STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON

INFRASTRUCTURE RENEWAL AND PUBLIC WORKS

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 660
Councillor Havixbeck asked the Chair to advise when all the glitches would be resolved with the new waste minimization program and inquired if the company was expected to stay viable.

Councillor Vandal confirmed that the program was a success as the amount of garbage going to the landfill had been reduced by 30 percent, or 3,300 tonnes, and the amount of recycling was over 500 tonnes over the same time last year and the amount of yard waste (leaves) collected with the launch of the program was 2300 tonnes; that would otherwise have gone to the landfill to produce greenhouse gas initiatives. He advised that it was important to note that the reason they moved forward on the entire initiative was because they were at the bottom of waste divergence of major cities across Canada, tied with Regina, at 15 percent. He added that the new system would take them to near 60 percent over the next six or seven years, would produces less greenhouse gases, make the city healthier, both in the environmental sense and to clean up the streets. Councillor Vandal advised that they have a contract with Emterra and there are legal issues relative to the glitches but further discussion regarding that should be talked about In Camera after the November 1st 30 day forgiveness clause.

Councillor Havixbeck questioned if part of the planning related to the Waste Minimization Program could factor in availability of yard waste bags in the marketplace. Councillor Vandal replied that he was assured that morning that there were enough bags throughout the City of Winnipeg and suggested that if there was a market for brown yard waste bags then the private sector would have the bags available for sale.

In reference to a playground structure in the Weston area that was removed due to some servicing issues, Councillor Fielding noted concern that he found out about it from a constituent, rather than receiving notice from the administration, and asked for a commitment to work to find a way to put the playground equipment back there; to which Councillor Vandal confirmed that he would find some answers.

Councillor Eadie referred to the new Waste Minimization Program and asked if the Chair would look to divide some parts of the City as the company appears to be unable to collect the waste in an appropriate time.

Councillor Vandal stated that Councillor Eadie should notify 311 or the Director of Water and Waste to register those areas with deficiencies and stated that there would be discussion with senior administration about the matter.

Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works –Question Period

Councillor Eadie confirmed that he was calling 311, but that was not solving the problem and the garbage was not being picked up, which means bad health and bad situations in all inner-city wards. Councillor Vandal advised that he was committed to working with the Councillor and the Administration to solve the problem.

Councillor Eadie asked what the percentage take-up was on recycling with the new program. Councillor Vandal advised that the amount of garbage going into the landfill had been reduced by 30 percent or 3,300 tonnes over this time last year; a 30 percent increase in the reduction of garbage going into the land fill. The amount of material collected by the new blue carts was more than 500 tonnes compared to the same period in 2011 and the amount of yard waste collected since the launch of the program was 2300 tonnes, which would normally go to the landfill and create greenhouse gases.

Councillor Mayes questioned if it was appropriate to tell constituents what a great program it was when people on Veert Road went 26 days with no pick-up

Councillor Vandal replied that the amount of waste reduction the program produced had been positive. Undoubtedly, individuals have fallen through the cracks and have not had good success; and it was incumbent on Councillor Mayes, their representative, to communicate with them and deal with their situations. Councillor Vandal concluded by stating that a big dilemma faced by policy makers and politicians was that they look at things from a City-wide perspective where other individuals look at situations for their individual perspective, but if you look at it from a city-wide perspective, some progress had been made.