Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – May 22, 2020

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development – May 21, 2020

Item No. 9 Leasing Space to The Women's Resource Centre

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development and submitted the following to Council:

1. That the motion of the Assiniboia Community Committee be referred to the Governance Committee of Council, namely:

    A. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to explore an opportunity to formally lease the space formerly occupied by the restaurant / café in the west wing of the Susan A. Thompson Building at City Hall, to The Women's Resource Centre.

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 Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development – May 21, 2020

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

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 Councillor Mayes,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 21, 2020, the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development passed the following motion:

1. That the motion of the Assiniboia Community Committee be referred to the Governance Committee of Council, namely:

    A. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to explore an opportunity to formally lease the space formerly occupied by the restaurant / café in the west wing of the Susan A. Thompson Building at City Hall, to The Women's Resource Centre.

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

and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 8, 2020, the Assiniboia Community Committee passed the following motion:

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development – May 21, 2020

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

WHEREAS for approximately 16 years the west wing of the main floor of the Susan A. Thompson Building at City Hall housed two different restaurants / cafes, with the most recent closing its doors in 2019;

AND WHEREAS on April 14, 2020 a request for proposal for food services in this space closed without any responses;

AND WHEREAS in the absence of any other plan to lease the site of the former restaurant, the space will continue to remain vacant and not generate any revenue for the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS The Women's Resource Centre is a not for profit organization with a mandate of supporting women exiting sexual exploitation, sex trafficking, and forced prostitution;

AND WHEREAS The Centre is currently in the process of finding a suitable location to become a peaceful, safe, gathering place for developing healthy relationships that will make a positive difference in the lives of vulnerable women in our community;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development be requested to direct the Winnipeg Public Service to explore an opportunity to formally lease the space formerly occupied by the restaurant / café in the west wing of the Susan A. Thompson Building at City Hall, to The Women's Resource Centre.

Councillor Klein, Charleswood-Tuxedo-Westwood Ward, submitted communications in support of the matter.