Minute No. 415
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – June 5, 2018

Item No. 2 Neighbourhood and Community Safety

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks and adopted the following:

1. That the following be referred for consideration during the preparation of the Destination Marketing Reserve report, namely:

    A. Identify neighbourhoods and business improvement zones which need safety strategies, neighbourhoods and business improvement zones which cannot depend on voluntary citizen patrols, communities needing 24/7 youth drop in centres and organizations that deliver safety/crime prevention services;

    B. Estimate the costs to provide grants to cover the costs of formulating safety strategies, safety patrols, 24/7 youth drop in centres and various crime prevention initiatives in order to utilize a onetime property tax increase in a dedicated city fund allocated annually for said purposes beginning in 2019's budget;

2. That the following be referred to the 2019 Operating Budget review process, namely:

    A. Establish a 0.25% property tax increase to expand the ability of other organizations to apply for social and crime prevention grants through the existing grant programs the City of Winnipeg provides to community groups.

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

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – June 5, 2018

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks be adopted.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 13, 2018, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks and submitted the matter Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 5, 2018, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks passed the following motion:

WHEREAS on December 12, 2017 Council directed the Public Service to provide options to utilize unspent funds in the Destination Marketing Reserve to support a multi-year downtown public safety strategy including, but not limited to, enhanced outreach services, expanded foot patrol and other security initiatives to be developed in consultation with stakeholder groups such as the Manitoba Hotel Association, the Downtown BIZ, the Winnipeg Police Service, the UN Safe Cities Committee and other such organizations;

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – June 5, 2018

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg already has a number of grants in place for the service mandates described below:

- Neighbourhood Revitalization (includes community development) in Departments: Community Services 48%, Corporate Accounts 26%, Planning and Prop. & Devl. 26%; service description: Provide neighbourhood residents with tools and support to build resilient, healthy communities and to promote and deliver community based projects and programs that support sustainable neighbourhoods and healthy communities. Service activities include the administration of Council's neighbourhood and housing programs including, but not limited to: - Indigenous Relations - Housing Renewal, Building Communities and Affordable Housing Initiatives - Residential Infill Tax Credit Program - Neighbourhood Multi-Family / Mixed-Use Building Grant Program - Downtown Multi-Family / Mixed-Use Building Grant Program - LiveSAFE in Winnipeg - Crime Prevention through Social Development - Delivery of Homelessness Partnering Strategy - Downtown Residential Development Grant Program - Live Downtown - Rental Development Grant Program - Strategic Economic Incentives - Project Specific Grants.

- Crime Prevention (includes community policing, street lighting & crime prevention Initiatives) in departments: Police 71% Public Works 29%; service description: To provide citizens with crime awareness and education, enhanced relationships with targeted neighbourhoods and schools, as well as to conduct proactive policing to prevent crime and disorder.

- Recreation (includes aquatics programs, arenas, & casual facility use) departments: Community Services 100%; service description: Provide high quality aquatics, recreation and leisure opportunities/programs in order to enhance life skills, community leadership development and overall quality of life for citizens in our neighbourhoods.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – June 5, 2018

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

- Community Liveability (includes community by-law enforcement, bicycle recovery, citizen crisis response & social grants) in departments: Community Services 100%; service description: Through outreach, promotion, prevention, protection and regulatory services, support the development of a healthy community including: - Community By-law Enforcement Services (CBES) with a focus on neighbourhood liveability including housing and property standards. - Business Licensing (Doing Business in Winnipeg By-law) and Taxicabs. - Crisis response coordination - connecting citizens to available services as required in relation to mandated city services. - Emergency health and social services response to citizens during local emergencies and disasters. - Administration of social grants to community organizations to provide a service that the City of Winnipeg would otherwise need to provide in support of safe and healthy neighbourhoods. - Administration of a bicycle recovery program.

AND WHEREAS there is a limited amount of available grants to fund essential community prevention programs I to deal with rising societal problems contributing to crime and safety in Winnipeg's neighbourhoods;

AND WHEREAS there is an immediate need to expand the social and recreation grants to meet the demands of running 24/7 safe youth operations and various sport and safety coordination groups;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the following be referred for consideration during the preparation of the Destination Marketing Reserve report, namely:

    A. Identify neighbourhoods and business improvement zones which need safety strategies, neighbourhoods and business improvement zones which cannot depend on voluntary citizen patrols, communities needing 24/7 youth drop in centres and organizations that deliver safety/crime prevention services;

    B. Estimate the costs to provide grants to cover the costs of formulating safety strategies, safety patrols, 24/7 youth drop in centres and various crime prevention initiatives in order to utilize a onetime property tax increase in a dedicated city fund allocated annually for said purposes beginning in 2019's budget;

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – June 5, 2018

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

2. That the following be referred to the 2019 Operating Budget review process, namely:

    A. Establish a 0.25% property tax increase to expand the ability of other organizations to apply for social and crime prevention grants through the existing grant programs the City of Winnipeg provides to community groups,

and forwarded to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

On May 4, 2018, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks referred the Council Motion of April 26, 2018 to the Winnipeg Public Service for a verbal report back in 30 days.

Further on May 4, 2018, Jennifer Mathieson, Executive Director, Norwood Grove BIZ, submitted a communtication, undated, in support of the matter.

Further on May 4, 2018, Denisa Gavan-Koop, Coordinator, Here and Now – The Winnipeg Plan to End Youth Homelessness, submitted a presentation titled “Here and Now” in support of the matter.

Further on May 4, 2018, Kristen Wiltshire, Youth and Families Director, and Sean Souza, West End 24 Hour Safe Space Manager, Spence Neighbourhood Association, submitted a presentation dated May 4, 2018 in support of the matter.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – June 5, 2018

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

Further on May 4, 2018, Josh Brandon, Community Animator, and Kate Kehler, Executive Director, Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, submitted presendtaiong dated May 4, 2018 and a booklet titled "Make Poverty History Manitoba, Winnipeg Without Poverty Calling on the City to Lead", in support of the matter.

COUNCIL DECISION :

On April 26, 2018, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks:

Moved by Councillor Eadie,
Seconded by Councillor Schreyer,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg is involved in neighbourhood and community safety through Our Winnipeg, Winnipeg Committee for Safety and various one time grants with no consistency for the community groups delivering non-police safety services;

AND WHEREAS other areas of the city besides Downtown need city investments in safety such as safety strategies, citizen / ambassador patrols, safe places for youth and initiatives that deal with prevention of crime from the community like the Gang Action Network and North End Hockey Program;

AND WHEREAS investments in neighbourhood and community safety reduces the need for WPS resources;

AND WHEREAS patrols and other safety initiatives reduce the amount of property crimes and other kinds of criminal activity;

AND WHEREAS volunteer based safety patrols are unsustainable in various neighbourhoods throughout the city;

AND WHEREAS 24/7 youth drop in centres provide a safe place for the WPS to drop off at risk youth in addition to youth dropping in on their own at an estimated $350,000.00 per year cost;

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks –

June 5, 2018

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS communicating with the Winnipeg Police Service, Winnipeg Police board, Community Services, Winnipeg Committee for Safety, business improvement zones, and City Council members' offices who hear from community groups trying to deal with safety issues without stable consistent funding ;

AND WHEREAS a 0.5 percent property tax increase in 2018 is equivalent to $2.75 million, probably more than is needed for safety initiatives;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to:

1. Identify neighbourhoods and business improvement zones which need safety strategies, neighbourhoods and business improvement zones which cannot depend on voluntary citizen patrols, communities needing 24/7 youth drop in centres and organizations that deliver safety/crime prevention services;

2. Estimate the costs to provide grants to cover the costs of formulating safety strategies, safety patrols, 24/7 youth drop in centres and various crime prevention initiatives in order to utilize a onetime property tax increase in a dedicated city fund allocated annually for said purposes beginning in 2019's budget;

3. Establish a grant application process that would allow a not for profit entity to request funding to create a safety strategy, safety patrol, 24/7 youth drop in centre and various crime prevention services identified in the first be it resolved.