Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – December 6, 2017

REPORTS

Item No. 4 Commercial Agricultural Uses

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development:

1. That the Winnipeg Food Council be directed to report back on where to allow commercial agricultural uses within the City.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,

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

Carried

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 27, 2017, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that the Winnipeg Food Council be directed to report back on where to allow commercial agricultural uses within the City.

Rod Kueneman, VP Programming for Sustainable South Osborne Community Cooperative, submitted a communication, in support of the matter.

Dean Harder, National Farmers Union Manitoba, submitted a presentation titled What Feeds Us – The Vancouver Food Strategy, in support of the matter.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 6, 2017, the Riel Community Committee moved the following motion:

WHEREAS there is a great deal of land in front and back yards in residential areas;

AND WHEREAS gardening and urban agriculture is an economically productive, efficient, and aesthetically pleasing use of residential land;

AND WHEREAS food produced in the City saves greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation of food into the City;

AND WHEREAS home food production can build an economy of scale across multiple properties, allowing for further expansion of concepts such as cooperatives or farmers markets;

AND WHEREAS the recently permitted urban beekeeping bylaw will compliment an expansion of urban agriculture;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development direct the Winnipeg Public Service and the Winnipeg Food Council to report back on how to allow commercial agricultural uses to be permitted, or as a right on residential zoning lots, and how the City could accommodate the establishment of these uses.