CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION, PARKS AND CULTURE

The Executive Policy Committee has had before it the Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, dated March 9th, 1992, has concurred in the recommendations contained therein, except as noted below, and submits same to Council for approval and adoption.

On motion of Councillor Gilroy, the Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, dated March 9th, 1992, was considered clause by clause.

North Committee Room,
Council Building, Winnipeg.
March 9th, 1992.

His Worship the Mayor and Councillors:

Your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture submits the following Report and recommends:

Community Incentive Grant Application -Aberdeen/Argyle School Community Council Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community File PR-2.6(24)

756 1. On September 25th, 1991, Council adopted Clause 4 of the Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture dated September 9th, 1991, approving funding in the amount of $18,884.00 under the Community Incentive Grant program and waived the criteria inasmuch as the organization was not considered a "sport or recreation" organization.

On February 25th, 1992, the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee considered a communication from the Co-Chairpersons, Aberdeen/Argyle School Community Council, advising that the initial estimated project costs of $176,300.00 would be reduced to $99,142.00.

In report dated February 19th, 1992, the Administration advises as follows:

> "...Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Branch is of the opinion that the sponsoring group be allowed to reduce the initial estimated project costs of $176,300.00 on the original application to the actual project cost of $99,142.00. This would allow the group to receive the entire C.I.G.P. approved amount of $18,884.00. It should be noted that $18,884.00 is 19.05% of the actual project cost of $99,142.00 which is still within the criteria of 25%."

Your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, concurs in the recommendation of the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee and recommends:

1. That the Aberdeen/Argyle School Community Council be allowed to amend the initial estimated project costs of $176,300.00 on the original application to the actual project cost of $99,142.00, and that the previously approved amount of $18,884.00 be reaffirmed inasmuch as the amount is within the 25% allowed under the criteria established by Council and also that funds be approved for payment subject to:-

   (a) Confirmation of all funding sources;

   (b) Approval of final plans and specifications for the project by the General Manager of Parks and Recreation;

   (c) The applicant entering into a formal agreement with The City of Winnipeg.

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

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,
Adoption of the clause.

Carried.

The Introduction of an Advanced Life Support Program for the Citizens of Winnipeg File GF-3

757 2. LAID OVER BY EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

(See page 1035 for Official Set of Minutes for attachment)

Manitoba Lung Association Golf Privilege Card File PR-6

758 3. The Golf Privilege Program originated in the United States in 1981, and is now one of the top four fund raisers for the American Lung Association.

In 1991, the Manitoba Lung Association encouraged 11 golf courses to participate in the Golf Privilege Card Program and sold 1050 cards generating $23,959.00 in net income for respiratory research, training and health education.

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The Parks and Recreation Department, on occasion, receives requests to participate in a wide variety of promotional golf programs similar to that of the Lung Association. However, the current Green Fees Schedule does not allow the Municipal Golf Courses to participate in such ventures and therefore refers such requests to your Committee for approval to waive green fees.

The Department reviewed the request from the Lung Association and the attendance statistics amongst the five public golf courses. John Blumberg 18 Hole Golf Course is currently under utilized and could easily accommodate several thousand more golf games in order to closely resemble those attendance statistics achieved at the Kildonan Park and Windsor Park Golf Courses. Some of the reasons for the lower patronage at John Blumberg course are: it is a longer and more difficult course and thus appeals primarily to avid golfers; it is in a more remote location than Kildonan and Windsor; and it is a more windier course due to the lack of trees and its location in the prairie.

Participation in the 1992 Golf Privilege Card Program has a number of advantages that may be of benefit to the Municipal Golf Courses. Some of these advantages are: by supporting a worthy cause it provides the opportunity to expose the golf course to new potential customers; it provides an opportunity to generate some positive publicity towards the course; it could generate secondary income earned from concessions, rentals, merchandise sales and possible green fee revenue from friends who accompany the privilege cardholder; with the recommended restrictions in place, it will encourage use of the course during non-prime time hours; and it provides a golfing experience for golfers who may not otherwise visit a City of Winnipeg Golf Course.

There are several disadvantages such as: potential loss of revenue; it could take away tee times which would normally go to regular paying customers; and by participating in the Golf Privilege Card program it will set a precedent for future requests. This precedent may spark a proliferation of other similar fund raising programs to approach the City for the same consideration. The Committee would then be continually asked for special approval to waive green fees for other such events. To date, the Parks and Recreation Department is aware of a few other coupon offers related specifically to golf, however, there are countless coupon programs of a general nature that the Department could be requested to participate in.

With respect to financial impact on the City, if the Lung Association were to again sell 1050 privilege cards, the maximum amount of green fees revenue loss would amount to $14,700 (using 1991 rates of $14.00 per round). This is assuming a 100% usage rate and does not consider potential revenue generated by the cardholder or their guests. However, if the program expands in 1992 (more Privilege Cards sold), then the potential revenue loss would be correspondingly greater.

The Department is in favour of participating in this year's program under the restrictions listed in the recommendations. By introducing these restrictions (similar to those of other participants in the program) the city is able to encourage use of the facility during non prime hours and hopefully will achieve the spin-off benefits listed previously.

The Department intends to monitor this program in order to determine whether the City should be involved in this and other similar programs in the future. An evaluation report, including a cost/benefit analysis will be submitted to the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture following the completion of the 1992 golf season. The Parks and Recreation Department will reserve comment on the criteria for qualifying organizations until the feasibility of participation in such programs has been adequately evaluated.

A representative of the Manitoba Lung Association appeared in delegation at the January 27th, 1992 meeting of your Committee requesting that the City of Winnipeg participate in and support the 1992 edition of the Golf Privilege Card.

Your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture is of the opinion that this program should be approved on a trial basis and therefore recommends:-

1. That the City of Winnipeg participate in and support the Manitoba Lung Association's Golf Privilege Card on a trial basis for the 1992 season only.

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2. That the use of the Golf Privilege Card be restricted to use at the John Blumberg 18-Hole Golf Course only, prior to 3:00 p.m. on weekdays (excluding holidays) and after 2:00 p.m. on weekends, with a limit of one game coupon per Privilege Card.

3. That an evaluation report, including a cost/benefit analysis and recommendation on future participation in such programs be submitted to the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture following the completion of the 1992 golf season.

4. That the proper officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the foregoing.

Moved by Councillor Gilory,
Adoption of the clause.

Carried.

MOTIONS

Moved by Councillor Hyman,
Seconded by Councillor Timmers,
759 - WHEREAS the Provincial Minister of Natural Resources has stated he was prepared to sit down with the City of Winnipeg to reconsider the level of funding in the fight against Dutch Elm Disease;

AND WHEREAS both the City Forester and the Chief of Forest Protection for the Province have both stated the elm losses would be catastrophic if the cutbacks remain;

BE IT RESOLVED that Council instruct the Official Delegation to meet with provincial officials about the Province's level of funding to the City's Dutch Elm Disease Program.

Automatic referral to Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, in accordance with Section 16.1 of the Procedure By-law.

QUESTION PERIOD

760 Councillor Diamant drew attention to the provision in the parks section of Plan Winnipeg for priority for a linear open space parks system and an endeavour to acquire riverbank lands as part of this system. He asked if the Chairman supports the policy of acquisition of park land on riverbanks.

Councillor Gilroy replied in the affirmative.

Councillor Diamant asked if the Chairman supports a recommendation from Parks and the Administrative Co-ordinating Group's report that linear park property be protected 15 metres on top of the riverbank.

Councillor Gilroy replied in the negative, and drew attention to one of the clauses in Plan Winnipeg which, while recognizing the fact of lineal park properties along riverbanks, also recognizes that the City does not have unlimited resources, requiring the City to priorize projects. He suggested that the property in question is about a half mile from Assiniboine Park, and that his priorities would be the area from the Forks past the Municipal Hospitals or Omands Creek.

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Councillor Diamant asked if the Chair believes that a riverbank linkage which is approximately, in the narrowest place, about 15 feet in the flood plain, is adequate to preserve the long-range linear park program being proposed in Plan Winnipeg.

Councillor Gilroy replied that it is his understanding that the narrowest portion is about 35 feet. While not being the most desirable, without unlimited resources and with the choices available, it is about the best that can be expected at this time.

Councillor Duguid advised Council that a group of citizens are collecting petitions in the River Heights area and in the Premier's constituency and that the Minister of Natural Resources was seen recently on T.V. to say that he would be willing to look at Dutch Elm funding. As the end of the Elm pruning season is approaching, he asked if this possibility might be followed up.

Councillor Gilroy advised that he has had discussions with some representatives of the citizens group referred to by Councillor Duguid, and expressed support for their initiative. It is his understanding that the Province is considering increasing funding from $150,000.00 to $350,000.00. He hoped that the amount might even be higher, and advised that he believed the matter had been raised by the Official Delegation.

Councillor Duguid asked if there was any other method available, other than through the Official Delegation, to communicate with the Minister and impress the need for the funds.

Councillor Gilroy replied that it is his understanding that the Official Delegation is the highest level that the City has for representation between the City and the Province. He advised that he supported the initiative at Official Delegation, and suggested Council might ask the Mayor to write the Premier.

Councillor Timm-Rudolph asked if the Chairman is aware that Council has dealt with approximately 17 additional by-laws on an addendum, and there have been no complaints. Although a number of members of Council have been upset with the process in the past, nothing was heard this evening.

The Speaker ruled the question out of order.

Councillor Kaufmann asked when it is expected that an announcement will be made regarding the appointment of a police chief.

Councillor Gilroy replied that a meeting between the consultants and the Selection Committee was held to brief the Selection Committee on the status. It is anticipated that an announcement will be made around the end of May.