Minute No. 551
Report – Executive Policy Committee – September 12, 2018

Item No. 4 Commercial Agricultural Uses

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the Public Service be directed, in consultation with the Winnipeg Food Council, to prepare amendments to Winnipeg Zoning By-law 200/2006 and Downtown Winnipeg Zoning By-law 100/2004, to address and implement the three policy outcomes (growing produce as a permitted principal use, commercial sale of produce, and use of public land to grow produce) noted in the Supporting Commercial Agriculture Uses in Winnipeg report.

2. That the Province of Manitoba's online fact sheet about gardening and soil contaminants, which also includes resources for producers and consumers on safe gardening practices, soil testing, and other methods (such as raised garden beds) to ensure food safety be endorsed.

3. 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 His Worship Mayor Bowman,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 12, 2018, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Food Council and submitted the matter to Council.

WINNIPEG FOOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION:

On July 13, 2018, the Winnipeg Food Council recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that the recommendations contained in the Supporting Commercial Agriculture Uses in Winnipeg report be considered for approval, namely:

1. Direct the Public Service to, in consultation with the Winnipeg Food Council, prepare amendments to Winnipeg Zoning By-law 200/2006 and Downtown Winnipeg Zoning By-law 100/2004, to address and implement the three policy outcomes (growing produce as a permitted principal use, commercial sale of produce, and use of public land to grow produce) noted in the report; and

2. endorse the Province of Manitoba's online fact sheet about gardening and soil contaminants, which also includes resources for producers and consumers on safe gardening practices, soil testing, and other methods (such as raised garden beds) to ensure food safety.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

On December 6, 2017, 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.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

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;

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.