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 12th, 1991, has concurred in the recommendations contained therein and submits same to Council for approval and adoption.

On motion of Councillor Gilroy, the Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, dated November 12th, 1991, was considered clause by clause.

Conference Room No. 1,
Administration Building, Winnipeg.
November 12th, 1991

His Worship Mayor and Councillors:

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

Appointment of two Members of Council to the Steering Committee - Zoological Society of Manitoba.
Files PR-7.1.1 and GC-7

204 - 1. As requested by Council on November 6th, 1991, your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture recommends the appointment of Councillors Fraser and O'Shaughnessy as Council's two representatives on the Steering Committee - Zoological Society of Manitoba.

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,
Adoption of the clause.

Carried.

Administrative Support Services for the Winnipeg Arts Advisory Council.
File FG-3

205 - 2. On November 6th, 1991, Council adopted Clause 1 of the Report of your Committee dated October 21st, 1991, approving a one year extension to the existing contractual agreement between the City of Winnipeg and Ms Blaise Enright Peterson for the provision of administrative support services for the Winnipeg Arts Advisory Council. While several amendments to the current personal services contract were approved at that time, it has been brought to the attention of your Committee that Clause 7 of the contract should also have been amended to provide for payment of the administrative allowance commencing January 1st of each year. Clause 7 of the existing personal services contract reads as follows:

> "7. The City shall pay an administrative allowance to Ms. Enright Peterson to the maximum specified by City Council in each year, and upon the recommendation of the Council, to cover such expenses as freight and messenger, juror fees, transportation, telephone, rentals, postage, seminars, convention and travel, stationery and office supplies, office equipment and miscellaneous expenses and other items as required and approved by the Council. This allowance shall be paid in quarterly instalments beginning April 1st of each year. An annual statement of disbursements made out of this allowance is to be prepared and submitted by Ms. Enright Peterson at the end of each year to the City's Finance Department. This statement shall be subject to audit by the City Auditor."

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, dated November 12, 1991.

Inasmuch as Council has now approved an additional one year contract effective January 1st, 1992, your Committee recommends as follows:-

1. That the policy for Cultural Grants administered by your Committee be amended to provide that Committee not only be authorized to distribute grants under the terms of the existing policy, in an amount not to exceed 50% of the total provision for grants for the preceding year, prior to the approval by Council of the annual operating budget, but also 50% of the administrative allowance; (On June 19th, 1991 Council established this administrative allowance at an amount not to exceed 3.5% of the global arts allocation.)

2. That Clause 7 of the personal services contract with Ms Blaise Enright Peterson be amended to allow the payment of the administrative allowance in quarterly instalments beginning January 1st of each year.

3. That the proper officers do all things necessary to implement the foregoing including the execution of the Agreement.

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,
Adoption of the clause.

Carried.

Fishpond - Assiniboine Park Conservatory

File PR-7.1

206 - 3. The Conservatory is a very popular facility, receiving over 400,000 visitors annually. Although no attempts are made to solicit funds, coins are freely thrown into the goldfish pond. It is clear that visitors intend these donations as contributions to the Conservatory, but there is currently no way to reserve the money for this purpose.

Currently, staff at the Assiniboine Park Conservatory collect coins from the goldfish pond, which are then deposited in the general revenue account of the City. It is estimated that $1,000.00 to $2,000.00 have been collected and deposited in the last year.

On May 13th, 1991, your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, on recommendation of Councillor Duguid, requested that consideration be given to allocating monies derived from the fishpond in the Conservatory for improvements to the Conservatory in lieu of depositing the funds into general revenues.

The Parks and Recreation Department considered the establishment of a Conservatory Reserve account that would provide a mechanism for directing funds from the goldfish pond, as well as other potential sources of revenue (donations, bequests, user fees) to their intended purpose of Conservatory improvement and Floriculture enhancement. The Finance Department did not concur with this recommendation as the costs associated with administering the account, including the preparation of financial statements and auditing by an external agency, would exceed the projected annual revenue for 1991 (Appendix I).

"The Friends" is an incorporated, three year old volunteer support organization consisting of approximately 110 members who primary goal is to support the ongoing development of the Assiniboine Park Conservatory. Conservatories and Botanical Gardens around the world rely on groups similar to "the Friends" for volunteer labour and financial support. Fostering the organization and encouraging its development as a non-tax supported revenue source is consistent with the long-range developmental plans of the Conservatory. Asking "the Friends" to become the recipients of these donated funds would also avert the need for new administrative routines within the Parks and Recreation and Finance Departments.

The alternatives considered by the Administration included the following:

1. To establish a Conservatory reserve account to receive revenues from the fishpond, as well as from other potential revenue sources.

Report of the Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture, dated November 12, 1991.

Total funds from the fishpond and other sources of revenue are estimated at $5,000.00 per year. It is the opinion of the Finance Department that this level of funding does not warrant a reserve account since the costs to administer the account would exceed the projected annual revenue. The Parks and Recreation Department contends that if monies could be directed back to the Conservatory, individuals and organizations would give more freely and the anticipated revenue would likely far exceed the associated administrative costs. In addition, "the Friends" have recently applied for status as a charitable organization which would greatly enhance their ability to raise funds for the Conservatory. These funds could also be deposited in the Conservatory Reserve Account. At this point, it is not possible to quantify the anticipated increase, therefore, this alternative has not been recommended.

2. Continue depositing goldfish pond funds and other donations into general revenue.

The Conservatory budget is insufficient for providing the high quality displays the public expect to see. Those individuals who are willing to augment public finds with private donations are disappointed to learn the money is not retained in the Conservatory budget. Although they would like to contribute to the continued development of the facility there is currently no way, administratively, of providing this opportunity. Often, lack of opportunity dissuades some individuals from contributing. For this reason this alternative which represents the status quo is not being recommended.

When monies controlled by "the Friends" are expended for Civic purposes, the normal approval process for gifts to the City will apply. A formal agreement will be developed in co-operation with "the Friends", outlining the terms and conditions of receiving and expending fishpond funds. In addition, appropriate signage will be installed at the fishpond identifying that funds will be used by "the Friends" for Conservatory improvements.

Your Committee on Protection, Parks and Culture recommends:

1. That monies derived from the fishpond in the Conservatory be entrusted to the Friends of the Assiniboine Park Conservatory Inc., (the Friends) to be used for improvements to the Conservatory.

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

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,
Adoption of the clause.

Carried.