Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – November 26, 2019

REPORTS

Item No. 4 Participation in the Budget Process

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Executive Policy Committee received as information the recommendation of the Assiniboia Community Committee.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Gillingham,

That the recommendation of the Assiniboia Community Committee be received as information.

Carried

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 5, 2019, the Assiniboia Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS seven of fifteen Councillors are not equally involved in the budget process, which dictates the use of taxpayer funds from all fifteen Council Wards;

AND WHEREAS a quote from Barack Obama states that a democracy requires accountability and accountability requires transparency;

AND WHEREAS section 62(1) of the City of Winnipeg Charter states that the Executive Policy Committee of Council must formulate and present recommendations to Council regarding budgets;

AND WHEREAS under the City Organization By-law No. 7100/97, the Executive Policy Committee has jurisdiction to formulate and present recommendations to Council on Capital and Operating budgets;

AND WHEREAS the definition of collaboration is two or more people working together towards shared goals;

AND WHEREAS there is currently no provision in the City of Winnipeg Charter, or the City Organization By-law No. 7100/97, to allow all Councillors to participate in the formulation of the budget recommendation;

AND WHEREAS Winston Churchill has stated that ‘Criticism may not be agreeable, but it is necessary. It fulfills the same function as pain in the human body. It calls attention to an unhealthy state of things’;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Policy Committee be requested to recommend to Council

1. That the Province of Manitoba be requested to amend the City of Winnipeg Charter to ensure all Councillors are given equal opportunity to participate in the final preparation of the budget.

2. That all Councillors be appointed to the Budget Working Group for the 2020-2023 Multi-Year Budget Process.