Minute No. 435
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development – June 6, 2017

Item No. 8 Cell Towers near Residential Development

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to:

    A. Create a process to include cell reception as part of planning for new developments through the upcoming OurWinnipeg review.

    B. Include direction for the placement of cellphone towers that may have to be located near residential development in the Residential Infill Strategy.

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 Orlikow,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development be adopted.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 14, 2017, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 6, 2017, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development recommended to Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to:

    A. Create a process to include cell reception as part of planning for new developments through the upcoming OurWinnipeg review.

    B. Include direction for the placement of cellphone towers that may have to be located near residential development in the Residential Infill Strategy.

2. That the proper officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION:

On May 24, 2017, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development:

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION (continued):

Moved by Councillor Allard,
Seconded by Councillor Orlikow,

WHEREAS The Federal Government recently implemented a process for cell tower approval, whereby if a municipality's provides a letter of concurrence to a proposed location, that site can be expedited through to federal approval;

AND WHEREAS smartphone use has exploded in recent years, and with it consumer demand upon wireless infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS our current cell tower policy recommends against placing cell towers on or near residential homes;

AND WHEREAS some new developments, such as Sage Creek, have had a lack of cell reception for many years, and have had to wait for complex after the fact negotiations to take place to provide cell phone coverage years after residents first moved in;

AND WHEREAS ever increasing numbers of customers, data usage and changes in technology have reduced the potential range of these towers;

AND WHEREAS wireless phone use is now a ubiquitous part of modern life and arguably an essential service;

AND WHEREAS there are serious safety issues identified by our Firefighter Paramedic Department with respect to emergency services, both in the ability of residents to call for help, and the ability of emergency responders to transmit critical medical and other information;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg public service create a process to consider cell reception as part of planning for new developments;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our development of infill guidelines include direction for the placement of cellphone towers that may have to be located near residential development