Agenda – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – March 8, 2019

BUDGET REVIEW

Item No. 1 Increase of Service Funding – 2019 Parks and Urban Forestry Budget

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 5, 2018, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks referred the Riel Community Committee recommendation to the 2019 Operating Budget review process, namely:

1. That the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks initiate an increase of service funding to the 2019 Parks and Urban Forestry budget by $900,000 towards increasing shrub and public gardens maintenance.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 5, 2018, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks referred the Riel Community Committee recommendation to the 2019 Operating Budget review process.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 7, 2018, the Riel Community Committee moved the following motion:

WHEREAS since 2010, over 100 hectares of parks and boulevards in new developments have been added without additional funding to support their maintenance;

AND WHEREAS the Parks and Open Space Division is now forced to reduce *key* services including mowing and trimming in some areas to remain within approved budgets;

AND WHEREAS the increased demands of expanding parks inventory combined with aging parks infrastructure are no longer sustainable within existing funding levels;

AND WHEREAS for 2017, the Community Trends and Performance report states 4.8% of total tax-supported spending of City Property Tax Bill is allocated to parks and urban forestry, yet clearly is it not being directed to parks and urban forestry;

AND WHEREAS basic maintenance of shrubs and plants contribute to the health and well-being of urban dwellers and increases civic pride;

AND WHEREAS the Division continues to prioritize public safety issues, the ability to provide basic service to the citizens of Winnipeg has been compromised;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks initiate an increase of service funding to the 2019 Parks and Urban Forestry budget by $900,000 towards increasing shrub and public gardens maintenance.