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 January 7th, 1991, has concurred in the recommendations contained therein, except as noted below, 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 January 7th, 1991, was considered clause by clause.

North Committee Room,
Council Building, Winnipeg.
January 7th, 1991.

His Worship the Mayor and Councillors:

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

Status of Regional and Community Parks
File PR-2

366 - 1. Council on November 21st, 1990, referred the following motion to your Committee, namely:-

"WHEREAS the St. Boniface-St. Vital Community Committee directed the Parks and Recreation Department to submit a comprehensive report on Regional and Community Parks development addressing present conditions, user groups, funds spent over the last five years, access and priorized needs for upgrading and parks development;

AND WHEREAS it was found that if the level of funding remains the same, these current day needs and demands could only be addressed over the next 22 years;

BE IT RESOLVED that the other five community committees submit a similar report;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in the event that similar results are found in all the community committees that the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture develop city-wide priorities and recommendations and hold a Council workshop to address the above for the 1991-1996 Capital Budgets." Pursuant to Section 16.4 of The Procedure By-law No. 5400/90, your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture recommends a 60 day extension of time be granted in which to report back to Council on this matter.

Moved by Councillor Douglas,
Adoption of the clause.

Carried.

Support of the River Trail Activities Project as Proposed by the Festival du Voyageur
Files E-5 & E-5.1.4

367 - 2. The River Trail was first operated four years ago as part of the Riverborne Winter Carnival. During the winter of 1990 Le Festival du Voyageur undertook a coordinating role for the six week River Trail season, organizing weekly activities structured to meet the public need. Over 59,000 visitors and participants took part during 1990.

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The Trail runs from the Osborne Bridge through to the Provencher Bridge and consists of approximately 3.5 km of trail on the Assiniboine and Red Rivers. Activities have included skating, sulky races, dog races, cross-country ski trails, mountain bike trails, entertainment and special events.

On July 19th, 1990 the Riverbank Management Committee considered a request from Festival du Voyageur for assistance towards the River Trail project in order to ensure the continued presence of the River Trail for the benefit of local citizens and tourists. The Festival du Voyageur submitted three alternatives as outlined on Appendix "A", for City involvement in this project.

The Parks and Recreation Department was requested to examine the three options presented by the Festival du Voyageur for the City of Winnipeg to participate in the maintenance and operation of the River Trail.

During discussions with the Parks and Recreation Department, Festival du Voyageur indicated that their long term plans include expanding the River Trail north along the Red River to the Alexander Dock and Fort Gibraltar area. In addition, Festival du Voyageur clarified their immediate request as follows:-

1991 Assistance Requested

For the year 1991, Festival du Voyageur is not requesting an operating grant from the City of Winnipeg. Funding ($40,000) is presently in place the for construction, maintenance and operation of the River Trail for 1991. They have requested assistance for the current year in the form of material, equipment and labour to initially construct the trail in January 1991 and to assist in clean up once the festivities have ended for the year.

The costs associated with this work are estimated to be:-

1)	Snow clearing and preparing trail (January 2nd to 7th)	$ 9,105.00
2)	Clean up (week of February 18th)	$ 2,179.00
	Total	$11,284.00

1992 Through 1996

The present funding for the River Trail construction, maintenance and operation is not available after 1991. To establish long term (1992 through 1996) stability of the project, Festival du Voyageur has requested that the City of Winnipeg participate in the development of the physical aspects of the River Trail. This participation could be in the form of grants and/or physical participation in the actual River Trail as outlined on Appendix "A".

The estimated costs and implications for the City associated with each option are summarized as follows:-

Options Components	Option A Estimated Cost	Option B Estimated Cost	Option C Estimated Cost
Operating Grant	$40,000	$57,276	$50,000
Machinery/ Operators	$ 9,105	$25,671	$ 8,742
Supplies/ Services	$ 2,179	$ 2,179	$ 2,179
Total	$51,284	$85,126	$57,921

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, dated January 7th, 1991

Option A

Festival du Voyageur during their discussions with the Parks and Recreation Department indicated that Option A is their preferred Option. Under this Option, Festival du Voyageur would continue to operate and maintain the River Trail. The City would provide financial assistance in the form of a grant as well as minimal labour, equipment and material during the construction and cleanup phases of the project.

In this manner, Festival du Voyageur would retain control of the day to day operation of the River Trail, enabling internal coordination of the Trail's operation with the River Trail program. This would eliminate extensive daily coordination of City forces with the Festival du Voyageur River Trail program. Option A requests an operating grant of $40,000.00 to defer the cost of Festival du Voyageur staff and contractors, material and rentals. Currently $40,000.00 is the amount Festival du Voyageur expends for construction, maintenance and operation of the trail.

In addition, under Option A, machinery and operators would be provided at no cost by the City of Winnipeg for approximately three days for initial construction of the trail (during the week of January 2nd, 1991). These machines consisting of loaders, scrapers and water trucks, would be used to augment those contracted by Festival du Voyageur to clear the trail and to apply water to increase the ice thickness. The City's involvement would enable the initial construction time to be minimized. Festival du Voyageur's contractor would continue to supply equipment to maintain and revise the River Trail during the six week season. This would include snow removal, flooding and altering of the trail configuration for different events.

Option A also includes a request for supplies and services. It is proposed that the City would continue to supply Christmas trees from the street decoration program along Portage Avenue to augment those obtained by Festival du Voyageur from tree lots. In addition, the City would continue to supply lighting along the riverbank and bridges at the same level as last year. The cost of the lighting is not included in the estimate. It is also requested that the City supply sand as required to maintain access to the sites. The City would then remove these trees, sand and other debris such as straw upon completion of the season. The lighting would also be removed.

Implementation of Option A would have the following implications for the City:-

1) the City's financial involvement would be precisely known for a number of years at a fixed amount ($40,000.00 in the first year and would increase with inflation in following years)

2) the City's costs associated with the trail would be minimized

3) City coordination and supervisory staff effort would be minimized to the initial construction and final cleanup phases

4) City liability would be minimized due to the limited involvement in the actual River Trail activities

5) Festival du Voyageur would maintain an independence to operate the River Trail in their own manner

If the City were to entertain participating in the River Trail, then Option A would be the most preferred option.

Option B

Under Option B the City would actually supply and pay for all material, labour, equipment and necessary rentals to actually develop, maintain, operate and dismantle the River Trail each year. In place of an operating grant, the City would supply the human resources required to construct, operate and maintain the River Trail for the six week season. This would include security patrols, toilet facilities, shelter construction, access points, snow removal and alterations to the trail.

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Under this Option, the machinery and operators would be totally provided by the City for the six week season. This could involve machines being used at any time night or day. The machinery would have to be made available on a priority basis to ensure that the River Trail schedule and program would not be disrupted by snow and weather. The provision of supplies and services would be as outlined in Option A.

Implementation of Option B would have the following implications for the City:-

1) the total cost would exceed the cost of Option A or C

2) the cost would vary year to year dependent upon weather conditions, the number of visitors, and the program developed by Festival du Voyageur

3) the City would have to dedicate staff to coordinate City operations with River Trail activities as well as arrange for private contractors to provide sound systems, lighting, sanitary facilities, and security for the festivities

4) the City could become liable for visitor mishaps during the festivities

5) the staff required for maintaining the Trail would be taken from the Regional or possibly Community Parks as required; the reaction time could be a problem since the machinery is not located on site but would have to travel to the job

6) the City would be exposed to potential public criticism if problems occur with the River Trail physical condition or the program and it is unlikely that the City would receive extensive positive recognition for its participation in the River Trail

The acceptance of Option B is not recommended.

Option C

Option C is basically the same as Option A except that the City would provide free of charge equipment to construct and maintain the River Trail over an eight week period. Festival du Voyageur would provide the operators.

Consequently, the requested operating grant for Option C is $50,000 ($10,000 higher than Option A to cover the cost of the machine operators). Festival du Voyageur would perform the actual work, as in Option A. The machinery/equipment would be supplied by the City and operated by Festival du Voyageur personnel with the supplies and services as in Option A.

Implementation of Option C would have the following implications for the City:-

1) the benefits noted for Option A would apply to Option C

2) City equipment would be operated by non-City employees which could produce negative implications with union problems, insurance problems, equipment damage etc.

The acceptance of Option C is not recommended due to the negative implications of providing equipment without operators to Festival du Voyageur.

On December 13th, 1990, the Riverbank Management Committee considered report dated September 20th, 1990, from the General Manager of Parks and Recreation with respect to the request for support of the River Trail activities project as proposed by the Festival du Voyageur and recommended that assistance in the amount of $11,284.00 for the year 1991 be approved and Option "A" be approved for the years 1992 through 1996.

On January 7th, 1991, the Committee on Planning and Community Services endorsed the recommendations of the Riverbank Management Committee, subject to approval of your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture.

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, dated January 7th, 1991

Your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture is of the opinion that the River Trail Project is an important River related winter activity and therefore recommends:-

1. That the City of Winnipeg support and participate in the maintenance and operation of the River Trail as follows:-

    i) assistance for the year 1991 be provided in the form of material, equipment and labour to initially construct the trail in January and to assist in clean up once the festivities have ended for the year; costs associated with this work not to exceed $11,284.00, for which additional funds will be required in the 1991 Current Budget of the Parks and Recreation Department;

    ii) assistance for 1992 through 1996 be provided as outlined under Option "A".

2. That detailed negotiations be entered into prior to an agreement being formed with Festival du Voyageur to ensure that the exact services provided by the City would be defined and understood. (Future expansion of the River Trail would have to be addressed).

3. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the foregoing.

Your Executive Policy Committee recommends that the clause be amended by deleting recommendation 1. ii) in its entirety and that the said recommendation be referred to the Executive Policy Committee Ad Hoc Committee dealing with the Budget Process.

Moved by Councillor Douglas,
Adoption of the clause.

In amendment,

Moved by Councillor Brown,
That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted.

Carried.

The motion for the adoption of the clause, as amended, was put and declared carried.