Minute No. 27
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – November 7, 2016

Item No. 1 Operating Grants – Museums

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 by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 9, 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 November 7, 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 forwarded to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

On October 14, 2016, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks referred the Council Motion of September 28, 2016 to the Winnipeg Public Service for report back.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On September 28, 2016, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks:

Moved by Councillor Dobson,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS Museums are an invaluable part of the cultural and heritage landscape in Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS many of the local museums in Winnipeg such as the Historical Museum of St. James-Assiniboia and Le Musee de Saint-Boniface Museum have been funded by the City of Winnipeg via an operating budget grant for decades;

AND WHEREAS the grant provided by the City is used by museums in a similar way to how it is used by City Departments, that is for operational needs such as salaries, utilities and rent;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS for the last several years, museums were provided with 30% advance payments on their grants in advance of approval of the operating budget, in accordance with by-law 8164/2002, which states that the CAO may authorize spending of up to 30% of the previous year's operating budget prior to adoption of the budget;

AND WHEREAS in 2015 the City moved to a process whereby grant agreements are required of all grant recipients;

AND WHEREAS these grant agreements do not recognize the need for advance payments;

AND WHEREAS if Council does not pass the operating budget until March, grant payments do not go out until April or May;

AND WHEREAS not receiving payments April or May results in Museums not being able to pay salaries and will lead to layoffs and closures of these valuable institutions;

AND WHEREAS in 2016, the CFO recognized the hardship this would cause museums and ensured initial payments were available to those long-term grantees of the City who required them;

AND WHEREAS Museums have been advised this may not be possible in 2017 without a change to their grant agreements;

AND WHEREAS the Council included such a provision for the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres in 2016, recognizing this need for Community Centres but not for Museums;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council recognizes the need to provide funding prior to adoption of the City's operating budget for the following organizations:

- Winnipeg Arts Council Inc.
- Dalnavert Museum
- Grants Old Mill Museum
- Historical Museum of St. James-Assiniboia
- Manitoba Children's Museum
- Manitoba Museum
- Ross House Museum
- Seven Oaks Museum
- St. Boniface Museum
- Transcona Museum
- Western Canada Aviation Museum

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Council direct the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to directly submit to Council amendments to By-Law No. 8164/2002 to allow the CAO the authority to approve grant payments of up to 30% of the previous year's grant to such organizations prior to the adoption of the budget, commencing in 2017;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this requirement be built into future grant agreements between the City and such organizations.