Minute No. 793
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development – September 16, 2014

Item No. 16 **Women Healing for Change Inc. - North End Stay and Play on Selkirk Avenue**
(Mynarski Ward)

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and adopted the following:

1. That 681 Selkirk Avenue (roll number: 14010704000) and 683 Selkirk Avenue (roll number: 14010703000) be declared surplus properties to the City of Winnipeg, and be sold to the Women Healing for Change Inc. for the sum of $1.00 per lot.

2. That the sale/conveyance of the subject properties to Women Healing for Change Inc. be at no cost to the City and that the terms and conditions of a Purchase/Sale Agreement include reversionary provisions that the properties revert back to the City should the project not commence within five years from the date of sale.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Browaty,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development be adopted.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 17, 2014, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development and the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee, and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 16, 2014, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development concurred in the recommendation of the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee with the following amendment:

- Delete Recommendation 2 and replace with the following:

  "2. That the sale/conveyance of the subject properties to Women Healing for Change Inc. be at no cost to the City and that the terms and conditions of a Purchase/Sale Agreement include reversionary provisions that the properties revert back to the City should the project not commence within five years from the date of sale."

and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 8, 2014, the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS Women Healing for Change Inc., has submitted a request for vacant property to establish a permanent place for the North End Stay and Play service to young parents;

AND WHEREAS 681 and 683 Selkirk Avenue have been vacant lots for at least sixteen years;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS there are many vacant lots along Selkirk Avenue which are simply being held for speculation purposes;

AND WHEREAS these two lots are smaller lots of 3,019 square feet each;

AND WHEREAS the stay and play operation requires some landscape for children to play;

AND WHEREAS this area has good transit service;

AND WHEREAS the St. John's and William Whyte neighbourhoods have a large number of young families;

AND WHEREAS Women Healing for Change Inc. is seeking to obtain each lot for $1.00 to build a stay and play facility for children from new born to age five, and parents in the William Whyte Neighbourhood;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that 681 Selkirk Avenue (roll number: 14010704000) and 683 Selkirk Avenue (roll number: 14010703000) be declared surplus properties to the City of Winnipeg, and be sold to the Women Healing for Change Inc. for the sum of $1.00 per lot;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg take such action and apply such conditions to transfer the titles of these properties to Women Healing for Change Inc.;

and forwarded to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development.

Request for Vacant LOT – for Stay and PlayHOUSE on Selkirk Ave. West of 677 Selkirk Ave. Spanish Club

August 18, 2014

Hi Ross,

Thank you for helping us secure a vacant lot on Selkirk Avenue for our Stay and PlayHOUSE for Babies to 5 and their caregivers. The double lot next door to the Spanish Club is definitely a good fit for us.

Our North End families with very young children (babies to 5 year olds) from the neighbourhoods of St. John's and William Whyte are so excited that we have heard their wishes and that we are moving towards a permanent Stay and PlayHOUSE. We have been in dingy spaces with no light for far too long.

Stay and Play is under the auspices of a registered non profit charitable organization called Women Healing for Change Inc.

Our Stay and Play advisory committee is a group of Aboriginals and Non Aboriginals working together on the Stay and PlayHOUSE.

Our goal for opening the newly built Stay and PlayHOUSE is December 2015. The Play HOUSE will be 1600 ft. on the main level and another 800 sq. ft 2nd level with the rest of the lot turned into a Natural playground. We need to follow all the safety regulations needed to accommodate 4 babies under 2 years old and a space for up to 16 preschoolers. We have to follow child care guidelines so that we quality for some government grants and operating monies. The babies to 5 year olds attending are always accompanied by their caregivers or parents.

Stay and Play families and their very young children babies to 5 is a Parent Child Hub.

Picture Stay and Play... community driven and grassroots... families and their very young children babies to 5 playing and learning together.... Moms had no place to go in their neighbourhoods after Healthy Baby. Healthy Baby ends when the baby is one year old.

North End Stay and Play fills part of the gap in early childhood services. Currently every Wednesday we transform a dance studio at 591 Pritchard Ave. at McGregor into a diverse and play based learning environment for the children and their families. The Stay and Play team includes outreach workers, facilitators with strong early childhood education backgrounds, volunteers (retired teachers)....aboriginals and non aboriginals working together. We make sure that our "eyes light up" when an average of 15 kids and 8 caregivers/parents arrive every week. Stay and Play is: TRUE problem based Play, imaginative play, ride on toys, field trips

once a month, Lots of great children's books and story time, movement with Sports MB Fit Kids, Healthy Kids team, Art, Field Trips once a month to broaden horizons (Children and Families seldom leave their neighbourhood), healthy snacks, opportunities for the parents to build relationships/friendships to decrease their isolation and maintain good mental health, learning the importance of attaching to their child, positive parenting is infused each week. We are building up children and parents - one parent and one child at a time.

A number of us have been involved in Tots and Families programs in the North End for almost 7 years.

North End Stay and Play for babies to 5 and their Caregivers is unique. It is year round. Other North End early years programs have lasted only 6-8 weeks and have come and gone. Change takes longer than that. We have 2 part time Aboriginal Outreach workers who are parents from the North End. We have mentored them. They are the key to our success. They build strong trusting relationships with the families. Families can identify with them. They keep the families with young children coming back. Moms dream of being in their shoes.

City of Winnipeg's support would be greatly appreciated. So far we have a good sized contingent of supporters. One of our biggest supporters is the carpenter's union who have committed to providing a great deal of the labour for the Stay and PlayHOUSE building.

We will be having a fundraiser on National Children's day Friday Nov. 21st.

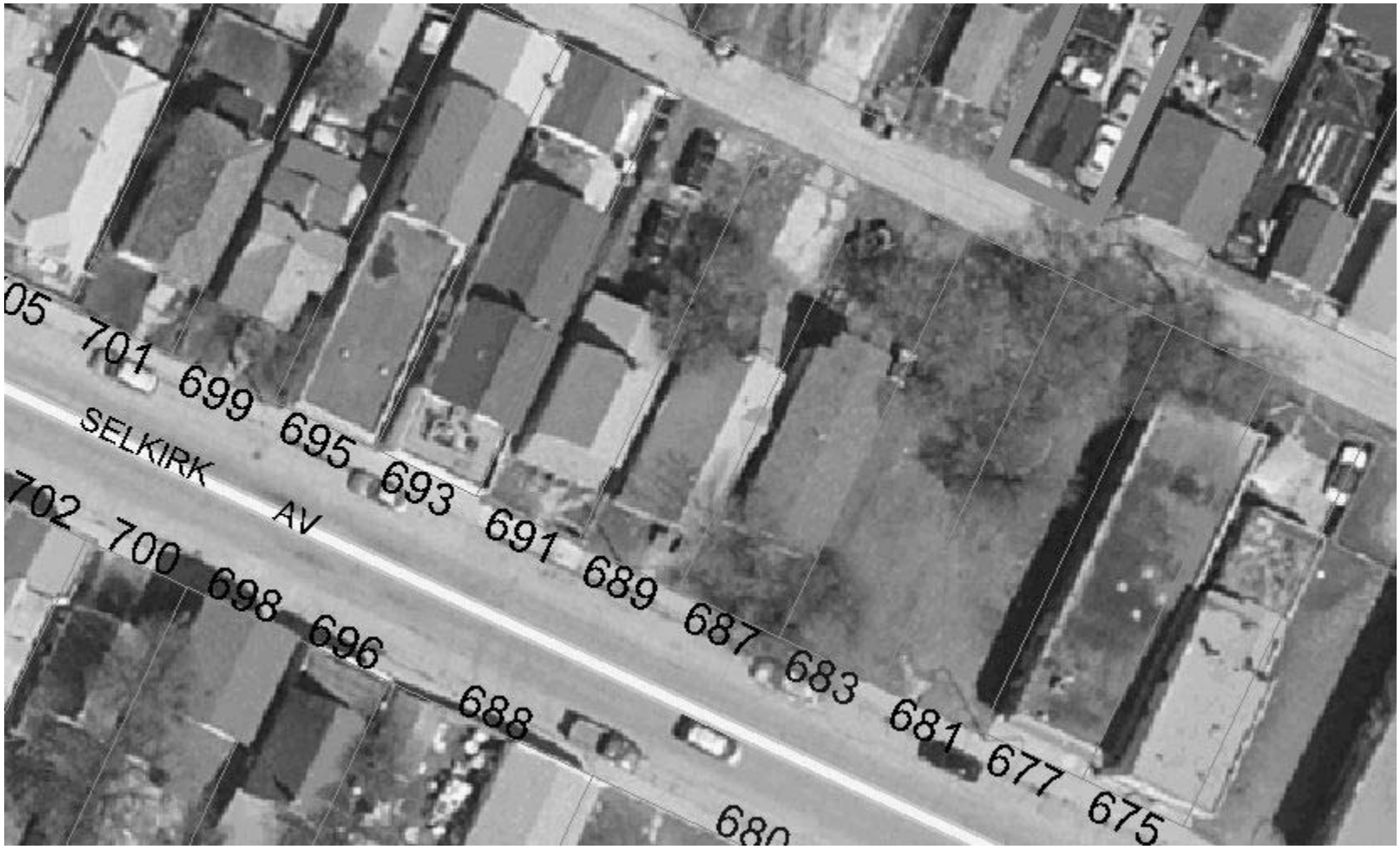
Sincerely,

Gerrie Prymak

Woman Healing For Change Inc. Board Member
Canadian Association for Young Children MB
Retired Grade one teacher (28 years)
Volunteer on the front lines of Stay and Play programs in the North end for the last 7 years.

If there is anything else we can provide for the Community meeting on September 8, I can be reached only by email until August 24th. Then I am away until the 5th of September.

Thanks so much!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