Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 17, 2020

REPORTS

Item No. 7 Amendment to the Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 – Verbal Reports

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Executive Policy Committee received the matter as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Gillingham,

That the matter be received as information.

Carried

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 3, 2020, the Assiniboia Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS on October 25, 2017, Council amended the Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 to change the Council and Committee agenda publication deadline from 96 hours preceding the meeting to four business days preceding the meeting, so that Members of Council could have sufficient time to review the agendas materials, including administrative reports;

AND WHEREAS in 2019 there were over forty instances where apart from a subject line, the only information provided on an agenda item was "Verbal report to be provided at the meeting.", almost all at the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works;

AND WHEREAS the Section 11 of the Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 stipulates that delegations are heard before Council or Committees may consider reports;

AND WHEREAS both Members of Council and citizens have repeatedly expressed their frustration with the practice of providing verbal reports at committees as it is impossible to determine what the content of the verbal report will be, and whether it warrants appearing in delegation to speak to the matter;

AND WHEREAS this practice is contrary to the principles of an open and transparent government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Policy Committee be requested to recommend to Council that the Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be amended to require all reports from the Winnipeg Public Service provided to Council, Executive Policy Committee and Standing Policy Committees, to be in written form and included in the respective committee's agenda when it is published on the City of Winnipeg's Decision Making Information System four business days preceding the meeting.