Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – January 15, 2014

Minute No. 98
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management – January 6, 2014

Item No. 1 Go to the Waterfront Planning Document

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 the "Go to the Waterfront" Planning Strategy (Appendix A), be endorsed in principle as a tool to support Waterfront Development for the City of Winnipeg.

2. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to utilize the "Go to the Waterfront" document as a guide for riverbank initiatives and partnerships.

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

Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – January 15, 2014

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management – January 6, 2014

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 January 6, 2014, 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.

On November 18, 2013, the Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management laid over the matter to its meeting on January 6, 2014.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: **Go To the Waterfront Planning Document**

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

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
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RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council endorse in principle the *"Go to the Waterfront"* Planning Strategy (Appendix A) as a tool to support Waterfront Development for the City of Winnipeg.

2. That Council direct the Public Service to utilize the *"Go to the Waterfront"* document as a guide for riverbank initiatives and partnerships.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

The Standing Policy Committee on Downtown Development, Heritage and Riverbank Management reports to Council and is responsible for matters relating to the management of river-related issues, which usually cross departmental lines and conventional reporting relationships.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

If the recommendations of the report are concurred in, the *"Go to the Waterfront"* document will be used by the Public Service, related agencies and organizations, as a guide for waterfront development along the 40 kilometres of riverfront lands in Winnipeg.

"Go to the Waterfront" is a 20-year vision that imagines strategic city sidewalks, scenic drives and parkways, paths and pedestrian bridges as part of a cohesive riverfront pathway network connected to the Forks, creating a waterfront that acts as a magnet for new investment in housing, business and mixed use development. In time, the networks would be extended to connect the city's three regional parks; St. Vital Park, Kildonan Park, and Assiniboine Park, with the Forks.

There are no immediate financial implications related to the endorsement in principle of the *"Go to the Waterfront"* plan. Specific reports and financial analyses regarding projects recommended pursuant to this plan will be submitted for Council's consideration as they are developed.

"Go to the Waterfront" supports the implementation of several Directions in the Parks, Places and Open Spaces and Urban Design sections of the Complete Communities Direction Strategy, one of the companion documents of the OurWinnipeg Development Plan:

Section 07 Parks, Places and Open Spaces
Direction 2: Ensure that parks support economic development and are managed in a financially sustainable and innovative manner.

- Ensure that the parks network supports economic development and tourism by promoting the city's urban image

Direction 3: Demonstrate the value of our environmental and cultural capital by protecting, enhancing and restoring those natural and cultural park resources that are recognized as having historical, ecological and aesthetic value.

- Maintain our Ribbons of Green (riverbanks, urban street trees, green corridors)
- Protect and enhance public access to our riverbanks and forest environments and expand ecological networks and linkages

Direction 4: Promote active mobility and pedestrian connectivity

- Provide safe and accessible park spaces and a continuous and integrated linear parkway network that connects neighbourhoods and communities to their parks and other major city attractions
- Complement and support the active transportation network by promoting the planning, provision and development of linear parks, along with signage and communication strategies, constantly striving for a more clearly defined and well integrated system

Section 12 Urban Design:
Key Direction: Respond to Winnipeg's dynamic urban character and create a legacy of high quality public and private spaces to ensure its competitive position as a functional liveable and memorable city

To compete nationally and internationally, cities must increasingly project an attractive urban image. By combining the best physical characteristics with high quality public amenities, national and world-class cities are actively creating memorable places where people like to be.

The City recognizes that excellent urban design is important to the creation of great communities and neighbourhoods. Good urban design can add economic, social and environmental value. It can produce high returns on investment… create well-connected, inclusive and accessible new places, enhance the sense of safety and security within and across developments, and conserve urban heritage.

Direction 2: Promote the design of Winnipeg as a distinct and unique city

- For new development projects, the City and development community should seek community involvement and endeavour to express the values, needs, and aspirations of the people for whom the place is being designed
- Recognize, use, conserve and enhance heritage resources, including districts, buildings, landscapes and cultural heritage

Direction 4:
Promote the design of a liveable and beautiful city

- Locate and design significant sites and public buildings to promote their civic importance
- Encourage new buildings that fit compatibly into the surrounding context, improving the quality of the public realm

HISTORY

The riverfront precincts are the primary focus of a 20 year vision to address nearly 40 km of riverfront lands and build a public private partnership approach. The document supports Winnipeg's identity as a river city and encourages active lifestyles for its citizens.

Project Initiation
Work on this document commenced in January 2011 with a review of opportunities for the City's urban riverfront lands, connected by six key neighbourhoods. The initiative was co-led by The Forks-North Portage and the City of Winnipeg, with project funding from the Province of Manitoba. The Forks-North Portage with project funding from the Province of Manitoba retained Scatliff-Millar-Murray Landscape

Architects and Planners to undertake the planning process. The project was guided a River City Connections Planning Group which included; The Forks North Portage, City of Winnipeg, Tourism Winnipeg, Centre Venture, Economic Development Winnipeg, Western Diversification, Province of Manitoba, Enterpris Riel, Rivers West and key other stakeholders.

Stage 1 - Inventory / Analysis

- In Spring 2011, meetings were held with key stakeholder groups, which gathered background information from the following organizations and civic departments:
    - Public Works Department
        - City of Winnipeg Active Transportation
    - Planning, Property and Development Department
        - City of Winnipeg geo-technical
        - Trails and Greenways connections
        - Economic opportunities
    - Water and Waste Department
    - Festival du Voyageur
    - Enterpris Riel
    - River Boat operators
    - Additional Stakeholders

Stage 2 - Community Consultations

- In September 2011, conceptual designs were developed and preliminary consultations took place with elected officials and political representatives to present project goals and the community workshop process.
- In November / December 2011, six Neighbourhood Workshops were held with invited community stakeholders from identified neighbourhoods. The community representatives were presented with project background, goals and held round table sessions to review drawings and air photos to identify areas of opportunity, constraints, specific locations for amenities, etc.
- The identified neighbourhoods included:
    - Armstrong's Point / West Broadway/ Spence
    - Fort Rouge / Crescentwood.
    - Assiniboine(South Broadway) / Osborne Village
    - Elmwood
    - St. Boniface
    - Point Douglas / Exchange District
- In January 2012, additional workshops were undertaken with stakeholders from special interest groups including:
        - Water Based stakeholders (paddling, rowing, tour operators)
        - Land Based (trails, bikes, and pedestrian associations)
- In April 2012, a follow up workshop was held to present a preliminary waterfront vision design to all those who attended first round of workshops
        - Feedback sheets provided at all workshops and consultations to allow for participants' feedback and have their concerns responded to by the planning team.

Stage 3 - Preparation of Final Vision Plans and Images

Follow-up Public Consultations

- The Forks- North Portage and City of Winnipeg were updated on the planning work undertaken by the team (May/June 2012) and supported the plan for the vision, which was to be available for comment at a public open house.
- In June 2012, a Public Open House was held at The Forks Market – providing a feedback loop for public comment on the draft vision
    - A website was developed to allow ongoing community review, engagement and comment on the vision, conceptual plans and potential opportunities.
    - Press coverage and media communications took place on the Vision and plans.

Stage 4 - Final Vision Document

- In March 2013, a Vision document draft was reviewed with The Forks North Portage and City of Winnipeg departments and Province of Manitoba with department staff.
- In April 2013, a presentation of the draft Vision document was made to the City of Winnipeg Planning Executive Advisory Committee (Chief Operating Officer and the Directors of Community Services, Water and Waste, Transit, and Planning Property and Development).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement Date:

Project Name:

Go To the Waterfront Planning Document

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

"Original Signed By"
Mike McGinn, CA
Manager of Finance

CONSULTATION

In preparing this report there was consultation with:

- Public Works Department
- Water and Waste Department
- The Forks/North Portage Partnership
- Province of Manitoba
- Community Stakeholders

SUBMITTED BY

Department:	Planning, Property and Development
Division:	Urban Design
Prepared by:	John Kiernan
Date:	October 24, 2013
File No.:	O:\Reports Directive\Planning and Land Use\Urban Design Division\2013\RIS - Go to the Waterfront 3

Appendix A: Document



Go to the Waterfront