Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 15, 2016

DELEGATIONS on the 2016 Budget Review

The following persons were heard with respect to the Preliminary 2016 Operating Budget and Financial Plan for 2017 and 2018 and the Preliminary 2016 Capital Budget and 2017 - 2021 Five Year Forecast:

1. Councillor Eadie, Mynarski Ward, was heard with respect to establishing the Old Kildonan Library, and not relocating the West Kildonan Library. He was heard in opposition to the proposed budget of the Winnipeg Police Service outlined in the 2016 operating and capital budgets. He questioned increases to positions in other departments when the shortfall to the police budget could decrease positions and pose a further public risk.

2. Councillor Gillingham, Board Chair, Winnipeg Police Board, was heard in support of the proposed Winnipeg Police Board budget outlined in the 2016 operating and capital budgets. Don Norquay, Executive Director, and Barry Tuckett, Vice-Chair, were heard in opposition to the proposed budgets and advised it would eliminate police officer and cadet positions, and provided a PowerPoint Presentation. (See Submission No. 1)

3. Councillor Allard, St. Boniface Ward, was heard in support of the budget as it relates to riverbank stabilization, BoniVital Pool, the New Canada Fund, Save Our Seine, and free access to outdoor and indoor pools. He expressed concern regarding the transit service in South St. Boniface, the proposed appeal fee, as well as a decrease to possible frontline services when there is a proposed increase in some corporate positions. He submitted a communication from Michelle Berger, President, South St. Boniface Residents Association, in opposition to the proposed appeal fee, as well as plans and a motion of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services relating to Tache Promenade. (See Submission No. 2)

4. Councillor Gilroy, Daniel McIntyre Ward, was heard in support of the budget's park enhancement, the accessibility program, reforestation, sewer renewal, the community paramedic program, increased funding to the Winnipeg Arts Council, and funding for the homelessness strategy. She expressed concern regarding the vacancy management rate, user-fees and its impact on those with lower income, and the need to support developers in creating more affordable housing.

5. Dave Mouland was heard in opposition to higher taxes, user fees, increased frontage levies, and the budget increase for the Winnipeg Police Service, and submitted supporting documentation. (See Submission No. 3)

DELEGATIONS on the 2016 Budget Review (continued)

6. Elliot Sims, Director, Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB), was heard requesting a reduction in spending to a maximum of inflation and population growth, reducing labour costs and eliminating the Winnipeg Business Tax, and submitted supporting documentation. (See Submission No. 4)

7. Stephen Borys, Director and CEO, Inuit Art Centre Campaign Director, and Nick Logan, Board Member, Winnipeg Art Gallery, provided a PowerPoint presentation with respect to the $1 million allocation to the WAG's Inuit Art Centre capital campaign. (See Submission No. 5)

8. David G. Sanders, Co-Chair of the Bridgwater Lakes Neighbourhood Association, provided a PowerPoint presentation in support of transit services into the Bridgewater Lakes area. (See Submission No. 6)

9. Mary Beth Taylor, and Catherine Livingstone, Creaddo Group, were heard in support of funding for the capital campaign of the Western Canada Aviation Museum and advised the museum helps motivate and educate youth, and encourages employment in the aerospace sector.

10. Mark Cohoe, Bike Winnipeg, was heard in support of increased funding for active transportation, and submitted supporting documentation. (See Submission No. 7)

11. Shauna MacKinnon, Professor of Urban Inner-city Studies, University of Winnipeg, was heard in support of funding "Youth United at Winnipeg", a 4 month program focusing on reconciliation where students work 4 days in the community and one day in the classroom.

12. Albert El Tassi, Siloam Mission Capital Campaign Advisory Member, and Floyd Perras, Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives, Siloam Mission, provided a PowerPoint Presentation in support of their Capital Campaign request of $3 Million over 5 years, and submitted supporting documentation. (See Submission Nos. 8 and 9)

13. Bryon Kean, Mediation Services, was heard in support of funding for Mediation Services, and requested the subsidized rate provided to the City of Winnipeg for mediation services no longer be subsidized.

14. Allan Borger, Ladco Company Ltd, was heard expressing concerns regarding the Smart Growth study, and submitted supporting documentation (See Submission No. 10)

15. Gord Delbridge, President CUPE Local 500, and Michael Robinson, President, Winnipeg Association of Public Services Officers (WAPSO), were heard in opposition to vacancy management. They expressed concern that it reduces the City's ability to respond to Winnipeggers' needs and requested its elimination.

DELEGATIONS on the 2016 Budget Review (continued)

16. Rozalynde McKibbin was heard with respect to the 2016 Museums Operating Grants, and submitted supporting documentation. (See Submission No. 11)

17. George Fraser, Executive Director, and Irwin Kumka, President, The Kildonan Presbyterian Cemetery, were heard with respect to proposed increases to the Frontage Levy and requested there be a review of assessments for religious based cemeteries, and submitted supporting documentation. (See Submission No. 12)

18. Paulo Cordeiro was heard with respect to property taxes and organic waste, and questioned why taxes are higher in Winnipeg than in Toronto, especially considering Toronto has an established organic waste program.

19. Derek Koop, on behalf of Functional Transit Winnipeg, was heard with respect to increased transit funding to create a more functional, affordable and accessible system in Winnipeg, and submitted supporting documentation. (See Submission No. 13)

20. Roy Houston and Jason MacInnis, Manitoba Paddling Association, were heard in support of the 2017 Canada Summer Games and developing a paddling venue at Kilcona Park as part of the park's master plan, and submitted supporting documentation. (See Submission No. 14)

21. Lynne Fernandez, The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, was heard with respect to the role of public transit in reducing poverty and social marginalization, and requested additions to the bus fleet, an increase in mechanic positions to maintain the buses, and submitted supporting documentation. (See Submission No. 15)

22. Normand Gousseau, Chief Executive Officer, Entreprises Riel, was heard in support of the Tache Promenade project. He requested that it be moved up the priority list in an effort not to lose private funding for the project which requires riverbank stabilization, a sidewalk that meets the standards, and a provision.

23. Vania Gagnon, Director, Le Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum, was heard requesting increased funding to museums and expressed gratitude for the reinstatement of museum funding in the previous budget of 2015.

24. Eric Vogan, Urban Development Institute (UDI), Manitoba Chapter, was heard with respect to the proposed increase to development fees and expressed concern it will hamper Winnipeg's ability to grow.

DELEGATIONS on the 2016 Budget Review (continued)

25. Shawn Brandson, Chair of Provencher Business Improvement Zone (BIZ), was heard with in support of funding to update Promenade Tache, and submitted supporting documentation. He expressed concern regarding the removal of the centre median and trees on Provencher Boulevard in relation to the proposed Provencher Boulevard protected bike lane.
(See Submission No. 16)

26. Tammy Christensen, Executive Director, Ndinawemaaaganag Endaawaad Inc., was heard in opposition to the reduction in funding to its program for children at risk in the community. She advised it was established as a 24 hour safe house which at times turns children away due to resource restrictions.

27. Josh Brandon, Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, was heard in support of a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy, the Aboriginal Youth Strategy, and the allocation to the United Way's Plan to End Homelessness in Winnipeg, as well as affordable housing. He expressed concern regarding user's fees and its impact on low-income Winnipeggers.
(See Submission 17)

28. Dave Sauer, Winnipeg Labour Council, was heard with respect to vacancy management and its impact on service cuts, and questioned when the vacancy management trend and when it will stop.

29. Nicolas Audette, President, Old Saint-Boniface Resident's Association, was heard in support of funding the Esplanade Riel project, including the riverbank stabilization and the active transportation link. He expressed support for the Provencher protected bike lane, and commented that the projects benefit the entire City of Winnipeg, not solely the St. Boniface area.

Moved by Deputy Mayor Pagtakhan,

That Rule 51(1) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended to allow additional delegations to address the Committee.

Carried

30. Councillor Sharma, Old Kildonan Ward, was heard in support of increased funding in the 2016 budget for the Seven Oaks Pool renewal plan, which includes the City's first indoor splash pad.

DELEGATIONS on the 2016 Budget Review (continued)

31. Loren Remillard, Executive Vice President, Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, was heard in support of the 2016 proposed budget, including the reduction to the municipal business tax, the investment in Freedom Road and funding the homelessness initiative. He commented that vacancy management is a default measure not by choice but attributed to the City's collective agreements, and expressed concern that the arbitrated police and fire service increases are twice the rate of inflation. He indicated his opposition to the water and sewer levy and to the increase in development fees.

32. Michele Kading, Director, Save Our Seine, provided a PowerPoint presentation and expressed concern that parks and environmental groups are at a disadvantage for funding. She indicated support for naturalized environments and the funding of Save our Seine projects. (See Submission No. 19)

33. Paul Holden, President & CEO, Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology (MITT), was heard in support of improved transit accessibility, a modification to transit routes in South Winnipeg, and submitted supporting documentation. (See Submission No. 18)

The Executive Policy Committee also received submissions from the following individuals / organizations with respect to the Preliminary 2016 Operating Budget and Financial Plan for 2017 and 2018 and the Preliminary 2016 Capital Budget and 2017 - 2021 Five Year Forecast:

1. Don Norquay, Executive Director, Winnipeg Police Board.
2. Councillor Allard, St. Boniface Ward
3. Dave Mouland
4. Elliot Sims, Director, Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB),
5. Stephen Borys, Director and CEO, Inuit Art Centre Campaign Director, and Nick Logan, Board Member, Winnipeg Art Gallery
6. David G. Sanders, Co-Chair of the Bridgwater Lakes Neighbourhood Association
7. Mark Cohoe, Bike Winnipeg

8. – 9. Floyd Perras, Executive Director of Strategic Initiatives, Siloam Mission

10. Allan Borger, Ladco Company Ltd,
11. Rozalynde McKibbin
12. George Fraser, The Kildonan Presbyterian Cemetery
13. Derek Koop, on behalf of Functional Transit Winnipeg
14. Roy Houston and Jason MacInnis, Manitoba Paddling Association

SUBMISSIONS on the 2016 Budget Review (continued)

15. Lynne Fernandez, The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives
16. Shawn Brandson, Chair of Provencher Business Improvement Zone (BIZ)
17. Josh Brandon, Social Planning Council of Winnipeg
18. Paul Holden, President & CEO, Manitoba Institute of Trades and Technology
19. Michele Kading, Director, Save Our Seine

(Refer to the March 16, 2016 Minutes for Disposition)