Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – October 15, 2019

REPORTS

Item No. 2 Winnipeg "One Million Trees" Program

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee directed the Winnipeg Public Service to develop a plan to implement and promote a program with the goal of planting one million trees in Winnipeg, including a tracking mechanism, before the City's population reaches one million and report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks in 120 days.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

The Chairperson called Councillor Mayes to the Chair in order to move the following motions:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

That Rule 10(3) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended in order that the following item, which was received less than four business days preceding the committee meeting, be considered by Committee.

Carried

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

WHEREAS trees provide substantial environmental, social, and economic benefits to the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the threat to the City's tree canopy has grown with the appearance of emerald ash borer in the last two years and it is anticipated that the City will lose more than two thirds of its tree canopy to disease in the next century;

AND WHEREAS to combat the spread of Dutch elm disease, emerald ash borer, and cottony ash psyllid, the City of Winnipeg spends more than double annually on tree removal than it does planting new trees;

AND WHEREAS since 2014 the City has spent more than $10 million replacing and planting trees in public spaces throughout the city, and nearly $76 million on tree removal, addressing Dutch elm disease and on tree maintenance;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg Climate Action Plan acknowledges that increasing and preserving the tree canopy, including in new neighborhoods, is a key strategic opportunity for community climate resiliency;

AND WHEREAS all Winnipeggers can play an active role in planting trees on their private property;

AND WHEREAS businesses and other community groups play a strong role in supporting important community initiatives;

AND WHEREAS the other municipalities have experienced success with their One Million Tress planting initiatives;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service develop a plan to implement and promote a program with the goal of planting one million trees in Winnipeg, including a tracking mechanism, before the City's population reaches one million and report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks in 120 days.

Carried

His Worship Mayor Bowman resumed the Chair.

Steve Snyder submitted a communication dated October 14, 2019, in support of the matter.