Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – October 21, 2015

REPORTS

Item No. 2 Transfer from Board of Adjustment to Community Committees - Conditional Use and Variance Public Hearings

COUNCIL DECISION:

On September 30, 2015, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Sharma,

WHEREAS Winnipegger's spoke loud and clear in the last election on the need for greater transparency and openness with regard to decision making at City Hall;

AND WHEREAS the creation of the Board of Adjustment in 1992 came from a time when the Board of Commissioners was the centre of decision making and power at the City and where elected official accountability at Council was not supreme;

AND WHEREAS the decision to remove responsibility away from elected Community Committees has resulted in an unelected Board making land use decisions in neighbourhoods to which they are not accountable in the same way an elected Council member is;

AND WHEREAS these duties should be returned to the Community Committees to provide and ensure decision-making by elected officials;

AND WHEREAS there are administrative costs associated with running the Board, elimination of which will allow efficiencies, as well as actual cost reductions possible, including elimination of payments to individual appointed members to attend Board meetings;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT this matter be referred to the Governance Committee of Council for review and report back to Council within 90 days, with a view to developing an implementation plan to transfer hearings for land matters such as variances and conditional uses back to the five respective Community Committees.