Reports – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – July 11, 2016

Item No. 3 Grass Cutting Cycles - Parks and Boulevards

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks and adopted the following:

1. That an extension of time of 30 days be granted for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on the matter.

2. 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 Pagtakhan,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks be adopted.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 13, 2016, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 11, 2016, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks recommended that an extension of time of 30 days be granted for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on the matter, and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 6, 2016, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks referred the Council Motion of May 18, 2016 to the Winnipeg Public Service for report back in 30 days.

Further on June 6, 2016, Gord Delbridge, President, Canadian Union of Public Employees (C.U.P.E), submitted a presentation with respect to the matter.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On May 18, 2016, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks:

Moved by Councillor Wyatt,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg cuts the majority of the Boulevards and the majority of Parks on an averaged 10 day cycle;

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COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

AND WHEREAS weather related circumstances and other factors may cause the cycle to reach as high as 14 days;

AND WHEREAS regional parks tend to be mowed more frequently than every 10 days, with the number of cuts per season ranging from approximately 8 to 12 cycles;

AND WHEREAS the grass mowing cycle of the City is not adjusted to ensure the frequency of mowing is higher in May, June and early July, when the rate of grass growth is the highest, versus slower grass growth in latter July, August and September;

AND WHEREAS the failure to increase the frequency of mowing in our parks and on our boulevards every year causes the City to be unsightly and causes problems for sporting groups that use park playing fields;

AND WHEREAS the issue could easily be addressed by increasing the frequency of grass cutting in May and June, and possibly part of July, and by reducing the frequency in the latter of July, in August, and September;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Winnipeg direct the public service to immediately develop a solution to ensure grass is cut based on the growing cycle of lawns in our parks and on our boulevards by ensuring the frequency of mowing is increased when the grass actually grows rapidly, namely in the months of May, June, and early July, and to report to Council within 60 days of the steps taken to ensure this is done.