Minute No. 186
Report – Executive Policy Committee – February 8, 2017

Item No. 4 Formation of Winnipeg Food Council – Stakeholder Engagement Report and Recommendations

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the creation and operationalizing of the proposed Winnipeg Food Council be authorized by approving the attached Terms of Reference document (Attachment A of this report).

2. That a budget increase of $69,000 for the creation and operation of a Winnipeg Food Council be referred for consideration in the 2018 budget review process.

3. That the Public Service be directed to report back to Council within 120 days, with membership recommendations for Council approval.

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

Report – Executive Policy Committee – February 8, 2017

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,
That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 8, 2017, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to Council.

Further on February 8, 2017, the Executive Policy Committee received submissions in support of the matter from the following:

- Hannah Moffatt, Health Equity Initiatives Leader, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA), submitted a communication dated February 8, 2017 from Dr. Lisa Richards, Medical Officer of Health, WRHA, and Lavonne Harms, Public Health Dietitian, WRHA Downtown Community Area, Co-Chairs WRHA Food Security Working Group
- Laryssa Sawchuk, Public Programs and Services Coordinator, Community Engagement, Canadian Diabetes Association, submitted a communication dated November 14, 2016.
- Kirsten Bernas, Research & Policy Manager, The Canadian Community Economic Development (CED) Network – Manitoba, submitted a communication dated February 7, 2017 from Sarah Lesson-Klym, Manitoba Regional Director, The Canadian Community Economic Development (CED) Network
- Rob Moquin, Policy Manager, Food Matters Manitoba, submitted a communication dated February 7, 2017.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Formation of Winnipeg Food Council – Stakeholder Engagement Report and Recommendations

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
B. Smith	J. Kiernan	M. Ruta	D. McNeil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The path food takes – as it is grown, harvested, processed, transported, bought and sold, consumed and disposed of – is known as a food system. Food councils help identify issues and provide advice related to the local food system (e.g. food deserts, preventing food from entering the waste stream, etc.). They also identify potential effects that a policy or initiative may have on other sectors of the food system.

The City does not have a dedicated committee (like a food council) to respond to food system-related issues, or to facilitate coordination between the City and other food-related initiatives, networks, and businesses in Winnipeg.

OurWinnipeg provides policy direction to support the local food system through cooperation and collaboration with community economic development agencies and other levels of government (pp 50-51).

In response to the June 2, 2015 direction by the Standing Policy Committee on Planning and Development, the Urban Planning Division researched food councils across North America, engaged key food-related stakeholders about the formation, role and governance structure of a potential Winnipeg Food Council, and invited extra feedback by sharing information online and at a public event.

The Urban Planning Division created proposed Terms of Reference for a Winnipeg Food Council (Attachment A) based on enabling strategies from *OurWinnipeg*, best practice research, stakeholder feedback. It outlines duties and responsibilities of a proposed Winnipeg Food Council, and provides initial direction that will be reviewed over time.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Council:

1) Authorize the creation and operationalizing of the proposed Winnipeg Food Council by approving the attached Terms of Reference document (Attachment A of this report);

2) That the Executive Policy Committee refer a budget increase of $69,000 for the creation and operation of a Winnipeg Food Council to Council for consideration in the 2018 budget review process;

3) Direct the Public Service to report back to Council within 120 days, with membership recommendations for Council approval; and

4) Authorize the Proper Officers of the City to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On June 2nd, 2015 the Standing Policy Committee (SPC) on Property and Development directed the Winnipeg Public Service to "engage key stakeholders to investigate and provide recommendations related to the formation, role and governance structure of a Winnipeg Food Policy Council, with a mandate of providing continued advice on agricultural and food related policy".

In response to this recommendation, the Urban Planning Division:

- compiled research and created a summary report, "Towards a Winnipeg Food Policy Council: Background, Research Scan and Local Context" (Attachment B);
- held two stakeholder consultation events related to the formation, role and governance structure of a Winnipeg Food Council (see Attachment C, Summary of Consultation); and
- invited public feedback through the City of Winnipeg website, online networks and by hosting a booth at Ciclovia, an outdoor public event at ManyFest on Sunday September 11, 2016 (see Attachment C, Summary of Consultation).

The recommendation to research a Winnipeg Food Council came from a report responding to a motion from Riel Community Committee on May 23, 2014, entitled: "Accommodating the interests of Winnipeg's Agricultural Community" (Agricultural Report). This current report (and its attachments) is being submitted to the Executive Policy Committee (EPC), as this committee addresses issues affecting the City as a whole.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed Winnipeg Food Council would report to EPC, as EPC is responsible to "formulate and present recommendations to council respecting policies, plans, budgets, by-laws and other matters that affect the city as a whole" (Section 62(1)(a) of the Winnipeg Charter, and Section 4(1) of the City Organization By-law 7100/97).

The operationalizing of this proposed committee (outlined in Attachment A) would follow best practices within Winnipeg committees and other jurisdictions.

The proposed annual budget of $69,000 (beginning in 2018) is based on the budgets of similar City of Winnipeg committees whose mandates affect all departments and all citizens. Funding sources, both internal and external, would need to be explored contingent on approval by City Council.

Once formed, Winnipeg Food Council membership and support staff will be able to explore additional *external* revenue sources in partnership with City Council. In addition, the proposed Winnipeg Food Council may be able to leverage in-kind support from local organizations to assist with research, public/stakeholder consultation and other initiatives.

The proposed Winnipeg Food Council would also make progress towards the mandate to "provide continued advice on agricultural policy" provided at the June 2, 2016 meeting of the SPC on Property and Development, which includes:

- *Providing research and advisory support for food and agriculture related policies in OurWinnipeg and Complete Communities;*
- *Investigating barriers towards local agricultural production and exploring opportunities towards improving food production and food security;*
- *Preparing a report with recommendations to expand the list of permissible noninvasive agricultural-related uses throughout the City of Winnipeg; and*
- *Assisting in the creation of an Agricultural and Food Security Strategy to address local food production and security issues.*

The proposed Winnipeg Food Council would address the *OurWinnipeg* direction to "respond to food needs as identified by communities", and assist the City to move forward on the following *OurWinnipeg* enabling strategies:

- *Collaborate on local food opportunities that are part of community development initiatives;*
- *Include food in planning for neighbourhood revitalization strategies;*
- *Within the City's mandate, pursue opportunities to support local food production*
- *Develop planning tools to manage the sustainability of existing community gardens and to enable the creation of new permanent or temporary gardens; and*

- *Maintain an inventory of city properties suitable for food production* (*OurWinnipeg* p 82).

The proposed Winnipeg Food Council aligns with *OurWinnipeg*, and would enable the City to take considerable steps to implement the above strategies, as well as other *OurWinnipeg* policy directions encouraging intergovernmental cooperation, collaboration with economic and community economic development agencies, and a commitment to sustainable long-term planning (*OurWinnipeg* pp 50-51).

HISTORY / DISCUSSION

Food councils established by a municipality provide advice on food system issues, and identify potential effects a policy or initiative may have on other sectors of the food system. Food councils currently operate in over 200 municipalities in Canada and the US.

The City of Winnipeg continues to encounter food system-related decisions (ie. apiaries, food deserts, community gardens, composting, etc.). The proposed Winnipeg Food Council would provide advice on such matters, and coordinate with other food-related organizations and businesses in Winnipeg.

On May 13th, 2014, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development concurred in the recommendation of the Riel Community Committee (May 5th, 2014), that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to provide recommendations on how best to consider the interests of the City's agricultural community.

In response, the Urban Planning Division produced a report titled "Accommodating the Interests of Winnipeg's Agricultural Community". On June 2nd, 2015 the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development concurred with the report, recommending that the Winnipeg Public Service "engage key stakeholders to investigate and provide recommendations related to the formation, role and governance structure of a Winnipeg Food Policy Council, with a mandate of providing continued advice on agricultural and food related policy".

In response to the June 2, 2015 recommendation, the Winnipeg Public Service researched food policy councils, consulted with food policy experts, and produced a report, "Towards a Winnipeg Food Policy Council: Background, Research Scan and Local Context" (Attachment B).

On May 30 and June 2, The City of Winnipeg partnered with Food Matters Manitoba to engage key stakeholders about the formation, role and governance of a potential Winnipeg Food Council. Information from these events, along with an online questionnaire, was posted online. On September 11, 2016, The City of Winnipeg invited additional public feedback at an outdoor public event at ManyFest. A summary stakeholder feedback can be found in Attachment C, "Summary of Consultation". Recommendations from these events and online feedback have been incorporated into the proposed Terms of Reference document (Attachment A).

The Terms of Reference provide for a Winnipeg Food Council that would advise the Mayor and City Council on food system issues; support food-related work in the community; and support the development, implementation and evaluation of an Agricultural and Food Strategy.

A number of organizations (Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Food Matters Manitoba, the Canadian CED Network) are already actively involved in food policy research, and have been advocating for a municipal food council. These organizations were actively involved in our stakeholder consultation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: December 14, 2016

Project Name:

Formation of Winnipeg Food Council – Stakeholder Engagement Report and Recommendations

First Year of Program 2018

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 69,000	$ 70,400	$ 71,800	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 69,000	$ 70,400	$ 71,800	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	-	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ 69,000	$ 70,400	$ 71,800	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments: Direct costs in 2018 represent the annual budget request for the Winnipeg Food Council. Amounts in 2019 and 2020 have been increased by an assumed inflation factor of 2%. It should be noted that the 2018 operating budget is not yet balanced and the forecasted deficit is estimated to be $88.8 million.

"Original signed by"
Mike McGinn, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance

CONSULTATION

In preparing this Report there was consultation with:

- Ward Councillor
- Legal Services Department as to legal issues
- City Clerk's Department
- Indigenous Relations, Community Services, City Naturalist
- Food Matters Manitoba (partners on stakeholder consultations)
- Numerous citizens including representatives from community groups, private enterprises, social enterprises, industry representatives, other levels of government, health sector, education and research fields
- General public attending ManyFest

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

- *OurWinnipeg* (section 03-2) provides direction to work through community partnerships to respond to local food needs and pursue opportunities to support local food production. In addition, *OurWinnipeg* also provides policy direction to support the local food system through cooperation and collaboration with community economic development agencies and other levels of government (pp 50-51).

- Section 03-2 of *OurWinnipeg* includes the following Enabling Strategies:
    - *Collaborate on local food opportunities that are part of the community development initiatives.*
    - *Include food in planning for neighbourhood revitalization strategies.*
    - *Within the City's mandate, pursue opportunities to support local food production*
    - *Development planning tools to manage the sustainability of existing community gardens and to enable the creation of new permanent or temporary gardens.*
    - *Maintain an inventory of city properties suitable for food production. (OurWinnipeg, p 82)*

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Planning, Property and Development
Division: Urban Planning
Prepared by: Karin Kliewer, Planner
Date: January 20, 2017
File No: O:\Reports Directive\Planning and Land Use\Long Range Planning\2016\Food Council RIS Report 170119.docx

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A
Proposed Terms of Reference

Attachment B
Towards a Winnipeg Food Policy Council: Background, Research Scan and Local Context

Attachment C
Summary of Consultation