STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON

INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PLUBLIC WORKS

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 452
Councillor Smith referred to a motion regarding garbage bag recycling from 2007 and a report on the elimination of plastic grocery bags adopted by Council in 2008 and asked what had been done on the issue since then.

Councillor Vandal noted that Council adopted a Comprehensive Waste Minimization Strategic Master Plan and was well on the way, within the next six to seven years, to divert the amount of garbage to recycling from a meager 16 percent to over 55 percent, which would bring Winnipeg to the top middle of the pack across Canada. He added that it was a comprehensive plan but was not sure what the implications were for plastic bags and agreed to follow up on the status of the plastic bag issue.

Councillor Eadie suggested that inner city roads and back lanes were deteriorating too quickly and questioned when the Chair of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works would push the idea of faster renewal of inner city streets and back lanes, which had been moved as a motion during a recent Capital Budget process.

Councillor Vandal agreed to research the motion and stated that the infrastructure issue was dire for the entire City of Winnipeg and that a better deal from all levels of government was needed.

Councillor Eadie asked Councillor Vandal to move forward to the Executive Policy Committee, during the Capital Budget process, the idea of borrowing money based on increased frontage levy revenues and the funds to increase the number of streets being renewed and repaired. Councillor Vandal committed to sit down with Councillor Eadie and the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, during budget talks for 2013, to look at all options to find the maximum amount of money to go into infrastructure.

Councillor Eadie questioned when the proposed meeting would take place; to which Councillor Vandal replied sometime in July 2012.

His Worship Mayor Katz questioned if Councillors Vandal was aware that the City of Winnipeg did not have the authority, as confirmed by Legal Services, to ban plastic bags and that only the Provincial Government had that authority. Councillor Vandal replied that he was not aware of this fact and indicated that he would follow up with the administration to see what the options were for moving forward on the issue.