EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 70
Councillor Allard noted that Council identified Marion and Archibald as an infrastructure priority two years ago, which was sent to the Canada-Manitoba Infrastructure Secretariat for consideration, and questioned what discussions His Worship Mayor Bowman has had with other levels of government regarding the Marion and Archibald Street upgrades.

His Worship Mayor Bowman advised that there had been discussions in the past, indicated that discussion with federal partners was ongoing, and stated that he hoped to have something more substantive in the New Year.

Councillor Pagtakhan referred to a series of commitments made by the Mayor in the recent election and asked the Mayor to enlighten Council on the commitments and the status of those commitments within the first 100 days.

His Worship replied that December 11, 2014 was the half-way mark of the 100 days of action and, by his calculation, 9 of the 19 commitments are complete. Other than having a new Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Winnipeg selected, he was on schedule to meet the February 1st 100 day mark.

Councillor Browaty stated that The City of Winnipeg was excited to host the Grey Cup in 2015, inquired with the Mayor how plans for the 2015 Grey Cup were progressing and whether the Mayor could guarantee that the Winnipeg Blue Bombers would be in the Grey Cup in 2015.

His Worship confirmed that he had had an opportunity to represent Winnipeg in the Grey Cup festival in Vancouver, where he had met with the Mayor of Vancouver, and had had a discussion about a number of issues that both communities share, including missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls, rapid transit, homelessness and other challenges. The Mayor also noted that he met with the Mayors of Calgary and Edmonton, which resulted in excellent discussion and acknowledgment of the good work by some of the members of this Council as well as an expression of interest to work much more actively with this Council in future years. He added that Winnipeg was indeed hosting the 103rd Grey Cup and that he was sure that all members of Council would support the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in their quest to get to the playoffs and be in the Championship game. The Mayor encouraged all Winnipeggers to also visit the new Winnipeg Blue Bomber store in Winnipeg Square to show their support for the team.

Executive Policy Committee – Question Period (continued):

Councillor Gillingham requested an update on the progress of selecting a new Chief Administrative Officer to which His Worship stated that it was a key priority for City Hall as well as himself and that by the end of the coming weekend, advertisements would appear in planned locations as well as local and national media. The evaluation process should commence by the end of December, with a target to have the right person in place by February or March 2015.

Councillor Mayes commended the Mayor for recently attending the Firefighters Ball and noted that several unions around the City have contracts that will soon be in negotiation and asked if the Mayor had plans to meet with any of these groups.

His Worship stated that all members of the civic service were valued members of the City of Winnipeg and Council needed to support the work that they do and needed to support and work respectfully with the union representatives, which was exactly what has been done from day one. The Mayor advised that he has met with senior leadership of CUPE and WAPSO and that staff were scheduling formal meetings with the UFFW and WPA soon. He added that they have had great discussions so far and the message provided was that this was a new Council, that there was an opportunity to work for positive change a little more aggressively, perhaps, than in the past. The importance of innovation had been stressed in working with front line staff and members of the unions. He said they were in a great position to find solutions to some of the problems the City faced and he looked forward to building these relationships in the months and years to come.

Councillor Mayes advised that when former Mayor Norrie passed away there was talk around Council about designating a street, a park or other to commemorate Bill Norrie and questioned if anything was in motion or could be put in motion to honour former Mayor Bill Norrie.

Mayor Bowman stated that Bill Norrie had a passion for public service, was an incredible leader, got a lot of good things done for the City of Winnipeg, suggested that Council could learn a lot from him and the legacy that he had left for all Winnipeggers and emphatically agreed that he would look at ways to appropriately honour Bill Norrie and other past mayors.

Councillor Morantz referred to the Mayor's commitment to the principles of transparency and openness and questioned how he would be implementing those ideals when choosing who would sit on the City's many boards and committees. Mayor Bowman indicated that the issue of additional appointments was actively being worked on and recommendations were expected to go before Council in the New Year.

Executive Policy Committee – Question Period (continued):

Councillor Wyatt noted that Council on June 25, 2014, voted on the Building Canada Fund priorities for the City and questioned why the administration only filed Building Canada applications for four of the six projects and did not submit an application for the Louise Bridge replacement or the William R. Clement Way Parkway Extension from Grant to Wilkes.

Mayor Bowman replied that city staff continued to make progress on studies that included public consultations that would help with a better understanding for the design, costs and time lines. He further noted that no award of funding had yet been announced, with ongoing discussion taking place with the Federal Government.

Councillor Wyatt indicated that with Federal election pending, the government would likely make funding announcements soon, and asked if Council could obtain a definitive timeline of when the public service would file the applications for the Louise Bridge and William R. Clement parkway; to which his Worship agreed to report back to Council.

Councillor Eadie inquired if the Mayor was aware of a move to name a newly renovated or newly constructed library in the future after Mayor Norrie; to which the Mayor replied that he was not aware of this, but appreciated the suggestion.

Councillor Eadie inquired, on behalf of a resident, if the Mayor received Grey Cup tickets for free or if they were purchased by his office; to which Mayor Bowman replied that the tickets to the game were provided by the Canadian Football League (CFL).

Councillor Schreyer questioned if the Mayor, in his initiative on the long term strategy to end homelessness, would consider the issue of nutrition as being essential to dealing with any and all of the issues as they contribute to homelessness, poverty, empowerment and quality of life.

Mayor Bowman confirmed that food security was a matter of utmost concern and that he looked forward to working with Councillor Schreyer on ways to substantively assist more citizens to ensure they had good healthy food. He added that issues of homelessness and poverty were complex and he hoped and expected that Council would not be afraid to tackle those complex issues and provide leadership. He stated that he was pleased that Council unanimously supported the United Way's plan to end homelessness and welcomed further discussion on food security matters in the future.

Executive Policy Committee – Question Period (continued):

Councillor Schreyer inquired if the Mayor would take it under advisement that he was not merely speaking about provision of the four food groups but a serious analysis about how nutrition affects mental health, depression, concentration, the ability to get an education and to empower oneself so that one does not end up homeless; to which Mayor Bowman replied in the affirmative.