Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 15, 2017

REPORTS

Item No. 7 Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommended to Council:

1. That Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord be received as a demonstration of the City's commitment to the ongoing process of reconciliation.

2. That the Public Service, through the Indigenous Relations Division, produce an Annual Report which details each signatory's commitment to reconciliation through sharing their goals and successes and report to Council annually in June, in addition to continuing to develop and implement the City's reconciliation action plan.

3. That the Public Service be directed to communicate the intent of Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord and develop a guide for Accord partners through which to report their annual goals and successes.

4. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

The Chairperson called Councillor Pagtakhan to the Chair in order to move the following motions:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

That Rule 10(3) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended in order that the following item, which was received less than 96 hours preceding the committee meeting, be considered by Committee.

Carried

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

WHEREAS embedded in the Truth and Reconciliations Commission of Canada's 94 Calls to Action is the importance of committing ourselves as a City to the ongoing, long-term process of reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS as a City we can convene individuals and organizations in a mutual process of goal setting to establish what role we can each play in, as the TRC recommends, "inspiring Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples to transform Canadian society so that our children and grandchildren can live together in dignity, peace, and prosperity on these lands we now share.";

AND WHEREAS the Mayor's Indigenous Advisory Circle, in consultation and collaboration with numerous community leaders and organizations, produced the following Indigenous Accord:

Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord

Our Shared Future Rooted in Truth, Harmony, and Generosity

Our Vision:

Developed by children gathered in harmony to visualize a future of Winnipeg

*"The city of Winnipeg is a place where everyone has a voice, a place where people and the environment come first, where everyone has fair access. Everyone should be treated with respect and acceptance and kindness. Everyone should treat everyone kindly and equally and accept them for who they are because when you feel like you belong, you achieve freedom. United as one, and hopeful, we can work toward a peaceful and safe city. Be a leader that thinks for yourself and speaks up for change."**

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

The name Winnipeg has its origins in the Cree name given to Lake Winnipeg "Win"-muddy, "nippe"-water. Winnipeg is located within Treaty No. 1 Territory, the traditional lands of the Anishinabe (Ojibway), Ininew (Cree), Oji-Cree, Dene, and Dakota, and is *the Birthplace of the Métis Nation and the Heart of the Métis Nation Homeland.* People from around the world have come to call Winnipeg home and our community prides itself in its cultural diversity. As the original inhabitants of this land and as inhabitants of this land by birth or adoption, we all share the goal to make our city a better place to live based on mutual respect, equal opportunity, and hope.

This place has been host to many for thousands of years and present day is home to Inuit from northern territory and Indigenous peoples from other territories arriving from all directions by land, air, and water. The spirit of this legacy is manifest in present day by the observance of greetings and friendship extended to all Indigenous peoples who newly arrive in Winnipeg.

What does reconciliation mean? It is a question of basic human dignity. It's the right of every person from every background to be treated with kindness, decency, and respect, and this benefits all of us. It also means renewing that story of partnership and peace that the treaties began to tell. We are all working towards the same goal - to build happy, resilient, strong, and prosperous families. When we recover the true Canadian story of peace and partnership and inclusion, our highest ideals we cherish, we will improve our chances of success.

Our Commitments:
The City of Winnipeg is committed to building an ongoing process of reconciliation in Winnipeg, a process that is based on the establishment and maintenance of mutually respectful partnerships with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit governments, organizations, and individuals.

The City of Winnipeg is committed to embracing a respectful relationship with First Nations, Métis and Inuit Peoples in Winnipeg and committed to a purposeful and influential leadership role to engage new partners to join us in the collective process of reconciliation in Winnipeg.

The City of Winnipeg is committed to a reconciliation process guided by the knowledge and experiences of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples and will include distinct cultural traditions, protocols, ceremonies, and languages as an expression of their identity and nationhood.

The City of Winnipeg is committed to engaging multiple sectors, organizations, groups, and individuals across Winnipeg to build new initiatives, partnerships, and advance reconciliation efforts with Indigenous Peoples, guided by the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

The City of Winnipeg is committed to participating in acts of reconciliation and celebration across the city such that it initiates and experiences a positive change in the culture of relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Winnipeg.

The City of Winnipeg and partners of Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord are committed to collaborating to formulate and execute action plans observing the commitments, shared values, and principles as expressed in this Accord for the establishment and maintenance of mutually respectful partnerships with First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

Our Principles

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada believes that in order for Canada to flourish in the twenty first century, reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canada must be based on the following principles:

1. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is the framework for reconciliation at all levels and across all sectors of Canadian society.
2. First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples, as the original peoples of this country and as self-determining peoples, have Treaty, constitutional, and human rights that must be recognized and respected.
3. Reconciliation is a process of healing of relationships that requires public truth sharing, apology, and commemoration that acknowledge and redress past harms.
4. Reconciliation requires constructive action on addressing the ongoing legacies of colonialism that have had destructive impacts on Indigenous peoples' education, cultures and languages, health, child welfare, the administration of justice, and economic opportunities and prosperity.
5. Reconciliation must create a more equitable and inclusive society by closing the gaps in social, health, and economic outcomes that exist between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians.
6. All Canadians, as Treaty peoples, share responsibility for establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships.
7. The perspectives and understandings of Indigenous Elders and Traditional Knowledge Keepers of the ethics, concepts, and practices of reconciliation are vital to long-term reconciliation.
8. Supporting Indigenous peoples' cultural revitalization and integrating Indigenous knowledge systems, oral histories, laws, protocols, and connections to the land into the reconciliation process are essential.
9. Reconciliation requires political will, joint leadership, trust building, accountability, and transparency, as well as a substantial investment of resources.
10. Reconciliation requires sustained public education and dialogue, including youth engagement, about the history and legacy of residential schools, Treaties, and Indigenous rights, as well as the historical and contemporary contributions of Indigenous peoples to Canadian society.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

AS LONG AS THE SUN SHINES, THE GRASS GROWS, AND RIVERS FLOW,

Mayor Brian Bowman,
Members of Council
City of Winnipeg
Date

Doug McNeil,
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Winnipeg
Date

Partners:
To be added

AND WHEREAS as a living document Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord is not a single time event, but an ongoing responsibility accepted by signatories, who through becoming partners to the Accord, agree to report the success of their commitment to reconciliation and their future goals annually.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Policy Committee recommend to Council:

1. That Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord be received as a demonstration of the City's commitment to the ongoing process of reconciliation;

2. That the Public Service, through the Indigenous Relations Division, produce an Annual Report which details each signatory's commitment to reconciliation through sharing their goals and successes and report to Council annually in June, in addition to continuing to develop and implement the City's reconciliation action plan;

3. That the Public Service be directed to communicate the intent of Winnipeg's Indigenous Accord and develop a guide for Accord partners through which to report their annual goals and successes.

Carried

His Worship Mayor Bowman resumed the Chair.