Minute No. 43
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development – October 28, 2019

Item No. 3 Naturalized Storm Water Retention Ponds

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development and adopted the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Committee within 60 days on the following:

    A. The number of properties approved within the last ten years which back onto naturalized storm water ponds which currently do not have easements registered to protect the native plants, grasses and bulrushes

2. That the City of Winnipeg work in consultation with the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region to promote the lake friendly education campaign to provide good stewardship and awareness of water resources within Winnipeg.

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 Councillor Mayes,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 12, 2019, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development considered the Council Motion of September 26, 2019, and recommended to Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Committee within 60 days on the following:

    A. The number of properties approved within the last ten years which back onto naturalized storm water ponds which currently do not have easements registered to protect the native plants, grasses and bulrushes

2. That the City of Winnipeg work in consultation with the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region to promote the lake friendly education campaign to provide good stewardship and awareness of water resources within Winnipeg.

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 (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION:

On September 26, 2019, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development:

Moved by Councillor Lukes,
Seconded by Councillor Klein,

WHEREAS Lake Winnipeg's watershed is almost one million kilometers in size and encompasses four Canadian provinces, four American states and multiple First Nations;

AND WHEREAS the health of Lake Winnipeg is a shared responsibility and every resident of Manitoba plays a role;

AND WHEREAS increased nutrient (phosphorous and nitrogen) loading to Lake Winnipeg from the watershed is one of the key reasons for algal blooms and poor water quality;

AND WHEREAS naturalized storm water retention ponds have been constructed in new developments in the City of Winnipeg since 2001 and became mandatory in 2014, helping to reduce nutrient loading and to improve water quality entering the rivers and streams in the Lake Winnipeg Watershed;

AND WHEREAS many Winnipeggers are not aware of the tremendous benefits native grasses, plants and bulrushes surrounding the storm water retention ponds have on the eco system, water quality and the health of Lake Winnipeg;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service submit to Council the necessary amendments to by-laws and/or Council Policies to ensure that all properties backing onto naturalized storm water ponds have an easement on the property registered to protect the native plants, grasses and bulrushes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Winnipeg Naturalist Services Branch prepare an information package on the significance of native plants, grasses and bulrushes around wetlands and provide an information package every two years to property owners backing onto naturalized storm water retention ponds.