CONSIDERATION OF REPORT OF THE

COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION, PARKS AND CULTURE

The following clause contained in the Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, dated September 24th, 1990, was laid over by the Executive Policy Committee on October 3rd, 1990. The Executive Policy Committee has further considered this clause, has concurred in the recommendations contained therein and now submits it to Council for approval and adoption.

On motion of Councillor Douglas, Clause 1 of the Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, dated September 24th, 1990, was considered.

Alexander Park - City Centre-Fort Rouge Community. File FI-2.1.1.

272 - 1. Your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture has considered a recommendation that the City-owned property known as Alexander Park, comprising 5.67 acres and located east of Empress Street directly north of the Velodrome, be retained under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department for community soccer purposes.

The following chronology outlines the particulars regarding requests received for the use of the Alexander Park facility.

On March 24th, 1988, the Board of Directors of the Winnipeg Enterprises Corporation passed the following resolution:

> "That The City of Winnipeg give consideration to placing the Alexander Park facility under the control of the Winnipeg Enterprises Corporation.
>
> That such request is made in keeping with the fact that due to soccer being relocated to a new site, the present site will no longer be used for that purpose.
>
> That the property on which the Alexander Park facility is located could play a major role in the future development of the area in which it is located as well as providing a usage area by the Corporation on a current basis."

At its meeting held on April 28th, 1988, The Board of Commissioners considered the aforementioned resolution from the Winnipeg Enterprises Corporation and, prior to submitting any recommendation in this matter, requested the Corporation to advise of the proposed uses for the Alexander Park facility.

On July 21st, 1988, the General Manager of the Winnipeg Enterprises Corporation advised as follows:

"It is the consensus of this Corporation that such a valuable asset as Alexander Park should be retained by The City of Winnipeg by placing it under the control of the Winnipeg Enterprises as presently exists with the Velodrome facility. This would certainly provide for not only enhancement to the area at the present time, but would provide an area for future development of their facilities at some later date.

The acquisition of this property would allow for the Corporation to more adequately provide for their tenants presently utilizing the Winnipeg Arena and the Winnipeg Stadium. The Winnipeg Blue Bombers would be able to use the area for their pre-game festivities which must now be incorporated into the inside of the Stadium by virtue of the fact that they have no place else to go. The area could also provide for additional parking at not only major events which are taking place at present, but also for Triple A Baseball in the event that this sport comes to Winnipeg.

It is anticipated that through the installation of artificial turf into the Stadium, the increased usage of that facility will demand more parking area.

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, dated September 24th, 1990.

Insofar as the properties adjacent to the Winnipeg Arena and Winnipeg Stadium are at a premium at the present time, this Corporation strongly suggests that consideration be given by the City to retention of same for future development to the area with enhancement and utilization being undertaken in the interim under the control of the Enterprises."

By report dated July 21st, 1988, submitted to the Executive Policy Committee, the Board of Commissioners recommended that the Alexander Park facility be placed under the control of the Winnipeg Enterprises Corporation.

On August 31st, 1988, the Executive Policy Committee considered the aforementioned report dated July 21st, 1988, and referred the matter to the Committee on Finance and Administration for review and report back.

On September 20th, 1988, the Committee on Finance and Administration referred the subject matter to the Director of Land Surveys and Real Estate for report to the Ad Hoc Committee on City Properties at its next meeting to be held on October 7th, 1988.

By report dated September 29th, 1988, submitted to the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, the General Manager of Parks and Recreation recommended that the Alexander Park facility be retained by the Manitoba Soccer Association until June 15th, 1989.

On October 17th, 1988, the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture considered the aforementioned report dated September 29th, 1988, and concurred in the recommendation that the Alexander Park facility be retained by the Manitoba Soccer Association until June 15th, 1989.

On December 13th, 1988, the Committee on Finance and Administration recommended that the Alexander Park facility be turned over to the Winnipeg Enterprises Corporation subject to the facility being used for soccer for the summer of 1989, and uses beyond 1989 be subject to the approval of the City Centre-Fort Rouge Community Committee.

On December 21st, 1988, the Executive Policy Committee referred the matter back to The Board of Commissioners with a request for a report back, including specifics on the control of the site, the type and length of lease, an outline of the options that may be available, long term plans, the cost and also the impact on the community.

On September 11th, 1989, the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture considered a communication, dated July 11th, 1989, from the Chairman of the Winnipeg Sport Facility Committee, inquiring as to the availability of Alexander Park for future facility development and referred the request to the Administration for review and report.

On September 13th, 1989, the Executive Policy Committee considered a report from the Acting Chief Commissioner, dated June 29th, 1989, recommending that the City-owned property known as Alexander Park be retained under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department for community soccer field utilization, and directed that the matter be referred back to The Board of Commissioners.

After reviewing the future development potential of Alexander Park with appropriate representatives of various administrative departments, the Parks and Recreation Department has recommended that Alexander Park be retained under its jurisdiction for community use and provides the following supporting rationale:-

a) Such a recommendation is premised on need and is specifically supported by policy contained in Plan Winnipeg, which states:- "the City shall maintain neighbourhood parks where they currently exist in older neighbourhoods and, where necessary, acquire and develop additional open space in order to alleviate deficiencies."

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, dated September 24th, 1990.

b) With specific regard to need for soccer pitches, the Manitoba Soccer Association has recently expressed a need for fields to accommodate the intermediate level of play, as well as fields of higher quality at the neighbourhood level. Such a request is especially relevant within the City Centre-Fort Rouge Community, where only Weston Community Centre and Clifton Community Centre have on-site soccer fields. All other community centres must program soccer games at other City-owned sites or School Division lands. Consequently, the City Centre-Fort Rouge Community Centres would be a primary user of the Alexander Park facility with a portion of use being designated to meet the higher level City-wide demand identified by the Manitoba Soccer Association. The vast majority of Inner City athletic fields have been developed and are programmed as combination facilities with either a soccer/football field or an overlapping soccer/baseball facility, with the major disadvantage being that only one activity can be programmed at one time. The closest City-owned soccer pitches to the subject property are situated at Minto Athletic Area, which is over one-half of a mile to the east of Alexander Park. Moreover, this soccer pitch actually functions as a combination soccer/football field.

c) The inadequate supply of soccer pitches is compounded by the fact that many of the sites being programmed by the Department are on school property and require that the City apply for their use every year on a seasonal basis. The City's ability to provide adequate recreational facilities remains very contingent upon the cooperation of the School Division. The City has no guarantee of the availability of these fields and the School Division reserves the right to send out cancellation notices for their use in the case of special events.

Therefore, given the City's present inability to meet the existing demand for quality soccer facilities, it must be recognized that the cost to the City of retaining and upgrading the subject site, estimated at $6,286.00 annually, is substantially less than the cost of the development of an alternative soccer pitch, which is estimated at over $116,000.00 not including land acquisition.

d) Another consideration towards retaining the site for park purposes is the fact that the park borders onto Omands Creek and strong residential opposition would be anticipated to any proposal to increase parking by sacrificing local public open space.

Your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture concurs that the Alexander Park facility should be retained and programmed for community use and therefore recommends:-

1. That the City-owned property known as Alexander Park be retained under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department for community soccer purposes.

2. That the proper officers of the City of Winnipeg be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the above.

Moved by Councillor Douglas,
Adoption of the clause.

Carried.

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 November 26th, 1990, has concurred in the recommendations contained therein and submits same to Council for approval and adoption.

On motion of Councillor Douglas, the Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, dated November 26th, 1990, was considered clause by clause.

North Committee Room,
Council Building, Winnipeg.
November 26th, 1990.

His Worship the Mayor and Councillors:

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

Vimy Arena - Program Change
File PR-2.1

273 - 1. Funds in the amount of $73,000.00 were approved in the 1990 Capital Program for the construction of an ice resurfacer storage room addition in the Vimy Arena. This work was started in June, 1990.

The St. James-Assiniboia Community Parks and Recreation Branch has received a request to have an accessible viewing area and ramp to allow spectator viewing of the ice surface. Vimy Arena is the last remaining arena in the St. James-Assiniboia Community to have such a viewing area.

The following projects which were not originally identified in the capital project are now being recommended:-

(a) construction of an accessible ramp and platform to allow wheelchair spectators to view the ice surface area;

(b) installation of a propane gas detector and related duct work exhaust system to ventilate the ice resurfacer storage room in the event of a propane leak; and

(c) installation of an ammonia gas detector and related hardware to warn staff and the general public in the event of an ammonia leak.

The ice resurfacer storage room is proposed to be modified rather than an addition with the removal of one interior wall and the relocation of some mechanical equipment to the outside of the room. The enlarging of the ice resurfacer storage room to accommodate the new self-propelled ice resurfacer and the dumping of ice shavings outside rather than melting indoors can be accommodated with the remaining funds in the project.

The installation of propane gas detectors in the ice resurfacer storage rooms is required to protect staff and general public from a possible propane leak and subsequent explosion. Quotations have been called for this work totalling $15,000.00 for this facility. The installation of an ammonia gas detector in the mechanical plant room is also required to protect staff and general public from a possible ammonia leak from the compressor.

Inasmuch as a program change will allow an accessible and safer viewing area for the spectators viewing ice activities and protect staff and users from the dangers of a propane and ammonia leak should one occur, your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture recommends:-

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, dated November 26th, 1990.

1. That funds in the amount of $30,000.00 from account number 03-118XXX-5490510201 Vimy Arena Project be approved for a program change to allow for the following work to take place in this facility:-

   (a) construction of an accessible ramp and platform to allow wheelchair spectators to view the ice surface area ($10,000.00); (b) installation of a propane gas detector and related duct work exhaust system to ventilate the ice resurfacer storage room in the event of a propane leak ($15,000.00); and

   (c) installation of an ammonia gas detector and related hardware to warn staff and the general public in the event of an ammonia leak ($5,000.00).

2. That the proper officers of the City do all things necessary to implement the foregoing.

Moved by Councillor Douglas,
Adoption of the clause.

Carried.

Special Grants to Cultural Organizations File FG-1.1

274 - 2. On November 7th, 1984, Council established the Winnipeg Arts Advisory Council and delegated to it the responsibility for screening of applications, definition of criteria and recommendations as to appropriate grant levels for cultural organizations. The Winnipeg Arts Advisory Council transmits these recommendations to your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture.

The Political and Administrative By-law No. 4444/86 delegates authority to the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture under Section (4) (e) of Schedule "A" which reads in part as follows:-

"(e) The making of grants to cultural and artistic groups, in accordance with existing council policy within a global sum approved each year by Council."

The Council policy relative to cultural grants reads in part as follows:-

"(9) The Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture shall adjudicate all applications and within the global allocation, shall have final authority to approve grants which qualify under this policy, up to an amount of $50,000.00 per individual grant. It shall submit to Council with its recommendation for approval, all request for grants in excess of this amount."

On March 21st, 1990, Council approved a global allocation for operating grant contributions to Arts and Cultural organizations for the financial year 1990 in the amount of $1,884,105.00. The annual global allocation is divided into four separate accounts - Individual Artists Account; Project Grants Account; Administrative Account and Primary Operating Grants Account. The division of the 1990 global allocation is as follows:-

Primary Operating -	$1,681,695.00
Individual Artists -	14,000.00
Special Projects	94,205.00
Administration	94,205.00
	$1,884,105.00

On April 4th, 1990, Council adopted the recommendation of your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture for interim operating grant allocations to eight organizations whose funding exceeded $50,000.00 in the financial year 1990 and on May 30th, 1990, Council approved the final grant installments.

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, dated November 26th, 1990

On November 26th, 1990, your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture approved a recommendation from the Winnipeg Arts Advisory Council that surplus funds in the amount of $20,000.00 remaining in the Administrative Account be transferred to the Primary Operating Grant account, and that these funds be granted to cultural organizations as additional operating grant allocations for the year 1989-90. In this connection, it was recommended by the Arts Advisory Council that the following organizations receive additional funds toward their 1989-90 operations:-

Organization	Category	Additional Grant Recommendation	Total 1989-90 Funds Granted
Festival du Voyageur	Festivals	2,700	$ 85,200.00
Royal Winnipeg Ballet	Dance	2,700	$245,430.00
Winnipeg Art Gallery	Museums & Art Galleries	3,500	$366,146.00
Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra	Music	1,000	$149,900.00

Your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture therefore recommends:-

1. That additional funds for the operating year 1989-90 be approved for payment to the following cultural organizations and charged to the Primary Operating Grant account:-

Royal Winnipeg Ballet -	$ 2,700.00
Festival du Voyageur -	$ 2,700.00
Winnipeg Art Gallery -	$ 3,500.00
Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra -	$ 1,000.00
Total	$ 9,900.00

2. That the proper officers of the City do all things necessary to implement the foregoing.

Moved by Councillor Douglas,
Adoption of the clause.

Carried.

Richmond Kings Community Centre
Parking Lot Program Change
File PR-2

275 - 3. The parking requirements at the Richmond Kings Community Centre have increased since the completion of the arena at the site, to the point where during the 1989/90 season the parking problem mushroomed into a major problem.

To meet this parking demand, the club, during the winter, cleared the field adjacent to the parking area of snow thus providing overflow parking on the frozen ground. With the early thaw this spring, the arena patrons still required parking and still attempted to park on the thawing field thus severely damaging the sod when they exited the site. In addition, there was more on-street parking after the thaw resulting in complaints at a rate of ten per week from the adjacent neighbours.

In order to help alleviate this parking problem, the club has requested the authority to utilize funds in the amount of $25,000.00 previously authorized for insulating the arena walls. The Community Centre has requested that these funds be reallocated in order to provide additional parking on the south end of the existing parking lot.

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, dated November 26th, 1990.

In the 1989 Capital Program, a total of $60,000.00 was made available with $25,000.00 coming from the 1989 Capital Program and $35,000.00 coming from the Community Centre for the purpose of upgrading the insulation in the ceiling. This program is now completed. In the 1990 Capital Program, the City authorized $25,000.00 for the purpose of upgrading insulation in the arena walls and doors.

The Civic Properties Department has looked at this proposal and estimates that approximately 30 additional parking stalls complete with parking lot drainage can be accomplished for the $25,000.00. It is also estimated that it will cost approximately $2,000.00 annually to repair the sod in the adjacent field as a result of damage caused by unauthorized parking on the thawing field. It is further estimated that the upgraded wall insulation would provide the club with an annual saving of approximately $1,000.00 on their heating bills. In view of the fact that the annual saving in repairing the field is greater than the saving from the gas utility, and since the larger parking lot would reduce the number of complaints from adjacent neighbours, the Civic Properties Department, along with the Parks and Recreation Department, recommends that the program change be approved.

Your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture therefore recommends:-

1. That a program change be approved and funds in the amount of $25,000.00 be reallocated in the 1990 Capital Program to extend the parking area at the site.

2. That the proper officers of the City do all things necessary to implement the foregoing.

Moved by Councillor Douglas,
Adoption of the clause.

Carried.

Appointment of a Member of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture to the Winnipeg Arts Advisory Council
Files FG-3 & GC-7

276 - 4. As requested by Council on November 7th, 1990, your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture recommends the appointment of Councillors B. Douglas and P. Diamant as the Committee's representative and alternate respectively on the Winnipeg Arts Advisory Council for the term expiring November, 1991.

Moved by Councillor Douglas,
Adoption of the clause.

Carried.

Appointment of a Member of Council to the Steering Committee - Zoological Society of Manitoba Files PR-7.1.1 & GC-7

277 - 5. As requested by Council on November 7th, 1990, your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture recommends the appointment of Councillors T. Duguid and P. Diamant as Council's two representatives on the Steering Committee - Zoological Society of Manitoba.

Moved by Councillor Douglas,
Adoption of the clause.

Carried.

COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION, PARKS AND CULTURE

MOTIONS

Moved by Councillor Brown,
Seconded by Councillor Fraser,

278 - THAT Councillor Douglas be appointed to the St. James-Assiniboia Museum Board for 1991.

Carried.

QUESTION PERIOD

279 - Councillor Golden drew attention to a communication from the Commissioner of Protection, Parks and Culture, offering an apology to Councillors for the manner in which certain cuts in expenditures in Parks and Recreation had been introduced without input from Council. He asked if the Chairman of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, Councillor Douglas, would advise Council how this happened and how the administration made the decisions without the input of Council and what can be done to alleviate the public fear that services are being lost without input from elected representatives.

Councillor Douglas reviewed the process for budget review this year, beginning with budget guidelines in June and the representations heard by the Budget Committee from most departments; and a later informal seminar with Councillors and the Board of Commissioners, although no formal decisions were reached. The communication referred to from the Commissioner, to the Standing Committee, is the detail of what has happened. The Commissioner apologizes that the matter happened as it did, and indicated that it should not have happened. An informal meeting will be held by the Committee to hear more detail, and Councillor Douglas advised that he expected that appropriate action will be taken for the Committee to deal with the matter formally.

Councillor Golden asked Councillor Douglas if he considered the cuts made were done properly and if Council will have an opportunity to make representations to the Standing Committee.

Councillor Douglas replied in the negative, but that it seemed appropriate to first get all the facts before judgements are made.

Councillor Golden asked if this response indicates that the advertised cuts in programs will not take place without an opportunity for Councillors to receive adequate notice to make representations.

Councillor Douglas repeated his desire to first obtain further information before making judgement, but that he would consider that before any formal decision is made to support cuts or change policy, Councillors will be made aware and be given an opportunity to make representation if they desire.

Councillor Lazarenko referred to a motion presented in Council dealing with a five-year tax freeze on all home renovations, and asked when a report is expected.

Mayor Norrie advised that in reply to a previous inquiry from Councillor Lazarenko, he had determined that the matter was with the Board of Commissioners. The delay, he understood, was due to the research required, but expected that the matter will be returned to Council shortly.

Councillor Lazarenko drew the attention of Council to the fact that this was the last meeting of Council in 1990 and extended compliments of the season to members of Council, their families, and City staff.

Councillor Kaufmann referred to a meeting of the Official Delegation on December 17th, and the fact that earlier this year, Council supported a special classification for those properties outside the urban limit line, inside the City of Winnipeg, not served by City water and sewer services. He advised that he understood the matter has not been raised by the Official Delegation, and asked that this matter be discussed.

Mayor Norrie replied that the matter has been raised, in the general sense of the tax situation involving a number of issues. He agreed to ensure that this matter had been included in this context.

Councillor Kaufmann advised that the St. Boniface-St. Vital Community Committee has one capital project in south St. Vital for $225,000.00, and that the Community Committee has asked that the project be replaced by a wading pool in South St. Vital, due to the lack of such a facility in the area. He advised that he understood that the project has been removed, and asked for reinstatement to allow a full debate at Executive Policy Committee.

The Speaker suggested that Councillor Kaufmann appear at Executive Policy Committee during review of the 1991 Capital Estimates.

Councillor Kaufmann extended compliments of the Season.

Councillor Timm-Rudolph referred to an advertisement in the daily newspapers regarding the blue bag program for recycling. She asked if the grant to the organization from Committee on Finance and Administration had been made for an advertisement of this kind, recognizing statements from the organization indicating a shortfall in their operating budget.

Councillor Selinger replied that the same question had occurred to him in reading the advertisement and that he telephoned the manager. The response was that the ad in the Sun had been contributed by the Sun itself, while the other ad in the Free Press was at a reduced rate, paid out of resources from the Board and nothing to do with the grant. The manager gave assurances that none of the grant would be used for advertising.

Councillor Diamant advised that during consideration of the Urban Affairs estimates at Committee on Supply in the Legislature, the Minister for Urban Affairs indicated that he had written to the Mayor on November 5th, requesting an extension of one year to the C.O.R.E. Area Initiative. He asked if the Mayor could advise when this matter will be coming to the floor of Council.

Mayor Norrie replied that the matter was on the agenda of the last meeting of the policy committee of the C.O.R.E., comprised of Mr. Epp, Mr. Ducharme, and himself. At the Provincial level and the Municipal level, in his view, subject to approval of Council, this would be an advantageous position. A series of negotiations is underway with the Federal Government and the matter will be on the agenda for a meeting on December 14th. Once there is agreement amongst the three partners, the matter will be presented to Council.

Councillor Diamant advised that in the same letter the Minister for Urban Affairs indicated he was requesting that there be five public meetings between January 25th and March 27th, 1991. In view of this meeting of Council being the last, and Council not having an opportunity of dealing with this particular issue, he asked if these meetings will proceed and, if so, how notification of interested parties might be done on the C.O.R.E. Area Initiative and the possibility of a C.O.R.E. Three.

Mayor Norrie replied that tentative agreement has been reached amongst the three levels of government and that the policy committee will hold these meetings, and he expected that the detail will be finalized on December 14th. This would allow public input into the possibility of a third C.O.R.E. insofar as need is concerned.

Councillor Diamant asked if with this understanding, it will be in order for groups in the C.O.R.E. Area wishing to make representations to prepare submissions.

Mayor Norrie suggested it might be preferable to wait the outcome on December 14th to ensure agreement of the three partners.

Councillor Wade referred to statements from Councillor Douglas that further cuts will be placed before Committee. However, in speaking with the Chief Commissioner a few minutes ago, he was advised that the Chief Commissioner has no intention of going to Committee to make the cuts, and that the directive from Council of 5 percent would allow cuts and change policies. He expressed his concern for a loss of political control, and asked how this control might be regained.

Mayor Norrie replied that in his conversations with the Chief Commissioner, control has not been lost and the political process is still the final word. This fact is recognized and appreciated by the Chief Commissioner. The Board is currently reviewing the Current Budget within the guidelines provided by Council and an attempt is being made to produce a 1991 budget not exceeding a five percent tax increase. Mayor Norrie also referred to informal guidelines recognizing that the City is not, under any circumstances, and if at all possible, not to incur a deficit for 1990. As a result, some measures to limit spending have been taken in the last month of the year. Council will make the decision ultimately as to what level of service is provided and what the public is charged for. Councillor Wade asked Mayor Norrie to ensure the message is received by the Chief Commissioner and that consultation must take place with the Standing Committee or Council.

Mayor Norrie referred to meetings held this year dealing with this matter, and Councillor Wade's familiarity with the process. He reiterated that the final decisions as to level of services and the tax rate lie with Council, and there is no doubt.