Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – April 16, 2019

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – April 4, 2019

Item No. 2 Appointment of Weed Inspectors under the Noxious Weeds Act

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 4, 2019, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Service and Parks concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the following to Council:

1. That Terry Cormier (Community By-law Enforcement Coordinator – Community Services), Keith Studeny (Weed Inspector – Public Works) and Ken Kingsland (Weed Inspector – Public Works) be appointed as Municipal Noxious Weed Inspectors under the Noxious Weeds Act.

2. 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 – April 4, 2019

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 4, 2019, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Service and Parks concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Appointment of Weed Inspectors under the Noxious Weeds Act

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
D. Domke	J. Berezowsky	N/A	D. McNeil

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In order to meet its obligations under Manitoba's *Noxious Weeds Act* the City of Winnipeg must appoint by resolution at least one official to be known as "Municipal Noxious Weeds Inspector." As in the past few years the Public Service is recommending three individuals whose positions relate to this assignment to be appointed under the *Noxious Weeds Act*.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Terry Cormier (Community By-law Enforcement Coordinator – Community Services), Keith Studeny (Weed Inspector – Public Works) and Ken Kingsland (Weed Inspector – Public Works) be appointed as Municipal Noxious Weed Inspectors under the *Noxious Weeds Act*.

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

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Section 11(1) of Manitoba's *Noxious Weeds Act* requires that "every municipal council shall, not later than March 1 in each year, appoint by resolution at least one official to be known as "Municipal Noxious Weeds Inspector…" The role of the Municipal Noxious Weeds Inspector is to ensure the Act is followed.

The Act also states that, "where a municipal council neglects or refuses to appoint and employ a Municipal Noxious Weeds Inspector as required under this Act, the minister may, … appoint and employ a person for the service; and that amount shall be paid out of the funds of the municipality…" (Section 14(1)).

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Appointing the above staff as Municipal Noxious Weeds Inspectors brings the City of Winnipeg in compliance with the Provincial *Noxious Weeds Act*.

The duties of the appointees fall within the scope of the positions held by the appointees and will have no financial impact on either department.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

Beginning in 2015, The Province of Manitoba specifically requested that the City of Winnipeg appoint a Municipal Noxious Weeds Inspector. Since 2015, Council has appointed three individuals annually and this is recommended again in 2019.

Prior to 2015, the City of Winnipeg did not appoint a Municipal Noxious Weeds Inspector under the *Noxious Weeds Act* because the Neighborhood Livability By-law primarily regulates vegetation on private properties through Section 8:

> "8(2) Other than on properties zoned for agricultural grazing and feeding and agricultural cultivation, turf must be kept trimmed to a maximum length of 15 cm (6 inches).
> 8(3) Noxious weeds must be controlled on all properties."

Although the By-law is the primary enforcement tool for controlling long grass and weeds in the City, the Province's *Noxious Weeds Act* still compels the City to appoint Noxious Weed Inspector(s). Appointing these individuals as Municipal Noxious Weed Inspectors ensures the City will have the authority to control long grass and noxious weeds on property throughout the City of Winnipeg.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** March 20, 2019

Project Name:

Appointment of Weed Inspectors under the Noxious Weeds Act

COMMENTS:

The duties of the appointees fall within the scope of the positions held by the appointees and will have no financial impact on either department. There are no financial implications to the recommendations of this report.

"Orignal Signed by J. Ruby, CPA, CA"
J. Ruby, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance & Administration

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

Community Services Department

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

A Sustainable Winnipeg, Section 09 Continue to Respect and Value our Natural and Built Environment. Direction 5: Provide safe and effective pest and weed control in City operations

Enabling Strategies:

- Ensure rigorous health and safety training and certification for pesticide application personnel in the Public Service.
- Balance the health needs of citizens with the use of pesticides and herbicides.
- Adopt clear guidelines for the timing of pesticide application decisions and adopt measures to restrict pesticide use in accordance with the expressed concerns of residents.
- Implement new and innovative integrated pest management methods aimed at reducing pesticide use and increasing safety and effectiveness.
- Participate in research to identify the sources and environmental pathways of pesticides used within Winnipeg.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Public Works
Division: Parks and Open Space
Prepared by: R. Penner/D. Domke
Date: March 22, 2019