Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – April 17, 2013

Minute No. 257
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management – April 11, 2013

Item No. 1 Heritage Conservation Grant for St. Boniface Cathedral – 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale (St. Boniface Ward)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management and submitted the following to Council:

1. That a $350,000 Heritage Conservation Grant be approved to the St. Boniface Cathedral as contribution towards a larger $6 million upgrading campaign for the building;

    a. That the grant be payable from the Heritage Investment Reserve Fund;

    b. That $275,000 be transferred from the General Purpose Reserve Fund to the Heritage Investment Reserve Fund to address the projected shortfall in funding with which to finance the recommended grant.

2. That the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to finalize and approve the terms and conditions of all agreements required to implement matters as directed by Council; and

3. That the proper officers of the City do all things necessary to affect the intent of the foregoing.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management – April 11, 2013

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 11, 2013, the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Heritage Conservation Grant for St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale

Critical Path: Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management - Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
J. Kiernan	B. Thorgrimson	M. Ruta	D. Joshi

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council approve the following:

    a. A $350,000 Heritage Conservation Grant to the St. Boniface Cathedral as contribution towards a larger $6 million upgrading campaign for the building;

    b. That the grant be payable from the Heritage Investment Reserve Fund;

    c. That $275,000 be transferred from the General Purpose Reserve Fund to the Heritage Investment Reserve Fund to address the projected shortfall in funding with which to finance the recommended grant.

2. That the Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to finalize and approve the terms and conditions of all agreements required to implement matters as directed by Council; and

3. That the proper officers of the City do all things necessary to affect the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Council approval is required for a Heritage Conservation Grant and to transfer funds between Reserves.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- A $350,000 grant, matched by the Provincial and Federal governments and being last dollars in, is a reasonable public investment to ensure one of Winnipeg's most significant religious, cultural and tourist landmarks is preserved through a multi-million dollar upgrading campaign.

- The preservation of this facility will support and complement the quality of living and economic activity in St. Boniface and the Downtown. It will also enhance the growing network of tourist

destinations including the Saint Boniface Museum, the Forks, the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, Upper Fort Garry Gate Park, etc.

- Historically, strategic Economic Development grants for key heritage buildings such as this have been funded from the Heritage Investment Reserve Fund (HIR). Due to the current balance in this Reserve, partial funding will be required from an additional source.

- The General Purpose Reserve Fund currently has capacity to transfer funding to the HIR. As such, the General Purpose Reserve Fund is being recommended as the supplementary funding source for a *one-time only* contribution.

HISTORY

The St. Boniface Cathedral has requested financial assistance to help protect and preserve the Cathedral's integrity and stability. The total goal for the Capital Campaign is $6 million, of which a $350,000 grant would represent 6%. All three levels of government have been approached with an identical request.

The scope of work includes replacement of the metal roof and altar window, structural upgrades, restoration of the 1908 ruins, and major upgrades to the electrical and mechanical systems. The work will also include construction of a visitor reception area for an enhanced experience.

Beyond being an iconic physical link to the past, the Cathedral is moving to the future with a renewed vision as an international hub for peace, human rights and compassion that is open to all. The cemetery and walls of the 1908 cathedral currently host plays and various gatherings, and are a popular photography spot. Plans exist to develop a historical walking tour and implement an ambassador program.

Thus the Cathedral is an important economic player within Winnipeg's tourism industry, receiving over 100,000 visitors annually. As such, the Cathedral is now part of a larger network of stakeholders working towards developing a common vision for the heart of Winnipeg. A walkable circuit linking existing and emerging destinations such as the Saint Boniface Museum, The Forks, The Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Upper Fort Garry Gate Park, etc will be developed. The Cathedral is an important asset in this endeavour.

The building was designated a Grade I municipal heritage site by the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management on January 8, 2013, based on its age, architectural and historical significance, including its formative connections to Winnipeg's Francophone community, and iconic status both locally and nationally. The site also holds a Provincial heritage designation, and is pursuing federal designation as a National Historic Site.

***See Appendix A for a History of this building.*

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: February 13, 2013

Project Name:

Heritage Conservation Grant for St. Boniface Cathedral, 190 Avenue de la Cathédrale

First Year of Program **2013**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 350,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 350,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	75,000	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ 275,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: Direct costs in 2013 represent the recommended grant of $350,000. Existing budget represents the projected available equity balance in the Heritage Investment Reserve Fund for 2013. Subject to approval of Recommendation # 1c above, the required net budget adjustment of $275,000 will be funded by a transfer from General Purpose Reserve Fund.

"Original signed by"
Mike McGinn, CA
Manager of Finance

CONSULTATION

In preparing this report there was consultation with:

Assessment & Taxation Department

SUBMITTED BY

Department:	Planning, Property and Development
Division:	Planning and Land Use
Prepared by:	Jennifer Hansell
Date:	March 18, 2013
File No.:	O:\Reports Directive\Planning and Land Use\Heritage\2012 Reports\Heritage Conservation Grant for St. Boniface Cathedral.doc

UD2012-098

Appendix A
190 Avenue de la Cathédrale – St. Boniface Cathedral



Both a parish church and the Mother Church of Western Canada, the St. Boniface Cathedral Basilica is the cornerstone of francophone settlement in western Canada.

The history of religious congregation on the site began in 1818 when Father Provencher built a log chapel across the Red River from Fort Garry and dedicated it to Saint Boniface. Two years later, he consecrated a new, larger log chapel as the first cathedral on the site, followed by a second cathedral in 1832. After a devastating fire, a third cathedral was constructed in 1862 by Bishop Taché. Finally, plans for a grand cathedral began in 1905 as the community prospered and grew.

Consecrated in 1908, the new St. Boniface Cathedral was built of limestone, and stood as one of the most spectacular structures in all of Western Canada. It was an excellent example of the French Romanesque or Romanesque Revival style. Growing out of the Gothic Revival movement in the late 19th century, the Romanesque Revival style used the rounded arch, towers, dormers and other elements to animate the rough walls built of stone and/or brick. In Manitoba, the Chicago strain of the style, known as Richardsonian Romanesque, was extremely popular in the warehouse district. Examples of non-warehouse Romanesque buildings are much rarer in Western Canada and the St. Boniface Cathedral would be considered one of the largest and best of this type.

The Cathedral was designed by the Montréal firm of Marchand and Haskell, with local supervision by St. Boniface architect/contractor Joseph-Azarie Sénécal. It measured approximately 95.2 metres long and 26.8 metres wide, with twin towers measuring 45.8 metres high. The vaulted ceiling inside rose 21.4 metres from the floor and the stained glass rose window had a diameter of 7.6 metres.

The front (west) façade featured a wide set of stairs leading to three arched doors leading to the interior. Above these entrances was a rose window topped by a statued gable end. On either side of this element were the domes of the corner towers. The simple yet regal detailing included buttresses and pilasters with ornate bases and capitals, dentils, etc.

This Cathedral would serve the city of St. Boniface for 60 years, but like many of its predecessors, met a firey end in July 1968. While the interior was entirely destroyed, some limestone walls, the sanctuary and the façade remained intact. As plans were made to rebuild, it was decided to keep these surviving pieces as a shell within which a new basilica was built in 1972. Designed by local architect Etienne Gaboury, this modern prairie church features distinct sloping metal roofs, a warm wood interior, and custom stained glass art throughout by the architect.

Today the cathedral remains a place of worship, as well as a legacy to the founding of St. Boniface by the earliest francophones on the prairies. It is also a symbol of the peaceful union of Canada's First Nations peoples and Europeans, who together formed the Métis. The cathedral and cemetery speak to this history through the graves and monuments to some of Manitoba's most influential figures and groups, including Bishop Provencher, the Grey Nuns, and Louis Riel. The complex holds iconic status as a major architectural and artistic symbol in St. Boniface, Winnipeg, and throughout Canada.