Minute No. 204
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment – January 12, 2021

Item No. 1 Use of Retention Ponds for Recreational Activities

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment and adopted the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to conduct a cross jurisdictional review of the use of retention and detention ponds, rivers, and creeks for recreational activities, and report back to Council within 120 days with recommendations on the following:

    A. The requirements needed to enable recreational activities on retention and detention ponds, rivers, and creeks in the City of Winnipeg; and

    B. Any necessary amendments to the Frozen Waterways By-law No. 93/2014.

2. 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 Councillor Mayes,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 20, 2021, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 12, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment considered the Council Motion of December 17, 2020, and submitted the following to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to conduct a cross jurisdictional review of the use of retention and detention ponds, rivers, and creeks for recreational activities, and report back to Council within 120 days with recommendations on the following:

    A. The requirements needed to enable recreational activities on retention and detention ponds, rivers, and creeks in the City of Winnipeg; and

    B. Any necessary amendments to the Frozen Waterways By-law No. 93/2014.

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

COUNCIL DECISION:

On December 17, 2020, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment:

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

Moved by Councillor Lukes,
Seconded by Councillor Nason,

WHEREAS retention / detention ponds are City infrastructure located in many neighbourhoods throughout the city;

AND WHEREAS retention / detention ponds are promoted as desirable features in a community, and increase the City's assessment base;

AND WHEREAS there is a limited supply of affordable recreation activities in the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS across Canada, some jurisdictions monitor ice thickness on retention/detention ponds to allow public access;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to conduct a cross jurisdictional review of the use of retention / detention ponds for recreational activities, and report back to Council within 90 days with recommendations on requirements needed to enable recreational activities on retention / detention ponds in the City of Winnipeg.