EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 584
Councillor Wyatt asked if the taxi industry would have input into the consultation process for Vehicle for Hire ride sharing services; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied that The City of Winnipeg is working with The Province of Manitoba and the Taxicab Board on the issue and encouraged The Province of Manitoba to pass the legislation and all stakeholders of the current industry to have discussions with the members of the Manitoba Legislature.

Councillor Wyatt inquired if His Worship Mayor Bowman would keep an open mind to creating a working group made up of the taxicab industry, the Uber industry as well as The City of Winnipeg Public Service to develop regulations in the event that The Province of Manitoba passes legislation; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied in the affirmative.

Councillor Wyatt asked if His Worship Mayor Bowman would be prepared to meet with the taxicab industry prior to the motion going to The Executive Policy Committee; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied that at this time, it would best for them to meet with the Province of Manitoba, however, he has had discussions with current stakeholders that he would welcome on an ongoing basis.

Councillor Eadie asked why His Worship Mayor Bowman referred to the issue as a ride-sharing service when Uber is a Vehicle for Hire service; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied that the legislation the Province of Manitoba is debating is Vehicles for Hire, however, ride-sharing is a commonly used term to discuss new service offerings in other cities.

Councillor Eadie inquired if it were not an open government practice to establish a stakeholder working group; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied that The City of Winnipeg was being pro-active in its research of the issue in anticipation that The Province of Manitoba will pass the necessary legislation to download the regulation of ride-sharing services to municipalities in Manitoba.

Councillor Eadie asked for clarification on how he could order the Civic Administration to prepare for something that has not yet been passed; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied that it was appropriate for cross-jurisdictional research to be in place if and when the provincial legislation is passed.

Councillor Browaty inquired why His Worship Mayor Bowman would not commit to meeting with the taxicab industry; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied that he has had discussions with various members of the industry and encouraged all members of Council to do the same.

Executive Policy Committee – Question Period (continued):

Councillor Browaty asked if His Worship Mayor Bowman would commit to meeting with the taxicab industry in the next 14 days; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied he would keep on open mind to such meetings, however would not make a firm commitment at this time.

Councillor Gillingham asked what steps were being taken by the Civic Administration to mitigate the potential cost to The City of Winnipeg of the Vehicle for Hire industry; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied that information would be provided in an Administrative Report for Council to consider.

Councillor Lukes advised of the positive impact that the Rapid Transit Advisory Committee had on Phase 1 of the Rapid Transit Corridor design and asked if His Worship Mayor Bowman was aware of the benefits that came from having said Advisory Committee; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied he would like to hear more from the Councillor on the Advisory Committee.

Councillor Schreyer asked if a consultant had been hired to assist the Civic Administration in preparing a report regarding Vehicle for Hire; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied that was a question best suited for The Chief Administrative Officer.

Councillor Schreyer inquired what proportion of Vehicles for Hire was ride-sharing: to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied the response would be provided in the Administrative Report should provincial legislation be passed.

Councillor Dobson asked if His Worship Mayor Bowman had met with representatives from Uber in the past two years; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied in the affirmative.

Councillor Wyatt asked for an update regarding the $185 million for regional streets ask to The Province of Manitoba; to which His Worship Mayor Bowman replied that he had not yet received a formal indication from them.

Councillor Browaty cited the acceleration of the 2017 road repair program and asked if a head start could be had with regard to 2018 projects; however, Question Period ended before His Worship Mayor Bowman could reply.