Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – January 17, 2018

REPORTS

Item No. 1 Winnipeg Private Refugee Sponsorship Assurance Program

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommended to Council:

1. That the July 13, 2016 Council decision regarding "Winnipeg Private Refugee Sponsorship" (Minute No. 436) be rescinded.

2. That a grant to Manitoba Refugee Sponsors be approved in an amount equal to the balance of the assurance fund as of December 31, 2016.

3. That the City enter into, execute and deliver a grant agreement with Manitoba Refugee Sponsors and The Winnipeg Foundation that sets out the terms and conditions of the City's grant, including:

    A. The requirement for the entirety of the City grant funds to be utilized for the purpose of creating an endowment fund with the same purpose as the current assurance fund;

    B. The requirement for The Winnipeg Foundation to manage such endowment funds; and

    C. The requirement for The Winnipeg Foundation and MRS to provide annual reporting consistent with that currently provided to the City with respect to the assurance fund;

    and that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of such grant agreement in accordance with the foregoing and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan,

WHEREAS since 2002 the Winnipeg Private Refugee Sponsorship Assurance Program (WPRSAP) has served as an assurance fund provided by the City of Winnipeg and run by Manitoba Refugee Sponsors ("MRS") and the Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council ("MIIC") for community groups involved in the private sponsorship of refugees in the event that the sponsorship breaks down;

AND WHEREAS numerous representatives from Winnipeg's re-settlement community point to the peace of mind that WPRSAP provides to the non-profit organizations as they increase the private sponsorship of refugees coming to Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the WPRSAP fund is scheduled to wind down on December 31, 2016;

AND WHEREAS there is recognition of the value of extending WPRSAP so it can continue to provide assurance to the faith-based and community groups which privately sponsor refugees to come to Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg's generous business community is seeking ways to financially support the re-settlement of refugees;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable for the City to support an assurance fund hosted by a third party investment body that could accept contributions from public and private bodies;

AND WHEREAS on July 13, 2016 a motion was adopted by Council (the "2016 Motion") that the Public Service negotiate with MRS and MIIC to immediately terminate the existing assurance fund so that the City can immediately grant the entirety of the existing assurance funds to MIIC and MRS.

AND WHEREAS the 2016 Motion also authorized the City to enter into, execute and deliver a grant agreement with MIIC and MRS that sets out the terms and conditions of the City's grant, including:

A. the requirement for the entirety of the City grant funds to be utilized for the purpose of creating an endowment fund with the same purpose as the current assurance fund;

B. the requirement for MIIC and MRS to provide annual reporting consistent with that currently provided to the City with respect to the assurance fund;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

and that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of such grant agreement in accordance with the foregoing and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

AND WHEREAS MIIC no longer wishes to take part in the endowment fund and The Winnipeg Foundation has agreed to manage the endowment fund with MRS;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the July 13, 2016 Council decision regarding "Winnipeg Private Refugee Sponsorship" (Minute No. 436) be rescinded;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Council approve a grant to Manitoba Refugee Sponsors, in an amount equal to the balance of the assurance fund as of December 31, 2016;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City enter into, execute and deliver a grant agreement with Manitoba Refugee Sponsors and The Winnipeg Foundation that sets out the terms and conditions of the City's grant, including:

A. The requirement for the entirety of the City grant funds to be utilized for the purpose of creating an endowment fund with the same purpose as the current assurance fund;

B. The requirement for The Winnipeg Foundation to manage such endowment funds; and

C. The requirement for The Winnipeg Foundation and MRS to provide annual reporting consistent with that currently provided to the City with respect to the assurance fund;

and that the Chief Financial Officer be authorized to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of such grant agreement in accordance with the foregoing and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Proper Officers of the City do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Carried