Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – December 9, 2020

REPORTS

Item No. 3 Welcoming Winnipeg Update

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That the Public Service continue to implement the Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy as adopted on January 30, 2020.

2. That the Public Service be granted an extension to report back to Council by the end of 2021 about learnings and challenges of the Welcoming Winnipeg process with recommendations for appropriate amendments, if necessary.

3. That no fee for the Welcoming Winnipeg application be established at this time.

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Yea:	Bowman, Allard, Browaty, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes, Rollins	7
Nay:		0

Carried

COUNCIL DECISION:

On January 30, 2020, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee, which included the following recommendation:

6. That the Public Service report back to Council before the end of 2020 to report on learnings and challenges of the initial process and make further recommendations or enhancements.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Welcoming Winnipeg Update

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
T. Cechvala	M. Ruta	N/A	M. Ruta, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 30, 2020, Council passed a motion to adopt the Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy. This policy was developed to guide the City in making decisions regarding requests to create new, add to, or remove/rename historical markers and place names and resolve the absence of Indigenous perspectives, experiences and contributions in the stories remembered and commemorated.

Creating the necessary framework and documents to implement this unique policy were key priorities for the Indigenous Relations Division throughout 2020; a key first step was establishing the Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members (CCM). Additionally, a review of existing fees and charges to guide the establishment of a fee for Welcoming Winnipeg applications to create new, add to, or remove/rename historical markers and place names was required.

Due to COVID-19, recruitment for the CCM was delayed from spring to summer. The inaugural committee was established in August, with the first meeting held virtually on August 26, 2020. This meeting included an orientation for committee members to outline their roles and responsibilities as well as a review and discussion of the draft Terms of Reference. There are outstanding requests that have been deferred by the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks to the Welcoming Winnipeg process that will be the first items reviewed by the CCM.

A formal Welcoming Winnipeg application is in development, with input from the CCM, and it is anticipated to officially launch in late fall, 2020.

As a result of a delay in implementation, it is not possible to provide a practical assessment of successes and challenges of the current process; therefore, the Public Service is recommending that the policy be reviewed and brought back to Council at the end of 2021 with recommendations for appropriate amendments to the policy and related processes, if necessary.

To ensure the Welcoming Winnipeg application is accessible to everyone, the Public Service is also recommending that no application fee be established at this time; this recommendation will be reassessed as part of next year's report back to Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Public Service continue to implement the Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy as adopted on January 30, 2020.

2. That the Public Service be granted an extension to report back to Council by the end of 2021 about learnings and challenges of the Welcoming Winnipeg process with recommendations for appropriate amendments, if necessary.

3. That no fee for the Welcoming Winnipeg application be established at this time.

4. 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

On January 30, 2020, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and directed the Public Service to report back to Council before the end of 2020 on learning and challenges of the initial Welcoming Winnipeg process and make further recommendations or enhancements.

Council approval is required to establish fines and fees.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Public Service will be able to conduct a constructive review of the Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy and its processes, as originally intended when it was by adopted by Council.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

On January 29, 2019, Mayor Bowman announced a public engagement effort regarding the Welcoming Winnipeg initiative. The public engagement was intended to obtain input from Winnipeggers to help the city develop a process and policy to guide how the City recognizes and commemorates various historical people and events with place names, plaques, signs, and street names.

From January to March 2019, the City carried out an engagement process to obtain input from the public regarding adding to, creating new, or removing/renaming historical markers and place names. In early April, the Public Service reviewed and analyzed the input collected and determined that, because the public strongly felt that all options regarding historical markers and place names should be considered, further input regarding process and criteria to consider requests of this kind was needed.

A second phase of consultations was held during the month of July to gather input on the criteria for each of the options of adding to, creating new and remove/renaming historical markers and place names.

The feedback received from the public consultation process was reviewed and incorporated into the Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy that Council adopted on January 30, 2020. This policy was developed to guide the City in making decisions regarding requests to create new, add to, or remove/rename historical markers and place names and resolve the absence of Indigenous perspectives, experiences and contributions in the stories remembered and commemorated.

The policy established a process for requesting and implementing initiatives to recognize and commemorate various historical people and events. This process includes an application that will require community support; input/review from the related/impacted department in partnership with the Indigenous Relations Division (IRD); publication of requests; on-line and in person options to provide input on requests; and an established committee of community members to provide recommendations, for final decisions by Council.

Creating the necessary framework and documents to implement this unique policy were key priorities for IRD throughout 2020; a key first step was establishing the Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members (CCM). Additionally, a review of existing fees and charges to guide the establishment of a fee for Welcoming Winnipeg applications to create new, add to, or remove/rename historical markers and place names was required.

Due to COVID-19, recruitment for the CCM was delayed from spring to summer. The inaugural committee was established in August, with the first meeting held virtually on August 26, 2020. This meeting included an orientation for committee members to outline their roles and responsibilities as well as a review and discussion of the draft Terms of Reference. There are outstanding requests that have been deferred by the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks to the Welcoming Winnipeg process that will be the first items reviewed by the CCM.

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As a result of a delay in implementation, it is not possible to provide a practical assessment of successes and challenges of the current process; therefore, the Public Service is recommending that the policy be reviewed and brought back to Council at the end of 2021 with recommendations for appropriate amendments to the policy and related processes, if necessary.

To ensure the Welcoming Winnipeg application is accessible to everyone, the Public Service is also recommending that no application fee be established at this time; this recommendation will be reassessed as part of next year’s report back to Council.

The City of Winnipeg has recently been recognized by International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Canada with the 2020 IAP2 Core Value Project Award for Indigenous Engagement for the consultation process that was undertaken to develop the Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** November 5, 2020

Project Name:
Welcoming Winnipeg Update

COMMENTS:
There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Electronically signed by T. Yanchishyn
Tanis Yanchishyn
Manager of Finance (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

N/A

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Complete Communities Direction Strategy

Supporting Direction 1 - Conserve, protect, and celebrate the significant heritage resources that illustrate the broad range of Winnipeg's heritage values.

Supporting Direction 2 - Provide leadership in heritage conservation that links to broader civic goals of economic development, sustainability, and neighbourhood planning.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

N/A

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Chief Administrative Office
Division: Indigenous Relations
Prepared by: D. Carriere
Date: November 5, 2020
File No: