Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – November 18, 2020

REPORTS

Item No. 4 Food Security Working Group

WINNIPEG FOOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION:

On October 23, 2020, the Winnipeg Food Council recommended to the Executive Policy Committee:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to create an inter-departmental food systems working group with the intent of:

    A. Integrating and balancing all interests that impact the food system, and to ensure future municipal food related action is effective and coordinated;

    B. Overseeing how municipal regulations, policies, and programs can be developed, modified, or eliminated, and lead the development of a Food and Agriculture Strategy for Winnipeg in consultation with the Winnipeg Food Council, to enhance the potential of Winnipeg's food landscape.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

WINNIPEG FOOD COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION:

On October 23, 2020, the Winnipeg Food Council passed the following motion:

WHEREAS food is an important part of life, whether it's through meals prepared, local food grown and purchased, waste composted, community and family food celebrations enjoyed;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg currently responds to a diversity of food-related issues including land use and zoning for food related businesses, food related permits, landfills and food waste, economic development opportunities (food processing, restaurants and food trucks), and transit options to access food;

AND WHEREAS municipalities across Canada are recognizing the enormous potential for food to transform a city through thoughtful consideration and planning;

AND WHEREAS making connections between food system elements such as land use and food production, infrastructure, access to local markets, and food waste planning, we can ensure food contributes positively to a better, more vibrant Winnipeg for all;

AND WHEREAS all these elements are fundamental components to a sustainable Winnipeg food system and should not be examined in isolation;

AND WHEREAS COVID-19 has exposed a lack of resilience in our food system impacting food supply, availability, and price, and exacerbating current food insecurity concerns among structurally disadvantaged populations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Policy Committee be requested to direct the Winnipeg Public Service to create an inter-departmental food systems working group with the intent of integrating and balancing all interests that impact the food system, and to ensure future municipal food related action is effective and coordinated. Such a working group will oversee how municipal regulations, policies, and programs can be developed, modified, or eliminated, and lead the development of a Food and Agriculture Strategy for Winnipeg in consultation with the Winnipeg Food Council, to enhance the potential of Winnipeg's food landscape.