

Minute No. 539

Report – Executive Policy Committee – September 21, 2020

Item No. 19 Downtown Winnipeg BIZ Grant Agreement Amendment

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the rights and obligations of the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ under the current Grant Agreements relating to both the Watch Ambassador Program and the CHAT Program be assigned to the Downtown Community Safety Partnership (DCSP).
2. That the City enter into, execute and deliver Assignment Agreements with the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ and DCSP, and such other agreements as determined necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to implement the intent of the foregoing (the “Ancillary Agreements”).
3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the Assignment Agreements and the Ancillary Agreements, in accordance with this report and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to protect the interests of the City.
4. 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 His Worship Mayor Bowman,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 21, 2020, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS on January 30, 2020, Council approved several initiatives under Phase 2 of the Multi-Year Downtown Public Safety Strategy, including:

That up to \$375,000 be approved from the DMR to be used for the continuation of the previously approved expansion of the SafeWalk Program for an additional 8 staff through the Watch Ambassador, Exchange Patrol, and West End Enhanced Safety Patrol Presence programs, and that the City grant the said funds to the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone, the Exchange District Business Improvement Zone, and the West End Business Improvement Zone for the Watch Ambassador, Exchange Patrol, and West End Enhanced Safety Patrol Presence programs, respectively; and

That the establishment of a Downtown Safety Partnership (the “DSP”) be endorsed between the City, the Downtown Winnipeg Business Improvement Zone (the “Downtown BIZ”) and True North Sports and Entertainment (“TNSE”) for a 2-year pilot term beginning November 4, 2019 in accordance with this report.

AND WHEREAS the Downtown Safety Partnership is now operating under the name Downtown Community Safety Partnership (“DCSP”);

AND WHEREAS a key component of the creation of the DCSP is the transition of some functions from the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ (i.e. Watch Ambassador Program and Community Homeless Assistance Team (CHAT) Program) to the DCSP;

AND WHEREAS Council has approved grants to the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ to support both the Watch Ambassador Program and CHAT Program;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS as of September 2020, the remaining unspent balances from the approved grants are as follows:

- CHAT: \$45,000 balance (to be used by December 31, 2020)
- Watch Ambassador: \$149,000 balance (to be used by March 31, 2021)

AND WHEREAS for the seamless transition of these functions to occur, the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ must assign its rights and obligations under the funding agreements with the City to the DCSP;

AND WHEREAS Council approval is required for the assignment of the rights and obligations under the existing Grant Agreements;

AND WHEREAS the City is a key partner in the DCSP and wishes to support its goal of serving everyone who lives, visits, works, learns, and plays downtown, whether that is on the street, in a shelter, a home or at a place of business;

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

1. That the rights and obligations of the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ under the current Grant Agreements relating to both the Watch Ambassador Program and the CHAT Program be assigned to the DCSP;
2. That the City enter into, execute and deliver Assignment Agreements with the Downtown Winnipeg BIZ and DCSP, 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”).
3. That authority be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the Assignment Agreements and the Ancillary Agreements, 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.
4. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.