I think it was. So for me, I can't agree with this report. Number three actually and you know what maybe we do have to rationalize what we're doing with our Golf Courses. If we have, own 12 and 9 of them are managed in different ways, we do have to look at this because golf looks like isn't going to be the huge, it's not increasing to the way that I noticed in our Operating Budget they were saying that Golf Revenues were going to go up. Well, how do we know that? For me, that was just…in the budget I couldn't make sense of why we are saying, increased revenue from golfing when we know that rounds of golf are down and it's all across it's not just the public it's the private sector but the subsidy, if you want to call it a subsidy or whatever it's actually providing an affordable service to our people. We do need to make sure that our Golf Courses are better. I know that we just recently were coming up with a long term plan for Kildonan Park and what should we do in terms of taking care and making that Park a better place. One of them is to make sure that is to bring back water flow through the creek that goes through the Kildonan Park but also that Creek that goes through there once it's flowing water, it use to in a distance past, it use to take some water off the Golf Course as well and…

Mr. Speaker: One minute.

Councillor Eadie: Some things were done so that there is no flow of water. You know, these kind of things need to be looked at together and this is a jewel in the Mynarski Ward, it's Kildonan and I get really afraid when I hear number 2 which is private management when I know that there are qualified people out there to manage our parks but they're having difficulty in dealing with different structures within the City. For example putting up a sign, you know, I don't know why Kildonan Park doesn't have a big digital sign that is able to tell people "here's what we're offering today at our Golf Course." The other private golf courses, they have big signs it says, "You know, golf today, you can do golf for this and then lots of people see it like Kildonan Park, Archibald and Main Street these are places where there's high volumes of traffic and people could see if we are offering a good delivery system. So I don't think that we've allowed our own City….

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt moves extension. All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Councillor Eadie: I don't believe that we've allowed our own City people to come up with ways of delivering a better golf service to actually have an SOA that works that actually is able to accomplish what it wants. I don't agree with the report, we do have people working on our golf courses who know golf. They had this whole thing about professional golfing and having a pro in the Pro Shop. Well, you know, you can have a certification to say you're a pro but you know, some, as I understand it, the trade is getting away from that certification because this so called certification doesn't actually measure one's ability to be a good pro and to offer up the kind of advice to the people who are golfing at our Golf Courses. But I know that we have those people on our publicly run Golf Courses. Why aren't we utilizing them? So that tells me that there is a problem with overseeing how this estimate has been progressing

Mr. Speaker: One minute.

Councillor Eadie: And I would hope that, I'm actually going to have to vote against this because No. 3 says we are committing to getting rid of open space to whatever kind of development and for me I can't agree with that and No. 2, it says private management, why don't we allow our own City, people who are there on those golf courses to offer running say, the Kildonan Golf Course and allowing them room to maneuver and actually provide the, to actually do the things they need to do to make golf work, because they know how to do it, so I'll just finish on that. The only thing I would do is accept this report as information. I can't rely on No. 2 and 3 and 3 does say that we…if we vote for this, 3 does say we are committing to getting rid of City owned property. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Councillor Fielding.

Councillor Fielding: Great, thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I do want to thank the Auditor (inaudible) and the Consultant for putting forth the report. I think there was a number of interesting ideas that were brought forth in the

report. A lot that I liked actually, helped co-author a report a number of years ago as it talked about some of the Golf Courses that are there but just in terms of the generalities with golf. I mean the reality is we're bleeding to the tune of a million dollars a year and it's, it really is unsustainable. If you look at the rounds that are there, you know they've gone from 180 thousand rounds to the mid-nineties to 95 of course there is some bad weather in the last couple of years which didn't help things, of course, probably another factor is the amount of courses that have sprung up in the City of Winnipeg over the last 10, 15 years. Shooters a whole host of courses that are within a car's drive for any golfer. If you want to go to a good course you're going to, you'll travel, you'll go in the City of Winnipeg that's here. So, in my humble opinion, I think that we do need to make some changes that are there. Are we going to do everything that's in the Auditor's Report, no, I'd suggest we wouldn't. But I think that there is a lot of good ideas that we need to take a look at. You know I'll have to tell you, you know, we talked about some of the City run courses verses the private contractors and everything else there. I tell you, I mean, to be quite frank with you, I've been very upfront in the media about this. I've got some grave concerns about the wage differences between those courses and the course that are there. So we need to explore all our options to see how things are working. I like the concept of some of the development that happens there. Doesn't necessary mean you need to get rid of all the courses but I think if you go down south or you go anywhere in Canada, people love living on Golf Courses. You have fantastic views. You've got fantastic property that's there. I think that, you can't take a cookie cutter approach to every course. You might have to look at them on a case by case basis to see what works. Maybe there's an ability to do development without ruining the integrity of the Golf Course. I think some of the fellows from the Union up there had mentioned some ideas about that which makes some sense. I think that we need to explore all our options, we do have to consult with the public on this. You know, at the end of the day, this is a million dollars. Emotionally you're not, the reality is, this is a million dollars. If you, if you didn't have to fund this, subsidize it, whatever you call in terms of loses, you could put a million dollars into recreational facilities that are there. I mean, we talked about this, you have a number of Councillors that come and have concerns on a go forward basis, in terms of, how we're funding Operations and Recreation and what community clubs we're doing. Used as a million dollars, at least stop the blaming on a million dollars. You can invest in these things that are core services for the City of Winnipeg and my final point is, I don't think that Golf is a core service for the City of Winnipeg. I just don't. You know, I think that we should be focusing on policing, I think you should focus on Public Works. There are some great projects that we've had here. I personally don't think that Golf is a core service of the City of Winnipeg and especially when you have the private sector or private consortiums, that can do the same bit of work, you've got a number of courses if you want to golf you can go to Grand Pines, you can go to a whole host of courses that are in around City of Winnipeg. So I think we need to take a look at how we're delivering these services, there will be public consultations, that's a part of it through the ASD Committee and beyond but I think as we move forward, the Auditor has identified a problem I think is there and we need to address it. Are we going to do everything in the report? No, but I think we need to take a look at it. So with that, Mr. Chair, Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the motion, of course.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Orlikow.

Councillor Orlikow: Thank you Mr. Chair. I just want to bring some clarity for what I see is…we're simply, what we're doing here, based upon what I've read and I haven't heard much difference so far. Is A), we are going to look at having some other third party operate whatever that may mean, does that mean only assets are not? Operate our Golf Courses and that's one step to the next step which is to, for the City of Winnipeg to get out of the golf business and sell those lands off for development, or maybe a private company wants to keep it and I say that because it sounded to be a little bit of confusion about this is we're going to explore all our options. Well, the Auditor made a lot of great options. One to eight and then number 11 were all options that looked at how do we address that $1 million shortfall? Those are all good options, but this motion doesn't talk about those at all. So let's be honest about, we're not looking at all options, we are looking at one type of pathway here and the pathway is to do as the Auditor's Report says, quite clearly, if you look at A), which is No. 9 on the Auditor's Report, competitively leases to management companies to be awarded, based on request for bid for the three City owned and operated golf courses, okay. So this goes a little further. This says all in our report, the Auditor said these three, No. 9 here got amended to include all golf courses in the report that I'm reading here for City Council. One thing that the report does share with the Auditor and also should, it's quite close to the same, is there's only one option for long term. This is the only option we have people, we have to get other golf business and sell off these lands and get out of the business completely because as it says, the sale of Golf Courses for commercial, this is from the Auditor's Report, the sale of Golf Courses for commercial or residential development is advocated to raise capital for judicious reinvestment and to enhance the balance between commercial, residential and open park spaces as part of the massive plan for open space. Wow, that's what they're saying they're doing but again, we cut off all that bark and what you have is the City of Winnipeg can get out of the golf business. I think these golf courses are great assets for the City, we should maintain them. We should also look at doing in-fill on them. I think that's a great idea. Let's recoup all the costs that we can. Let's look at trying to operate these Golf Courses more efficiently, it's a great idea, but again, this proposal takes us swinging far over to one side, which I will not be supporting.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thanks Mr. Speaker. I think the report before us is very clear. The recommendation 2b indicates in the long term, follow the City's Auditor's recommendations regarding the divestiture of City owned Golf Courses for commercial or residential development. I don't know how much clearer, how far clearer you can get than that Mr. Speaker, divestiture of City owned Golf Courses for commercial or residential development. Now, Mr. Speaker, I think that there is many on this Council who's, there's many…I think there is a divided opinion on this Council Mr. Speaker. There are those who believe that this is the right way to go, philosophically and there's always those who do not believe that this is the right way to go philosophy. I tend to be in the latter group. I believe in Parks and Open Spaces and I believe Golf is part of our recreational services offered as a City. A mixture of different recreational services, and I would say Mr. Speaker that we are not the exception to the rule in terms of that. If you look at municipality after municipality across Canada, they have public courses, even in the United States. The same phenomenon is there. It's part of the recreational mix of any city. It's a great way to preserve green space, at the same time offer recreation. Mr. Speaker, I can't…the Auditor clearly had a bias and had made certain assumptions I think when writing their report. And I think it's clear when you read it, there was a clear bias there and a clear assumption, and there is no doubt Mr. Speaker, based on what we probably pay our Auditors, they probably can afford to golf at St. Charles or maybe even be members of St. Charles, but Mr. Speaker there's many people…

Mr. Speaker: We can't make that assumption, Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Who cannot afford to be members of St. Charles or even as far as that goes Niakwa or other nice courses in our city. Golf is a recreation which many young people in this city enjoy and which use and have the privilege of using and we're very fortunate but more importantly Mr. Speaker, it's a green space that exists in our city and I think we should be very, very careful when it comes to divesting ourselves of green spaces because once that green space is gone, it's gone. There is no other way of getting it back Mr. Speaker. They're not making its land Mr. Speaker, and they are not making any more of it, and it's gone. Now it's ironic that in the same report, Mr. Speaker, they're talking they say we have too much green space as a city. Yet they refer, they don't refer Mr. Speaker, to the fact that we as a city are now developing green space and I call it green space because it's raw farmland, more of it today than we've ever had before in the past. But that's not referred to Mr. Speaker. The fact we're taking productive raw farmland out of the mix never to be used again because being filled with houses and commercial shopping malls and so on and so forth. But that's not raised. It's not raised Mr. Speaker that the City is projected to grow, according to the Conference Board of Canada which is so far has been accurate upwards of 10,000 people a year. We're probably going to exceed 700,000 in the next year. It's not referred to Mr. Speaker that the fact that we're hitting a demographic in terms of the baby boomers we've just started to hit, where they started to turn 65, staring to retire. These are the golfers Mr. Speaker. They love to golf, and they will be golfing even more. Councillor Eadie rightly pointed out, I think there's going to be some very unique challenges in the future, in terms of transportation that will make Winnipeg and Winnipeggers want to have options in terms of enjoying the City. But the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, parks and green space and golf courses are an oasis. They're an oasis in cities across North America. When you have a sea of cement, to be able to come across a beautiful green space and a regional park is something Mr. Speaker that the citizens in cities across North America enjoy. All you have to do is go into one of our regional parks on the weekend or go to one of the golf courses and see the use of it and the enjoyment of it. It's something Winnipeggers take great pride in and there's a long history of that commitment in the City Mr. Speaker, Parks and open spaces. Mr. Speaker, I didn't support last September, I was the only member of Council not to support Auberge Spa Le Nordik. I know I probably mutilated that but anyway the fact of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, I had concerns because I thought it was the thin end of the…two reasons actually. I thought at the time that there was no competitive bid and that it should've been opened to others to bid on it and secondly, Mr. Speaker, I felt strongly that this could be the thin edge of the wedge because it specially referred to the Golf Course in that lease. And I think this proves my concern, Mr. Speaker. It should be noted Mr. Speaker that it does take two-thirds of a vote of Council to be able to divestiture ourselves or divest ourselves of green space or Golf Courses or render it with a Golf Course a long term lease and that's considered five years or more. If this clause passes today, it does refer to the fact it will come back to Council however, if this clause does pass today with more 2/3's of vote, it could be argued that the two-thirds vote has been given, you don't have to necessary come back we've granted that authority, Mr. Speaker and the clause is there stating that quite clearly that a divestiture of City owned Golf Courses for commercial, residential development. Mr. Speaker, I believe that we should know what we're doing in terms of our Golf Courses. Now, is it possible to have an adaptive re-use of a park into another use? Absolutely, I've done it in my Ward. And the part of this process that is missing here that you really have to do if you want to do that and it's a tough process, it's not easy, is you have to go to the community and you have to have community consultation and consultation and consultation and you have to talk to people and say this is what our plan is and this is what we're doing. And it's not impossible to do if you have community support and community buy-in. So, Mr. Speaker I rise today to say that I hope we'll have an opportunity to vote separately on this clause and the sub-clauses because you know I can support Clause 2 with Clause 2a. I believe that in terms of allowing for privately to have Golf Courses run through the private

sector. I have no issue with that, I think that's an opportunity which I think may help turn us around financially. I think one of the reasons why, you know, the Golf Courses are so called losing money is because yes we set them up as an SOA but we tended to hobble them at the same time in terms of their management. I think that ability to manage them freely separate from always having to come back to their either political masters or administrative masters I think is important. So I can support Clause 2a. I do have an issue and concern with Clause 2b because I believe that there was an inherent bias in the Auditor's Report or a certain assumptions at the very least made that is leading us to this down this path. And its assumption is not so much financial assumptions. It's more of a philosophical view Mr. Speaker that and we've heard it from a previous speaker that Golf Courses are not a core municipal service. Well Mr. Speaker, I believe Parks and Rec are a core municipal service and I think the majority of Winnipeggers believe Parks and Recreation are a core municipal service and I believe that the majority of Winnipeggers believe even Golf Courses as part of that mix are core municipal service, so Mr. Speaker those are my comments and that's all about. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal moves Extension: All those in favour? Opposed? Thank you Councillor Wyatt, Councillor Browaty.

Councillor Browaty: Parks and Open Spaces, absolutely core service. Golf Courses, why? There are many private sector courses. We're not talking about the St. Charles and the Niakwa's of the World. Up in North Winnipeg we've got all sorts of options. Shooters Golf Course just up the street from Kildonan, $21 to $22 a round. Meadows Golf Course nearby in East St. Paul, depending on the time of day, between $25 and $40. Ah, Rossmere Golf Course even, it's a semi-private course after 3:00 p.m. on weekends $30 bucks same price as our municipal courses. There is a supply of golf out there, there is an over-supply of golf out there. That's what the Consultant's Report says and identifies quite clearly. 2 b) doesn't force us to develop every golf course as a commercial development. In fact, it says, are any other proposals including identification of course, timelines, and processes to be followed. Perhaps an apartment block and soccer pitches. We have a shortage of Soccer Pitches up in North Winnipeg. There's all sorts of different ways this could be interpreted. I think there's a lot of opportunity for us to take over capacity of Golf Courses. Again the reality is we are subsidizing Golf Courses at the moment to the tune of a million dollars a year. I know Councillor Swandel doesn't buy the numbers but if these were operated separately that would be the case. The one thing that does frustrate me is we are not very efficient operators of Golf Courses today. The proposal for the short term having third parties involved is good. Mr. Davidson in fact made the comment this morning. We've had bad weather the last several years. Rounds are down but the reality is why have labour costs gone up in those years? My younger brother spent many a year working at Rossmere Golf Course. On bad days he got called in, you're not coming in today Tim, other days, after three hours they send him home because the rounds aren't there, the revenue's not there. We need to, you know as an SOA we need to find creative ways of doing it and if we can't, I think partnering with the private sector is the right way to go. Again, the trend is people are moving away from golf. We've got an increase in supply of private courses out there. We don't need to be in this business anymore, and again, we have other demands for public space whether it's a portion that's developed and a portion that could be brought into other types of recreational activities. Those core services that the City should be in. So again, I will be supporting this today. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: Surprised you didn't mention ultimate.

Councillor Browaty: (Laughter)

Mr. Speaker: Yes sir, Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Did you offer on the results of the bid process and any potential Golf Course being declared surplus? Can you offer an opinion on whether or not it would come back to this Council?

Mr. Speaker: Yes, it would and it would have to have the two-thirds. So although I respect Councillor Wyatt's comments, anything that's decided today will in the future also have to come back.

Councillor Vandal: Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Havixbeck.

Councillor Havixbeck: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I'd like to clarify a couple of things. The first point is that I've heard six times now, too much green space. Nowhere in this document do those exact words appear if you search them. It may allude to there being more than average for a city having green space but nowhere and many Councillors have said this morning too much green space so I'd like to point that out first. One of the first jobs I had was working in the Golf Course industry as a server but you gain a lot of awareness of all the jobs around and I used to drive from the

North End growing up to St. Charles Country Club and we made $1 over minimum wage back then in the late 80's and I can tell you that the wages are still on par with that and you may say, oh you get great tips at St. Charles Country Club, you don't get any tips. No tips. So I would have to disagree with the wages being in line with what the private sector is charging and I'm not commenting on the wages in the late 1980's either. I did a random check myself. We are 20 to 30% higher on our City run Golf Courses. The second point I'd like to raise that I find very interesting is that the one course where we actually happen to have something going on at Crescent Drive and have some positive outlook toward is in an area where the Councillor will not support for the rest of the City the same goings on and I think we're painting this picture that we're going to sell off our Golf Courses and we're going to have high rise concrete structures come up and I think that every Councillor around the table would make sure that every tree was accounted for in any kind of a process of divesting ourselves of any green space so I think that it would naturally occur to consult with constituents and to preserve nature wherever we can. Just as an example though, if we were to consider divesting ourselves of Golf Courses, as Golf Courses, I speak regularly with Harry Brotchie who runs the Tuxedo Golf Course and he tells me it's a cost of about $1.8 to $2.5 million dollars to invest in one golf course to make it be comparable to some of the other golf courses. I've golfed on almost every golf course in the city and I can tell you that the experiences that the Consultant's Report here of playing conditions on a field are the most important and ours are far behind and I think if any one of us were to go golf all the golf courses we'd soon recognize that the playing conditions are much worse on City Golf Courses. So we either need to find people who are willing to invest in those golf courses and make them more superior or divest ourselves of some of that and I too support this moving forward as it is. I think that we cannot continue to fund this at the expense of other core services in our City. The other piece that I would look to for this is the potential for this to funding our infrastructure deficit. One Golf Course in our City could be valued at somewhere in the $7 million dollar range as a one of but the future stream of revenue can account to some $200 million dollars annually. And so if we're going to look at the whole picture of what's going on in this City, every structure every entity that we operate whether it's a Community Centre, whether it's a golf course they are all underfunded in terms of what we reserve on an annual basis to put back into the structure, to maintain the fields, to maintain the playing conditions of our baseball diamonds and our soccer fields. We do this with every structure and at some point we have to say looking forward to the next 20, 30 years when are we going to stop and when are we going to examine how we do that and this is one of those non-essential types of areas that could be managed by the private sector possibly better. A comment was made about funding the Football Stadium. The Football Stadium will pay for itself in twenty years and the money that we're outlaying now will pay for itself down the road. I think some of these arguments are frivolous and I think we need to move on and get on with more important things. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Some very interesting comments that have been shared with us. I think, Mr. Speaker, first of all. I'd like to share a, just like Mike Davidson I played my first round of golf at Kildonan and just like Councillor Eadie mentioned I remember one day being sick from school having to make a remarkable recovery in the afternoon to go golfing on my bike pulling my cart behind me. So I do confess Councillor Eadie that I was probably one of those you referred to. And I remember the 10th hole the dig decision, over or under. The realities are, I'm sure most of us at some point in time have played those courses and they have a value no one's arguing that. Mr. Speaker, I think we're getting a little off target. You know, this isn't a debate about ideology or core service versus a non-core service. This to me is all about exploring opportunity, if it's out there. You know, both Mike and Wally said listen, we realize there are challenges out there. We realize that golf is down. We realize there may not be another Tiger Woods coming who encourages young people to play. This isn't just Winnipeg Mr. Speaker, right across North America. Name me a City, they have the exact same problems. Okay, the challenges are out there. What I did like hearing from CUPE, "Hey, we want to be part of this, we know we've got to be creative". So what this is to me is going out there to see what creative ideas come forward. They may be terrific, they may be terrible. And I would encourage CUPE to be part of that process very much. But more importantly, Mr. Speaker, what a lot of people don't seem to realize, and I think Councillor Browaty started on that line. He started talking about what we charge. So let me just share with you, okay, during the week days Windsor $19.00, Kildonan $19.00, Tuxedo $20.00, a dollar more, Blumberg $22.00, Transcona, a lot of people made comments about Transcona, the highest green fees $23.00; Canoe Club $19.00. Mr. Speaker you can see there's your…a dollar, two, three, four, there's not much of a difference and one Councillor did allude to the fact we have 12 golf courses and we have all sorts of different deals for them, okay, and you know, probably wouldn't even know that we own those golf courses but we do Mr. Speaker. This is all about opportunity, okay, and I think it's incumbent upon us to explore if there are opportunities to maybe improve these Golf Courses, to get money invested, maybe do a combination of golf and green space. I mean, I am very happy that Councillor Vandal stood up on the Point of Order, to clarify something that I believed was black and white. Any decision here has to come back to Council. And sometimes we forget who is supreme. I thought I'd say it enough times, people would buy into it. Council is supreme. The consultants don't' tell us what to do, we make the decision. We like to get input but ultimately Mr. Speaker, it's our decision and for us not to explore those options I think would be foolish and Mr. Speaker, I think with the Nordik Spa, I commend Councillor Gerbasi. Because you

know what we all know what it's like when people complain and no matter what you do they going to complain. I think that was a wonderful thing that we did. The administration was approached, it went through the process, they shared the ideas and even if, even if all of us thought that was the greatest thing to happen, I can assure you, there will be residents who don't like it. That's reality, it's not going to change Mr. Speaker and that is a way of a creative way of addressing a cash flow shortfall okay. And I think we should continue to do that and explore if there are opportunities. In the end, nothing wonderful may come forward Mr. Speaker, we're still sitting here with the same situation, we need to figure out a way to address it but from my point of view as Mayor, I want to hear if there are creative ideas out there. I want to know what they are. I want to know if they make sense. I want to know if they are going to serve the purpose. I want to know if they are going to maintain all of the green space, part of the green space, whatever the case may be but Mr. Speaker, the one thing I can tell you I learned today I don't think anybody on the Floor of Council considers farmland the equivalent to what we call green space. And I can assure you when Councillor Gerbasi was referring to green space, and she can speak for herself, I don't think she was thinking farmland maybe she was but I don't think that. She's smiling so I guess not. But the realities are let's explore the opportunities, let's work with C.U.P.E., who has people out there who may have some great opportunities and ideas out there and that to me is what we are planning to do. Whatever comes back Mr. Speaker goes back to Council for any decision whatsoever. I will be supporting the Clause Mr. Speaker, thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Having heard all the speakers, we've had the request that one or I'm sorry, 2a and b be separated as a potential voting situation so we'll actually end up with three votes. One, 2. a) and 2. b), so I will call the question. Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Just a point of information. The motion that I read said 1, 2 and 3. Now you're referring to 2. a), 2. b), I'm not sure what we're talking about now. (Inaudible speaking in the background) Rating that 2. a) and 2. b) from the report itself or are we voting on the motion which says 1., to receive as information, 2., to…

Mr. Speaker: Short term.

Councillor Eadie: Seek private whatever and then 3. says…

Mr. Speaker: That would be 2. b), yes.

Councillor Eadie: You're calling that 2. b)?

Mr. Speaker: Yeah. All right; All those in favour of…all right, recorded vote. Number 1, the Recommendation contained in the Operational Review of the Winnipeg Golf Courses Service Audited dated November 10, we received as information. All those in favour?

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Eadie, Fielding, Gerbasi, Havixbeck, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Sharma, Smith, Steen, Steeves, Swandel, Vandal, Wyatt and Mr. Speaker Councillor Nordman.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 16, Nays 0.

Mr. Speaker: All right thank you. All those in favour again this is a recorded vote on Item 2. a). All those in favour?

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Fielding, Havixbeck, Pagtakhan, Sharma, Steen, Steeves, Swandel, Vandal, Wyatt and Mr. Speaker Councillor Nordman.

Mr. Speaker: All those opposed?

Nays

Councillors Eadie, Gerbasi, Orlikow, Smith.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 12, Nays 4.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. And the final vote, recorded vote; 2. b). All those in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Fielding, Havixbeck, Sharma, Steen, Steeves, Swandel, Vandal, and Mr. Speaker Councillor Nordman.

Mr. Speaker: All those opposed, please rise.

Nays

Councillors Eadie, Gerbasi, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Smith and Wyatt.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker; Yeas 10, Nays 6.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour of Recommendation No. 3. Those opposed? Seeing none, thank you. All right, continuing on with report for May the 18th. Mayor Katz.

REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED MAY 18, 2011

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: Number 2. Any others? All right. All those in favour of 1 and 3? Opposed? Carried. Number 2.

Item 2 - Loan Guarantee - Garden City Community Centre

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I'd love to hear what Councillor Sharma has to say and then I will try and address those concerns or comments whatever they might be.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Councillor Sharma.

Councillor Sharma: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to put on record my strong support for the Garden City Community Centre Project and Council's Loan Guarantee for funding the renovations. Shortly after being elected, I met with members of the Board at the Community Club and I can assure you that the passion which began this Soccer Plex a little over 10 years ago, flourishes still today. The Community Centre has taken this Project and in true entrepreneurial spirit capitalized on an opportunity to secure funding through Western Diversification. They sourced money from the City of Winnipeg Community Incentive Grant, the Province of Manitoba's Community Places Grant as well as put their own money on the table and are asking the City of Winnipeg to guarantee a loan which will bridge the gap. The Community Centre is supported by enthusiastic volunteers who have committed to display physical prudence throughout the years. It is further supported by the Community, by the active participation in the recreational programming that is offered to youth and adults alike. This facility is truly a great benefit to the community it serves. I ask my colleagues on Council to support this project and to vote in favour of the loan guarantee. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: No further speakers? All those in favour? Oh, I'm sorry Councillor or Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I totally concur with Councillor Sharma and I hope this is totally unanimous.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried? Thank you. Report of May 19th, Mayor Katz.

**REPORT OF THE
EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
DATED MAY 19, 2011**

Mayor Katz: I guess I'll go through the process, Mr. Speaker. I'll introduce the report and move adoption of Consent Agenda Item 1.
Mr. Speaker: All those in favour?

Councillor Eadie: I would like to speak to it, actually.

Mr. Speaker: Okay. Mayor Katz.

Item 1 - Chief Administrator Officer - Appointment

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, as I think most people know that EPC, along with the professionals at Meyers Norris and Penny went through a very lengthy process and are looking for a new CAO to replace the previous one who stepped down for an opportunity in Alberta. I'm happy to say that we did have a good response. We had well over 40 applicants come forward from the majority of provinces in Canada. It was narrowed down and narrowed down and narrowed down, in the end the Selection Committee landed on Mr. Phil Sheegl, a person who's basically been working for the City of Winnipeg as Director of Property and Planning as well in recent time as the Deputy CAO, and I think we all know the quality of the individual's work and I'm certainly hoping this moves forward but most importantly Mr. Speaker, I very much want to thank Mr. Mike Ruta who for the last seven months approximately, has been the acting CAO has gotten through us, gotten us through some difficult times and some challenging, shall we say events, and I certainly want to extend my personal heart felt thanks as well as a thanks of City Council as well as all the citizens of Winnipeg. You did a phenomenal job and I thank you for that and Mr. Speaker, I would now love to hear from Councillor Eadie or any other Councillors.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you, Speaker Nordman, in receiving the information in regards to the hiring of the recommended CAO. I would node that I think that success was achieved in the process that actually stands for it to there. It was pretty clear in the advertisement for the position that the Chief Administrative Officer reports to the Mayor and EPC. That's what it says, that is the truth, EPC has gone through the process. They've made their decision and then they are passing on to Council for us to make a decision. Now, I have to stand up as someone who has experience in hiring senior administration in a school division setting, a public setting in which you have an elected board and you have elected people actually making decisions on who gets hired as superintendents, as well as my particular school division we also were able to decide who was hired as principals of the schools because our schools were essential, critical parts, to a school system. So in that process, one that works I think to the best extent in that everybody who is a member of that School Board and I'm pretty sure this is similar with the Winnipeg School Division, what would happen is you would do a search and yeah, there would be certainly people who would be there to vet through all the applications and determine who should be short listed and then who should be interviewed and interviews would be conducted but what would happen is, with the School Board we would report to every individual; we would report here is who we considered, here's how the interviews went, here's why we believe this is the recommendation that should be followed. I think that is a process that makes a lot of sense when somebody has to vote to decide whether or not a qualified person has been hired to do the work. And qualifications can be many different things but I would have to say at this point, I am not qualified to make a decision and vote but it says that in our procedures it says that I, as a City Councillor here, have to vote yea or nay on this particular hired. Now yes, personnel issues are private, they are to be kept closed and not to be expressed to anybody and you know as a person who is a Trustee at a Seven Oaks School Division I clearly understood that and followed all the rules and you know when it comes to personnel we have privacy and things to take care of; we know that, but to tell you the truth, I find the process here at the City insulting. Because here it assumes that I shouldn't be able to know who was interviewed and why the decision was made to hire a particular individual. I'm just asked to vote Yea or Nay. And so, because the process is, I think what it is, I'm going to have to vote no today and only because I don't know whether the current person is the right person for the job, nor have I been part of any deliberations or in depth decisions about who should be hired, what qualities should a person have to run a city like Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Vancouver whatever city we want to talk about I don't know but so today, it has nothing to do with the individual who's been selected, I stand here today to say that I cannot confidently say with all due respect, I cannot confidently say, that the right or wrong decision is being made and my only option from my perspective and you know you can argue it, but from my perspective is simply I'm going to have to vote No, thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Smith.

Councillor Smith: Mr. Speaker, I would love to vote yes for this appointment. I think Phil Sheegl is a nice person, a person I could have coffee with and he is intelligent. But the fact is, when he was first hired as a Director of Planning, Property and Development we had no basis for doing so. There was no evidence about his former employment or the development company that he was involved with, we just know he was involved with real estate. That…

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Smith, we're not going to get into the personalities here, okay?

Councillor Smith: I'm just saying.

Mr. Speaker: We can comment on the process, please.

Councillor Smith: I'm saying to you, the process for employees, people that have applied for the City of Winnipeg, they have to tell where they were formerly employed. What they had formerly done. We have nothing but the words of Mr. Sheegl about his involvement.

Mr. Speaker: Well we do have a HR Department sir, so I would suggest…

Councillor Smith: I'm saying to you as a Councillor I have no idea. For example in the paper today there was reference that he was seeking letters of endorsement. And he said he was careful to solicit letters of support from Unions and Provincial sources. I'd like to know who they are. In other words, I don't know enough about Phil Sheegl to be able to vote yes, much as I would like to. You know, anyone would seeks employment with the City of Winnipeg has to tell about their background, has to give letters of reference, has to give former job history, education and so forth, we have none of that and that's why I cannot support this.

Mr. Speaker: Fair enough. Any further comments? Seeing none, call the question? Oh, Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Sorry, Mr. Speaker I was just having a little debate with myself on how to respond to some of the comments made today. First of all, to Councilor Eadie, as an elected official, you certainly have the right to get as much information as possible, and I think if you had stayed at the Council Seminar that we had, with Mr. Sheegl you could've asked as many questions and maybe garnered a better understanding as well so could Councillor Smith have done that Mr. Speaker. And Mr. Speaker sometimes I choose to be quiet on certain issues and sometimes I choose to speak. And I wasn't going to bring this up but since Councillor Smith brought it up I think it's an absolute must. To even for a moment suggest that when the Director of Property and Planning was hired, that there was something wrong with the process, I find an insult to all the men and women who served on a Committee and those men and women included our CFO, Mike Ruta, Councillor Swandel, Alex Robinson and the Human Resources Luella Lee and Valarie Schroeder. These are the people who went through all the interview process who looked at all the applications and made a decision. And for them to say something that was just said I think is an insult to them and I just think it's not right, it's just not right. But more importantly Mr. Speaker, If these concerns were legitimate and by the way Mr. Speaker, it's Mr. Phil Sheegl just to get that right everybody should know that. If people are really interested and wanted to know, we all know the Human Resources and when you're dealing with that Department on personnel it's kept private. But Councillor Smith, would've had the opportunity and did have the opportunity to contact me and one on one, I may have shared with him all of the references that came from everywhere for people, from every walk of life, from right, from left, from center, from educational institutions, it was actually phenomenal and one day if Councillor takes that opportunity I still might do that. But the reality is there, the opportunity is there, the process is exactly the same process that Councillor Smith has been here for God knows how many years Mr. Speaker, nothing has changed. So why you would say that today if you hadn't said it with the hiring of the other CAOs is beyond me and I'm not going to try and figure it out, okay. We have a quality person, went through a thorough process and I'll let everybody vote the way they feel they should vote, end of story.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour, please rise.

A RECORDED VOTE was taken the result being as follows:

Yeas

His Worship Mayor Katz. Councillors Browaty, Fielding, Havixbeck, Pagtakhan, Sharma, Steen, Steeves, Swandel, Vandal and Mr. Speaker Councillor Nordman.

Mr. Speaker: All those opposed, please rise.

Nays

Councillors Eadie, Gerbasi, Orlikow, Smith and Wyatt.

City Clerk: The vote Mr. Speaker, Yeas 11, Nays 5.

Mr. Speaker: Motion passed welcome aboard Mr. Sheegl. We have a Notice of Motion from Councillor Gerbasi.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF MOTIONS

Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,
Seconded by His Worship Mayor Katz,

WHEREAS on Thursday, March 10th, 2011, a Private Member's Bill, Bill C-637, was tabled that will give additional protection to public transit operators;

AND WHEREAS Bill C-637 is an Act to amend the Criminal Code (public transit operators), and would make the fact that the victim of an assault is a public transit operator an aggravating circumstance for sentencing purposes;

AND WHEREAS Bill C-637 is consistent with the position of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Canadian Urban Transit Association;

AND WHEREAS public transit operator safety is a significant issue;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Winnipeg City Council call on the Federal Government to enact Bill C-637 to better protect public transit operators.

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank you very much Mr. Speaker. I'll just speak briefly to this. This was brought forward to me from the Amalgamated Transit Union, and it is a motion in support of a Private Members Bill C-637, to do with transit safety and transit drivers who have experienced a number of assaults. This is a phenomenon that has happened across the country. It's a national issue and this Bill has the support of the Canadian Urban Transit Association, to which I serve as on the Board Members Committee and also, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to which I'm your Board member, also support this Bill which elevates the…considers an assault of a public transit operator as an aggravated circumstance for sentencing and purposes. I would like to thank Mayor Katz for seconding my motion and I've included for your information some letters of support from other cities and another organizations that support the Bill. The Bill was sort of because of the election, sort of lost in the shuffle, but is expected to come back on board again following that. So I just wanted to give you a little bit of background for this and I hope that you will support it, thank you Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Seeing no comments. All those in favour? Opposed? Motion carried. Consideration of By-laws. We have a third reading, Mayor Katz.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS – THIRD READING

Mayor Katz: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I move that Section 16 of By-law No. 48/2011 as amended be read a third time and that same be passed in order to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried. Consideration of By-laws Mr. Mayor

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF BY-LAWS

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I move that the following By-laws be read a first time, By-law No. 69/2011 and By-law No. 70/2011.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 69/2011, By-law No. 70/2011.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I move that By-laws numbered 69/2011 and 70/2011 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws numbered 69/2011 and 70/2011.

Mayor Katz: And Mr. Speaker, I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws numbered 69/2011 and 70/2011 be read a third time and that same be passed in order to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried. Question period. Councillor Gerbasi.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Gerbasi: Thank You, Mr. Speaker. There has been, through you to the Mayor, there's been more media coverage this week about the impending completion of Phase 1 of the Rapid Transit Line from Queen Elizabeth Way to Jubilee Avenue, and I think we should all be proud that this large infrastructure project is coming in on time and on budget, however, and I guess I also wanted to say there's a lot of excitement about it. It's the first major Rapid Transit project in our city. It's happening. There's a tunnel being built. A lot of my residents have gone through a lot of inconvenience putting up with the construction and it's actually going to be opening not till early spring, but it is going to be opening. But the hard question, I have to repeatedly answer to people who ask me is what now? We have a half-finished transit way stopping at Jubilee Avenue, and when I think when people are zooming over the south Osborne overpass, by-passing the traffic of Donald Street coming home from work at speeds of high speed rail on their buses, I think they're going to be wondering why can't I go all the way to the University of Manitoba and the new stadium? I think that's what they're already saying to me and I think we're hearing that, at similar high speeds out of traffic, Councillor Swandel if you don't understand what I'm getting at. So I've repeatedly asked Mr. Mayor, the Mayor, and I guess maybe if I repeatedly ask something enough, I'll get some progress on an issue. It's happened a few other times. So, yeah I think I have two minutes Councillor Swandel for a preamble. Thank you. Two minutes. So I would like to ask the Mayor again for a time line, aside from comments. I appreciate his willingness to buy the Premier a ticket to go talk to Stephen Harper and all of that stuff, but I would really appreciate a time line. When can citizens expect to see the completion of the Rapid Transit corridor to the U of M? Will it be one year, six years, two years or 50 years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, regardless of how many times Councillor Gerbasi asks the question, I enjoy answering it so I'm happy to do it one more time Mr. Speaker. First of all for clarification, going from downtown to Jubilee, just so we understand, it does not end, it does not stop. The wrong impression has been given over and over again that it stops there. People have to get off the bus and go somewhere else. It doesn't stop, Mr. Speaker. From where that is, it crosses over to Pembina Highway and continues into diamond lanes all the way south on Pembina Highway. That's number one. Number two, Mr. Speaker, contrary to what people might think, I don't have a crystal ball or an Ouiji board that can tell you when something's going to happen emphatically. I wish I could tell you when all of our infrastructure is going to be complete. I can't tell you that. What I can tell you is even last month, I did speak with the Premier about Rapid Transit, about us going to Ottawa. We also talked about the transportation study. We also talked about a Transit Authority so we can move this forward, and that's exactly where things are right now, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Gerbasi.

Councillor Gerbasi: Okay. My next question has to do with, last Council meeting I did ask for a status update on the issue of a water park which $7 million has been set aside. The Mayor committed at the last meeting to check into that and get back to me. I'm assuming it's an oversight because I haven't received any follow up yet, so I would like the Mayor to commit to get back to me at least if he doesn't have the answer now, as to what is the status of the $7 million that was set aside for a private water park. It hasn't happened and it was promised quite some time ago and it hasn't come to fruition yet. Could we please have an update on that?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, it would be my pleasure. First of all a little bit of history. If you recall, we did put out an Expression of Interest the first go round. We got several and we did land on one and there was going to be a water park which would be, have a $7 million injection from the taxpayers of Winnipeg and basically in return for that, there would be a Public Access Agreement. There was a successful candidate, everybody was excited. In the end they were not able to complete the project and we decided it was time to start over. The Department did start over, put out

another Expression of Interest, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is there weren't as many, shall we say, responses to that although there was one for sure that I recall and they were looking at that one to see whether or not that could be a reality. In the meantime, our money is sitting securely where our money sits. The CFO can tell you exactly where it is, and we'll continue to pursue that and see if that is a possibility. At this stage of the game, you know, we're not getting the responses we hoped we would get. That I can share with Councillor Gerbasi for sure.

Mr. Speaker: Last question.

Councillor Gerbasi: I guess there were some issues raised and our Provincial Government was chastised extensively for delaying the spending of money in a Press Release that was sent out about that because we haven't come to an agreement on the Building Canada money, and I guess I wonder, I mean it's been many, many years that this $7 million has been sitting in a bank or wherever it's sitting, and I just wonder how much longer is it going to be sitting there languishing when there's infrastructure projects? You know, are we going to wait indefinitely for this or are we going to, you know, is there going to be money perhaps spent somewhere else? Is there any thought of that or are we just going to wait and if so, for how long do you predict?

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I thank Councillor Gerbasi for that question. Just a small correction. When that commitment was made Mr. Speaker, I've said this before and I'll just assume that Councillor Gerbasi has forgotten about it, there was no money. The money wasn't there, okay. The City of Winnipeg did not have the cash to do all these improvements to our recreational infrastructure. The reality is, it was phased in over a five year period of time and this one was one of the ones that was towards the end, not the beginning. So that's number one. It has not been languishing to say the least. Number two, at some point in time, if we cannot move forward on that potential opportunity, which I think would be terrific for our City, something I would very much like to see, then I think yeah, we have to look at other opportunities that might be out there, and they would be specifically in recreation, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Mayor Katz. Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mayor Katz last Wednesday the Infrastructure Council released its report and there was a press conference to that effect. I'm just wondering, how soon can we expect the report to be formally tabled since it was an initiative with the City of Winnipeg, tabled with Council with recommendations in terms of what the, in terms of its recommendations in the report of action items, of follow up, so we can actually get moving on some of these recommendations and start to address our infrastructure deficit. How soon can we see that process be formalized through City Council?

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, through you I thank Councillor Wyatt for the question. Obviously everything stated is accurate. The answer is quite simple. Some of the items on the so-called Infrastructure Funding Council menu are things that we've discussed. I hope to take some of those items through the proper process. It will come to EPC. It will then move forward to Council, Council will vote on it. Other recommendations, we are going to ask our Department to give us some feedback on some of those recommendations and see what they come back with and then move those forward, but the bottom line is some of them we will move forward A.S.A.P. and then we'll see what happens from there.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Smith.

Councillor Smith: Yes Mr. Speaker. My question is regarding the Taxicab Board Meetings. Mr. Mayor, EPC meets at the same time as the Taxicab Board meets, and so Councillor Swandel has missed 12 meetings so far. We haven't been represented as a City, and I wonder what you think of that?

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that a Member of Council is to sit on that Board, and I don't know if what I was just told is 100% correct but based on that comment, I can assure Councillor Smith that I'll be having a one-on-one with Councillor Swandel and see if there's a way of us working something out. I think it's extremely fortunate, I can't tell you how often I am disappointed when so many things take place on the Wednesday and as you know, almost every Wednesday is either EPC or Council, and so this is something that we should definitely discuss and I'll be happy to get back to Councillor Smith with a very definitive response.

Mr. Speaker: Second question?

Councillor Smith: Would you consider changing the time of the meeting for EPC so that Councillor Swandel can attend the Taxicab Board meetings?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I think it would be extremely appropriate for the Taxicab Board to change the timing of their meeting.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Yes, thank you Speaker Nordman. I was at the CentreVenture A.G.M. and the Downtown Subsidy Program to make sure that people are able to move and live in our downtown area is very successful. It sounds like it's going to be a great downtown, well, in the short past as well as going well into the future, but my concern is that while downtown exists and needs attention, there are inner-city spaces all around downtown that do have an effect on how people perceive going downtown and getting involved and participating and they influence each other. For example, the Mynarski Ward has a section of Main Streets, Selkirk Avenue, and all around in that area that is closely affiliated with the downtown area, and my question, through you Speaker to the Mayor, is simply when will we have a multi-family subsidy availability in the North End?

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I will first address the first part of the question. The initiative that was put forward, and I'm glad to see that the City lead and I'm very happy that the Province did become a partner and there's no doubt it's been extremely successful, and as you know working with CentreVenture, the uptake has been phenomenal. We started off with $20 million, we doubled it to $40 million, we'll have about another 1,300 residents, many of them apartments, many of them condos, many of them a good percentage based on the Province's definition of affordable, which means more people living, working and playing in our downtown which is what we need because the key thing is Mr. Speaker, we bring a lot of people into our downtown and then when work is over, they leave. We need people staying here. This has been very successful and it's basically throughout the country, people are talking about this initiative which to me is a very positive thing. The question was asked about the North End. I think first of all, we need some more specific detail. I'm not sure whether or not the Councillor is referring to more affordable housing, which might be something you might want to talk to the Province about. As you know, we do have a Housing Steering Committee which is chaired by Councillor Pagtakhan. I know they'll be meeting in the near future to come up with some ideas as well. As you know we have the Winnipeg Housing and Homeless Initiative which we do pump in a million dollars a year. So maybe the good Councillor could be a little bit more specific with exactly what it is, he feels is the responsibility of the City and not the Province and then I would be happy to try and answer it.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thanks for the answer and just to clarify, there's a number of people trying to improve the housing stock in the North End and also offer more density as well, and so when I talk about subsidy options I mean very similar to the ones that are being utilized downtown in which we put some subsidy in so that maybe somebody would like to buy an affordable condo. These are options that we do have downtown. So I'm directly referring to a subsidy kind of program, and I understand that a similar one might have existed in the past and needs to be sought to renew, so really that's what I meant by that question and maybe you can give me a more direct answer.

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker as you are aware, we have had situations where we have encouraged people to renovate homes and we provided funding for that and if the Councillor has a specific project or two that he would like to talk about, I'd be happy to set up a meeting with me and the Department and then maybe see if there is some opportunity and then eventually bring it through the process and bring it to Council. I think we should explore all initiatives, keeping in mind we do want more people living in our downtown. There's no question that is one of our objectives. By the same token, we certainly want higher density throughout the City of Winnipeg, so this would be something that I would be totally open to, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Last question.

Councillor Eadie: Just a final question. In terms of supporting living space in those places, can the Mayor tell me how he's going to find enough money to renew the streets that are just…there and back lanes in the inner city? They're just horrible and we really need to find a way to solve it. So can you tell me how we're going to, in the next

budget process, find the money to actually renew some serious streets to improve our neighbourhoods so people want to live in them?

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, we don't have problems with back lanes, sidewalks, curbs and streets just in the North End. We have problems throughout the City of Winnipeg. I can't tell you. I don't think there's ever been a year where Councillor Smith has not pointed out the problem with back lanes in his ward along with just about every single Councillor. That's because we have a $3.8 billion infrastructure deficit and that's current right now. Let's not project ten years down the road, and the way we're going to do that hopefully is, number one Mr. Speaker, we're going to get one point of the existing seven points of the P.S.T. which is approximately about $150 million which would help immensely for the City of Winnipeg. Imagine what you could do with that. Number two, we're going to get a rebate on the Provincial Sales Tax that the City of Winnipeg pays to the Province. We already get a rebate on the G.S.T. that the City pays to the Federal Government. It logically follows the same thing should be done, and on top of that, we hope to get indexing for our Gas Tax so we get more money for that which is going into our infrastructure. Those are three of the ways that I know and there could be a lot more coming, and as Councillor Wyatt alluded to, the Infrastructure Funding Council just came out with several recommendations and those are being explored as well.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to ask a question following up on Councillor Smith's attempt to perhaps paint me in a black light. I just wanted to make sure that the Mayor was aware, and perhaps he could respond a bit. The Taxicab Board is obviously under Provincial control. The City has some representation on there. Besides Council we have police representation on there. My coming onto that board, was actually putting my name forward to sit on that board, was a request from industry because they were hoping to get somebody from Executive Policy Committee to represent there so there would be some stronger representation from the City. Subsequent to getting onto the Committee, we learned that it met on Wednesdays and the difficulty of dealing with that. Information was moved back and forth between the Clerk's Office. I think the Mayor's Chief of Staff was involved at one point in time and certainly for myself as well. It seems to fall on deaf ears at the Province…or at least with the people running the Taxicab Board for the Province. Knowing this, I wonder if the Mayor would be willing to take this up with the Minister responsible for the Taxicab Board so that we can indeed get some representation on the Board that reflects some of the desires of the industry, and this industry is one of the first faces that visitors to our City see, and one of the last faces that they see when they come and go from our City. It's extremely important for us to be there and to be strongly represented there.

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz?

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I would be more than happy to take that up with the Minister and maybe I can address the concerns of Councillor Smith as well as what was just pointed out by Councillor Swandel. So yes, I would be more than happy to.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Any further questions? Councillor Wyatt.

Councillor Wyatt: The other day, Mr. Speaker, it was spoken about publicly about how the bus way is going to be ready by the end of this year, gave the impression October, November the completion of construction, but that we actually won't have any buses running on it until April based on the fact that's when the Transit Department makes its schedule. I'm sure this must have been some sort of oversight because it doesn't make any sense. It would be the equivalent of going and buying a new car and not running it for five months because you don't have the money to put gas into the tank. So Mr. Speaker, through you to the Mayor, is there any possibility the Mayor could look into this and considering the fact that this is a bus way going to the University of Manitoba, and this is the height of the University season, the fall and into the spring and they let out by the end of April, so we'd be losing an entire season of riders. Doesn't make any sense for business. Would he be able to look into this and see if this can be rectified Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

Mr. Speaker: Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, through you I thank Councillor Wyatt. My understanding Mr. Speaker is that it will be complete before the year end and that they'll start operations in the New Year. I hear very clearly what Councillor Wyatt is saying and I will most definitively look into it and try and get a very specific response to that question. Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Seeing no further questions, that concludes Executive Policy Committee, we'll move onto the Standing Policy Committee on Finance, there is no report, do we have any questions of Finance? Seeing none, we'll move onto the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management, there's no report, any questions of the Chair of Downtown, Councillor Browaty.

REPORT OF THE
STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT
DATED MAY 10, 2011

Councillor Browaty: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I'd like to introduce the report of May 10th and move adoption of Consent Agenda Items 1 to 14.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried: We have some By-laws. Councillor Browaty:

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

Councillor Browaty: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to Move the following By-laws be read a first time, By-law No. 64/2011, 65/2011, 66/2011, 67/2011, 68/2011.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 64/2011, By-law No. 65/2011, By-law No. 66/2011, By-law No. 67/2011 and By-law No. 68/2011.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Councillor Browaty: I move that By-laws numbered 64/2011 to 68/2011 both inclusive be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-laws numbered 64/2011 to 68/2011 both inclusive.

Councillor Browaty: I move that the rule be suspended and By-laws numbered 64/2011 to 68/2011 both inclusive be read a third time and the same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.
favour? Opposed? Carried. Question Period for Property and Development. Seeing none, we will move on to the Standing Committee on Protection and Community Services, Councillor Steeves.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DATED APRIL 4, 2011

Councillor Steeves: Thank you Mr. Speaker, regarding the report of April 4, 2011, I'll advise that Item 1 is referred back to the Standing Policy Committee.

REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DATED MAY 10, 2011

Councillor Steeves: Regarding the report of May 10, 2011, I'll introduce the report and move the adoption of Consent Agenda, Items 1 to 5.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Eadie, do you have a...

Councillor Eadie: (Inaudible).

Mr. Speaker: Yes, it's been referred back to the.

Councillor Eadie: Could I separate out the Smoking By-law?

Mr. Speaker: Okay, so we will look at…separate out No. 2 and we will vote on 1, 3, 4, 5. All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Item 2 - Outdoor Smoking By-law

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: Yes thank you Mr. Speaker, this is the final By-law of the report that came forward to Committee and then through Council last meeting I believe, we were told that we would follow up with that stage with the actual By-law that was going to be in place. There's been a couple of small housekeeping type changes in terms of the definitions that have been written in the overall sentiment I think, it remains the same. You heard the delegations who came forward. This item has been well supported by delegation throughout the course of its inception and run through at both at Standing Policy Committee, Executive Policy Committee, and of course through Council. The WRHA has played an active role along with Mantra and other citizens in our Community helping guide us through this process, the broad strokes of the By-law remain essentially the same. It will be contrary to the City of Winnipeg By-law to smoke cigarettes or smoke anything, I suppose, not just cigarettes if you are within 30 meters of an athletic field where a youth athletic event is going on. If it's an adult athletic event then you are allowed to run around the soccer pitch while smoking a Peter Jackson if that is your wish. The issues with respect to Schools and Hospitals facilities are documented as well as play structures. I think the process has been ably ran by our Director of Community Services, Clive Wightman and I appreciate the speed with which he and other members of the Administration have moved this matter through, and he has been very accessible I should say to members of the community who've tried to adjust it. I'm very pleased that we could move this matter forward at a pace that far outstripped I think, our previous indoor smoking ban. You're familiar again with the initiatives we took with the Provincial Government. We did originally state that our preference would be that the Province of Manitoba institute some type of overreaching legislation that would deal with municipalities. Regrettably they have chosen not to exercise that prerogative. I don't believe they are against what we're doing here today but there will be no Provincial Legislation as I stated. That has been very, very clearly put by the Province. So I guess it's with some regret that I say that they'll will be youth, soccer, baseball, football leagues going on that both that, I guess traverse the borders of the City of Winnipeg where some games, people watching the games, will not be able to smoke next to the side lines; other games they will be which is probably not a great outcome but it's the best we can do given the boundaries of our jurisdiction of course. So with that, I'll await comments from my friend or friends.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Eadie.

Councillor Eadie: Thank you Speaker Nordman, I'd like to actually thank my Standing Committee Chairperson for a job well done. It has moved through quite quickly and so I just wanted to say, I am of course supporting this By-law. I think it's a good By-law, I just wanted to make two points. I probably would have supported just banning smoking on sports facilities personally because really, it's kind of contrary to what's actually happening on the field, I mean, supposedly sport and recreation is about health. But anyway, this is a very good start and I think that it's a great By-law. Moving motions to change it at this point would, I don't think would work and I think we should allow this By-law to filter through and pointing out those well that there is no significant enforcement behind this By-law in terms of having By-law Enforcement Officers out there but, and so it is kind of a self-guided enforcement and well let's not call it enforcement, let's just call it compromising and working towards promoting better health and so I just wanted to put it on the public record that please I hope that smokers and people who don't smoke or are against smoking, hopefully this will be managed in a very dignified and appropriate manner. It is the law of the City now, let's please follow it and let's all just work together. I hope I don't encounter the kind of scenario I did a few years back where the hazard was really not the smoking, the hazard was it was getting too escalated and just stupid. So please, this By-law is now here, let's follow it, let's respect it and thanks again to the Committee and everybody who moved it through.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Councillor Eadie. Mayor Katz.

Mayor Katz: Mr. Speaker, I just very quickly, just a few things. First of all, I want to thank Councillor Steeves and his Committee, number one for not only doing the heavy lifting but showing phenomenal leadership. I thank them from myself and all the citizens. I also want to thank Councillor Pagtakhan who was the first one to basically broach the subject quite a long time ago and it's nice to see that it has moved for the process. We see the support is there and hopefully one day in the near future, this will be provincially wide. So just thank you very much all of you.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Steeves.

Councillor Steeves: Nothing to really add Mr. Speaker. I will kindly accept the words of gratitude although I have to say, I don't, they feel somewhat misplaced. I was just the person who requested that our director move forward. I really actually believe the true credit on this one goes to Clive Wightman and his team at Community Services. They did a wonderful job in getting this done very, very quickly at the request of the Community of course, community stake

holders, the soccer folks who came forward, Mantra, the WRHA, were very reasonable good people to work with. I still have 7 and ½ minutes to fill.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Thank you. We have some By-laws, Councillor Steeves.

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

Councillor Steeves: Yes we do. I'll just bring up my proceedings portion here, Mr. Speaker. One moment. I'll move that By-law No. 62/2011 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 62/2011.

Councillor Steeves: I will move that By-law No. 62/2011 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 62/2011.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Councillor Steeves: I will move that the rules be suspended and By-law No. 62/2011 be read a third time and that same be passed and ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried. Question period for Councillor Steeves, Protection and Community Services. Seeing none, we will move on: Standing Committee for Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, Councillor Vandal.

**REPORT OF THE STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON
INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS DATED MAY 3, 2011**

Councillor Vandal: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to move Items 1 and 2 as Consent.

Mr. Speaker: Stand down No. 2. All those in favour of No. 1? Opposed? Carried.

**Item 2 - Waverley West Roads Project - Delegation of Authority
to Award Contracts extending $10,000,000 including Multi-Year Contracts**

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I will wait to hear what Councillor Swandel has to say and wrap up.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Swandel.

Councillor Swandel: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I just stood this down, I wanted to get this out and hear back from the Chair of the Committee and perhaps he can take my concerns into the Administration, into the Public Service. This project was originally approved for funding in 2009 bringing Building Canada Funds from both the Provincial and Federal Governments. At that time because we involved the Federal Government a complete Environmental Assessment had to be done for the Waverley West Area which included the Department of Fisheries and Oceans out in the bald prairies out there. Apparently the rain water runs differently to the Red River once you start doing road building, but I believe it's still the same river water but nonetheless we lost the 2010 building season because of some of the requirements put on us by the Federal Government. To date and you'll see in this report we are not ready to proceed, the Federal Government still has not signed off in the grander scheme of this project. I believe that there's been some administrative approval given to allow our folks to start moving ahead on some of the pieces. We've now lost the early bidding opportunities in 2011. Should've been out there for tender maybe January, February and March. We can't do detail design without having the contract signed with the Federal and Provincial Government, and we're starting to push further and further into the 2011 building season. This is asking for authority to give this to the Administration for approval in…over the summer. We don't know when it's going to happen. I know that there was some pent up demand for more work to be out there, there's a lot of contractors that didn't…are still have

capacity left for this year. We could possibly see some favourable prices if we actually get this out the door. I'm concerned that it's taken this long and I think when you'll consider construction inflation running in the 6 to 10% range, if it's 10% on $54 million project, if we lose two building seasons, that's well over $10 million. Even if it was at 5% were down over $5 million. That's money that we'll have to find, folks. It's not money that the Federal Government and the Provincial Government are all of a sudden going to grow their contributions. That's money that we would have to find. So there's a need to get this going. I think that this should've been, the Administration could've come to us much earlier on this and made this a political issue back in November, October of last year seeing that it wasn't, the papers weren't getting signed, that we could've put some pressure on the Senior Minister or federally or have our folks pushing a hard with the Province but I don't think the Province is being the hold up here, my understanding is it's been the Federal Government that the Province has been willing to sign and have signed but we're held up and delayed by this Building Canada criteria and all these wants, needs and desires of the Federal Government but it looks like we're going to be going into almost three years if we go into next year before we get this 2009 approved project in the ground. It should've been in the ground last year and so I hope that the Chair can take this message forward and get this thing moving as quick as we can because I don't want to try to find another 5 to $10 million to get this project done before we prorogue. We'd have to do that at our next meeting, our next Council meeting in July that's when the numbers come in. We're giving this approval here, but we haven't got the budget if it goes over the numbers that were originally estimated.

Mr. Speaker: Councillor Vandal.

Councillor Vandal: Thank you Mr. Speaker, Councillor Swandel points taken, points well made, I'm not sure you obviously have a greater grasp on the history of this than I. I know that it's taken…there's been a lot of, sounds like there's been a lot of delays and I've heard the words Fisheries and Oceans so I can probably understand where those delays are coming from. This should expedite the process. I can tell you that everything, there's no extra budget implications here. Everything's been budgeted in 10 and 11 of course if there is extra appropriations they have to come back to this Council so I will talk to the Director and I will get back to Councillor Swandel today.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, all those in favour? Opposed? Carried. We have some By-laws, Councillor Vandal.

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

Councillor Vandal: Okay, I will move that By-law No. 63/2011 be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 63/2011.

Councillor Vandal: I will move that By-law No. 63/2011 be read a second time.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried.

Clerk: By-law No. 63/2011.

Councillor Vandal: I will move that the rules be suspended and By-law No. 63/2011 be read a third time and that same be passed in ordered to be signed and sealed.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour? Opposed? Carried. Question Period for Public Works Infrastructure Renewal.

**REPORT OF THE FORMER COUNCIL SECRETARIAT COMMITTEE
DATED FEBRUARY 14, 2011**

Mr. Speaker: Seeing none, the very last thing on our Agenda today is something that has been laid over again with Executive Policy Committee that came out of Secretariat, so I'll just advise you that Item 2 is back at EPC for 90 days. Than concludes our Agenda, ladies and gentlemen. We will meet again in June. Roll call.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Speaker Councillor Nordman, His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Browaty, Eadie, Fielding, Gerbasi, Havixbeck, Orlikow, Pagtakhan, Sharma, Smith, Steen, Steeves, Swandel, Vandal and Wyatt.

Council adjourned at 12:07 p.m.