Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – April 17, 2013

Minute No. 267
Report – Governance Committee of Council – April 11, 2013

Item No. 1 Ward Boundaries Commission

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Governance Committee of Council and submitted the following to Council:

1. That the City Council decision of January 12, 2012 be rescinded and that a Wards Boundaries Commission not be established until after the 2016 Census or at the future discretion of Council.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – April 17, 2013

Report – Governance Committee of Council – April 11, 2013

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,

That the recommendation of the Governance Committee of Council be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 11, 2013, the Governance Committee of Council concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

ISSUE: **Ward Boundaries Commission**

Critical Path: **Governance Committee – Executive Policy Committee - Council**

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
M. Lemoine	R. Kachur		

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the City Council decision of January 12, 2012 be rescinded and that a Wards Boundaries Commission not be established until after the 2016 Census or at the future discretion of Council.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On January 12, 2012 Council adopted the following:

"That the existing 15 Council Wards be maintained and a Wards Boundaries Commission be undertaken to establish a more equitable distribution of population for report back in time for the next General Election."

A review of ward populations has now been completed using 2011 census data. The review suggests that population proportions have not changed significantly since the 2009 Ward Boundaries Commission and as such, it is recommended that Council review their 2012 decision with a view to waiting for the next census to undertake a ward boundary review.

HISTORY

On January 12, 2012 Council adopted the following:

> *"That the existing 15 Council Wards be maintained and a Wards Boundaries Commission be undertaken to establish a more equitable distribution of population for report back in time for the next General Election."*

As per section 13(1) of *The City of Winnipeg Charter*, the most recent census data must be used as the basis for population by any Ward Boundary Commission.

A review of Ward Populations has now been completed using 2011 census data. Appendix A shows a map of ward populations set by the 2009 Ward Boundaries Commission using 2006 Census data. Appendix B shows a similar map of ward populations using current ward boundaries and the 2011 Census data.

The table below summarizes the map data from Appendices A and B.

Data for Potential 2013 Wards Boundaries Commission					
Council Ward	**2013 (based on 2011 Census data)**	**2009 (based on 2006 Census data)**	**Number Difference 2009 to 2013**	**Percentage Difference 2009 to 2013**	**Difference from Average (44,238)**
Charleswood -Tuxedo	41,819	42,180	-361	-0.86%	-5.47%
Daniel McIntyre	45,542	43,995	1,547	3.52%	2.95%
Elmwood - East Kildonan	43,936	42,135	1,801	4.27%	-0.68%
Fort Rouge - East Fort Garry	45,510	45,150	360	0.80%	2.87%
Mynarski	42,145	39,800	2,345	5.89%	-4.73%
North Kildonan	36,451	36,630	-179	-0.49%	-17.60%
Old Kildonan	49,096	41,290	7,806	18.91%	10.98%
Point Douglas	42,571	39,780	2,791	7.02%	-3.77%
River Heights - Fort Garry	51,653	48,465	3,188	6.58%	16.76%
St Boniface	54,194	49,160	5,034	10.24%	22.50%
St. Charles	31,915	31,430	485	1.54%	-27.86%
St. James - Brooklands	36,009	35,040	969	2.76%	-18.60%
St. Norbert	53,544	47,650	5,894	12.37%	21.03%
St. Vital	52,340	50,080	2,260	4.51%	18.31%
Transcona	36,849	32,910	3,939	11.97%	-16.70%
Total	663,573	625,695	37,878	6.05%	

2013 Average Ward Size:	44,238
2013 Upper Limit (+25%)	55,298
2013 Lower Limit (-25%)	33,179

Section 13(3) of *The City of Winnipeg Charter* requires that a Ward Boundaries Commission final decision must ensure that all ward populations be within 25% of the average ward size.

As shown in the table on the previous page, only 1 Council Ward, St. Charles, falls outside of the 25% range, with the population at 31,915 based on the 2011 Census data. This is 1,264 less than the 25% lower limit of 33,179. This would be the only ward boundary that would be required to be changed by a new commission, although the commission could undertake any other changes it chooses based on input from public hearings.

Based on the results on the analysis done on the 2011 Census data, the following observations are noted:

1) The last Wards Boundaries Commission was held only 4 years ago in 2009. Another is not required by legislation until 2019.

2) Population proportions amongst wards have not changed significantly since the 2009 Wards Boundaries Commission, with only 1 ward falling outside the 25 per cent limits. Based on previous commission results, it seems unlikely that many changes other than that required to the one ward would be undertaken.

3) A Ward Boundaries Commission held in 2013 would work with the existing number of 15 Council Wards. As per section 17(1) of *The City of Winnipeg Charter,* only Council may change the number of wards, not the Wards Boundaries Commission itself. Council may only increase the number of wards in increments of two and must do so by by-law no less than 18 months prior to the election in order for the change in the number of wards to be in effect for that election.

4) There is a fair amount of effort and cost required to undertake a Ward Boundaries Commission including staff time, public hearings, time of the commission members and production of the report itself.

As a result, it is recommended that Council rescind its decision of January 12, 2012 regarding a new Ward Boundaries Commission be undertaken prior to the 2014 election.

Should this recommendation not be accepted, a Wards Boundaries Commission will be convened in 2013, with the final report being produced by December 2013. The decisions from the 2013 Ward Boundaries Commission report would go into effect on September 15, 2014.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no Financial Implications with this report.

CONSULTATION

In preparing this Report there was consultation with:

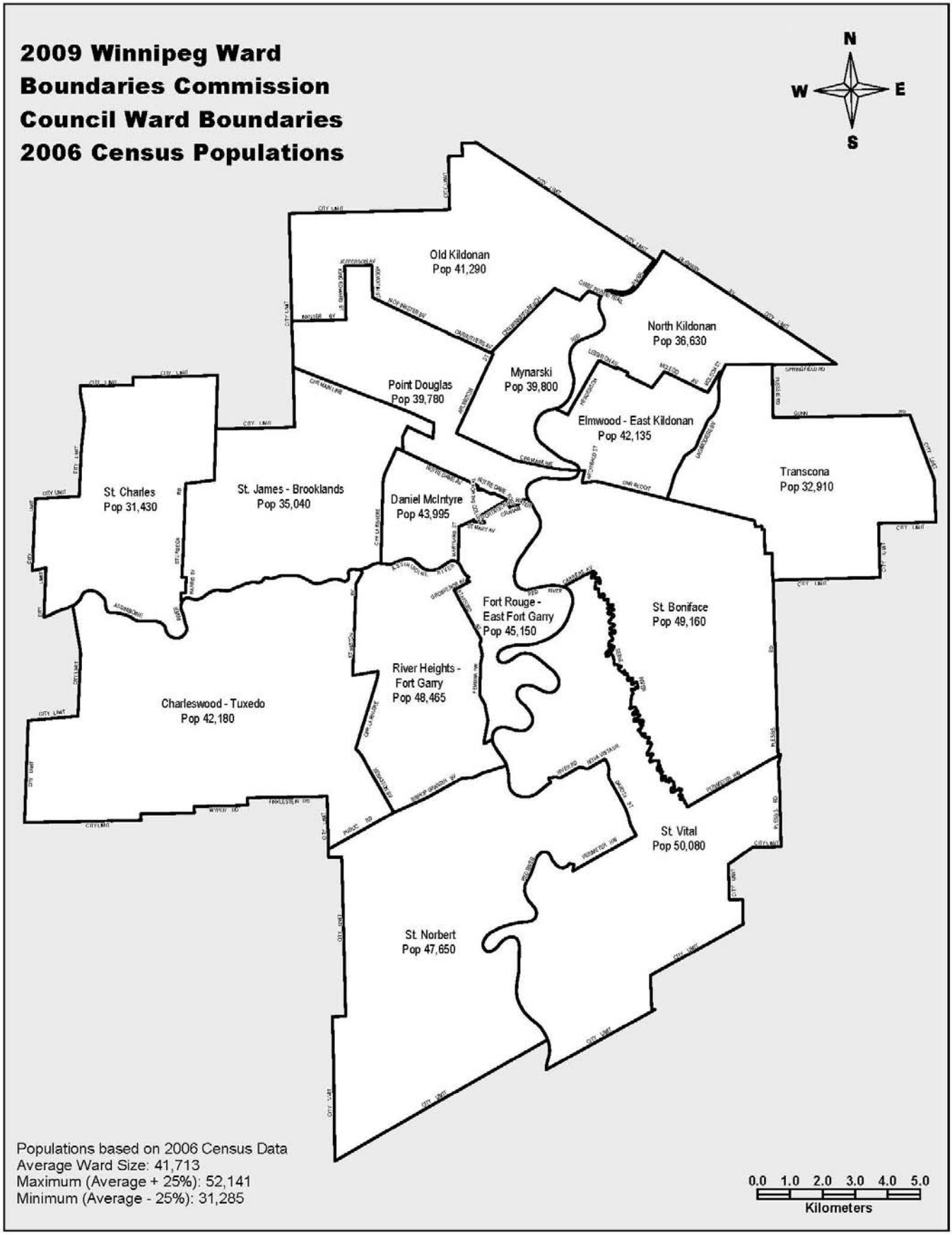
n/a

SUBMITTED BY

Department: City Clerk's Department
Prepared by: M. Lemoine
Date: March 14, 2013
File No.

J:\LIBRARY\REPORTS\130314 - WBC.docx

Appendix A – 2009 Wards Boundaries Commission Final Map
(using 2006 Census data)



Appendix B – 2013 Wards Population Map
(using 2011 Census data)

