Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – June 18, 2020

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – June 10, 2020

Item No. 4 Future Grant Agreements with the City of Winnipeg and Tree Canada for the Winnipeg Million Tree Challenge

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks and submitted the following to Council:

1. That the City enter into, execute and deliver future grant agreements with Tree Canada for the Winnipeg Million Tree Challenge Planting Project, and such other agreements as determined necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to implement the intent of the foregoing (the "Ancillary Agreements").

2. That the authority be delegated to the Director of Public Works to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of all future grant agreements and the Ancillary Agreements with Tree Canada for the Winnipeg Million Tree Challenge Planting Project, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

3. 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 Protection, Community Services and Parks – June 10, 2020

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On June 10, 2020, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Future Grant Agreements with the City of Winnipeg and Tree Canada for the *Winnipeg Million Tree Challenge*

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee Protection Community Services and Parks - Executive Policy Committee - Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
D. Domke	J. Berezowsky	N/A	M. Ruta, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In fall of 2019, the Mayor issued a challenge to Winnipeggers to plant 1 million trees by the time Winnipeg's population reaches 1 million residents. One way to support this challenge is for the public to donate to Tree Canada to support efforts to plant new trees in Winnipeg by designating the donation to the Winnipeg Million Tree Challenge. Tree Canada is seeking to deliver tree planting projects at various locations around the City by engaging with and granting funds to the City in order to coordinate volunteer groups, obtain tree stock and maintain trees throughout the growing season on public property. The amount of the grants to be given to the City for future tree planting projects will depend largely on the amount of donations received from the public from time to time, therefore, the amount of the anticipated future grants from Tree Canada cannot be indicated at this time.

When a grant is offered by Tree Canada, there is a very short window during which an agreement can be executed in order for the funds to be granted to the City and for the projects to be completed during planting season. As a result, the Public Service is requesting a delegation to the Director of Public Works for the future grants and funding agreements with Tree Canada now in order to avoid a lengthy approval process in the near future when the grants will be offered.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the City enter into, execute and deliver future grant agreements with Tree Canada for the *Winnipeg Million Tree Challenge Planting Project*, and such other agreements as determined necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to implement the intent of the foregoing (the "Ancillary Agreements").

2. That the authority be delegated to the Director of Public Works to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of all future grant agreements and the Ancillary Agreements with Tree Canada for the *Winnipeg Million Tree Challenge Planting Project*, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the City Solicitor / Director of Legal Services to protect the interests of the City.

3. That the proper officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Approval by Council is required for a delegation to be granted to the Director of Public Works to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of future grant agreements with Tree Canada.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

Approval of these recommendations would allow the City to receive funds from Tree Canada for procuring, planting and watering of newly planted trees on public property relating to the Million Tree Challenge.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

Tree Canada has in the past, most recently with the CN100 Moving Celebration, engaged with and granted funds to the City for delivery of tree planting projects on public property.

For the Winnipeg Million Tree Challenge numerous locations will be utilized throughout the City for planting and it is anticipated that Tree Canada will engage with the Public Service for planting at a number of these sites in 2020 and in future years. The amount of the grants to be given to the City for future tree planting projects will depend largely on the amount of donations received from the public from time to time, therefore, the amount of the anticipated future grants from Tree Canada cannot be indicated at this time.

The Public Service regularly works with volunteer community stewardship groups to deliver tree planting projects with the intention of improving habitat and the environment. Many of these projects are community led habitat restoration initiatives to improve the natural environment within our park spaces. These projects add to our tree canopy, reducing heat island effects, helping protect our riverbank areas from erosion and creating a biodiverse habitat for birds, pollinators and other wildlife.

Engaging with Tree Canada will provide trees for park spaces and volunteer planting opportunities and resources for the Public Service to ensure that the trees receive watering and maintenance throughout the growing season.

When a grant is offered by Tree Canada, there is a very short window during which an agreement can be executed in order for the funds to be given to the City and for the projects to be completed during planting season. As a result, the Public Service is requesting a delegation to the Director of Public Works for the future grants and funding agreements with Tree Canada now in order to avoid a lengthy approval process in the near future when the grants will be offered.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** May 15, 2020

Project Name:

Future Grant Agreements with the City of Winnipeg and Tree Canada for the Winnipeg Million Tree Challenge

COMMENTS:

There is no financial impact associated with the recommendation of this report. The City will receive funds from Tree Canada for procuring, planting and watering of newly planted trees on public property relating to the Million Tree Challenge. Costs incurred by the City associated with the Million Tree Challenge will not exceed the amount received from Tree Canada, unless otherwise approved by Council.

"Original signed by J. Peters, CPA, CGA"
Jocelyn Peters CPA, CGA
Acting Manager of Finance & Administration

CONSULTATION

This report has been prepared in consultation with:

Legal Services (as to legal issues)

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

The report is in accordance with the OurWinnipeg policy to Protect and Enhance the Urban Forest, 02-2 Environment, and Direction Strategies of 'Complete Communities' and 'A Sustainable City'.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

This report is in accordance with Winnipeg's Climate Action Plan Strategic Opportunity #7 – Community Climate Resiliency including Action 7.2 Increase and Preserve Tree Canopy.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Public Works
Division: Parks and Open Space
Prepared by: Rodney Penner, City Naturalist
Date: May 19 2020