Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – February 17, 2021

REPORTS

Item No. 9 Amendment to the Council Policy on Citizen Appointments to Boards and Commissions

WINNIPEG PUBLIC SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the Council Policy on Citizen Appointments to Boards and Commissions, be amended as attached as Appendix A, to allow for permanent residents to apply for positions on City of Winnipeg Boards and Commissions.

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 20, 2020, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Human Rights Committee of Council.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 25, 2020, the Human Rights Committee of Council passed the following motion:

WHEREAS pillar number five "Active Implementation" of the City of Winnipeg's recently passed Newcomer Welcome and Inclusion Policy seeks to implement diversification on civic committees;

AND WHEREAS the Newcomer Welcome and Inclusion Policy action recommends the review, recruitment and composition of City of Winnipeg boards, commissions, and advisory committees to ensure representation of a diverse cross section of members that reflects community demographic, equity seeking groups, and intersectionality;

AND WHEREAS Permanent Residents participate fully in Winnipeg's economy, work force, and education systems while contributing to Winnipeg's cultural diversity and have valuable perspectives that will enhance City services and make them more accessible to all Winnipeggers;

AND WHEREAS a significant portion of newcomers and immigrants are Permanent Residents who enjoy many of the same rights as Canadian citizens but who are not Canadian citizens for any number of reasons including financial constraints, or citizenship requirements in their home countries;

AND WHEREAS since 2012 the Council Policy on Citizen Appointments to Boards and Commissions has required that members of Boards and Commissions be Canadian citizens;

AND WHEREAS citizenship is not necessarily required for residents of Winnipeg to provide volunteer service on civic boards and commissions and to give back to their community by sharing not only their time but also their expertise.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Policy Committee be requested to direct the Winnipeg Public Service to report back within 120 days with the necessary amendments to the Citizen Appointments to Boards and Commissions Policy to allow Permanent Resident participation on City Boards and Commissions, to more accurately reflect the diversity of Winnipeg's population.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Amendment to the Council Policy on Citizen Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
L. Cowan	M. Lemoine	N/A	M. Ruta, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The current Council Policy for citizen appointments to City of Winnipeg boards and commissions requires applicants and appointees to be Canadian citizens.

The Newcomer Welcome and Inclusion Strategic Framework, adopted by Council on February 27, 2020, outlines key actions for implementation to foster a welcoming, inclusive, and equitable city for all new residents of Winnipeg. The framework includes a recommendation to diversify representation on civic committees by reviewing the recruitment and composition of City of Winnipeg boards, commissions, and advisory committees.

October 20, 2020, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Human Rights Committee of Council and directed the Winnipeg Public Service to report back within 120 days with necessary amendments to the Council Policy for Citizen Appointments to Boards and Commissions to allow permanent residents to participate on these committees. The proposed policy amendment recommends the necessary changes to allow for permanent residents to apply for, and be appointed to, City of Winnipeg boards and commissions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Council Policy on Citizen Appointments to Boards and Commissions, be amended as attached as Appendix A, to allow for permanent residents to apply for positions on City of Winnipeg Boards and Commissions.

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

REASON FOR THE REPORT

At its meeting on October 20, 2020, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Human Rights Committee of Council and directed the Winnipeg Public Service to report back within 120 days with the necessary amendments to the Citizen

Appointments to Boards and Commissions Policy to allow permanent resident participation on City boards and commissions.

As the recommendations are changes to existing Council policies, changes or amendments require Council approval.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

If the proposed amendments to the policy are adopted, permanent residents will be eligible to apply for, and be appointed to, citizen positions on City of Winnipeg boards and commissions.

The application process for citizens applying to these positions during the annual selection process would require updates in order to reflect the changes.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

On July 18, 2012, Council adopted a policy which outlined the process for citizen member appointments to City of Winnipeg committees, boards and commissions. The policy stipulated that only Canadian citizens were eligible to apply for these positions.

On February 27, 2020, Council adopted the Newcomer Welcome and Inclusion Policy which outlines how the City can better support the settlement and integration of newcomers, and foster a welcoming, inclusive and equitable city for all new residents. The policy includes a strategic framework which details the key activities for implementation to enhance newcomer inclusion in Winnipeg. Objective 5.2 of this framework is to diversify representation on civic committees by reviewing the recruitment and composition of City of Winnipeg boards, commissions, and advisory committees, and adopting processes to ensure representation of a diverse cross-section of members that reflects community demographics, equity seeking groups, and intersectionality.

In response to this implementation objective, at its meeting on October 20, 2020, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Human Rights Committee of Council and directed the Winnipeg Public Service to report back within 120 days with necessary amendments to the Council Policy for Citizen Appointments to Boards and Commissions to allow permanent residents to participate on these committees. This change will help to more accurately reflect the diversity of Winnipeg's population.

Currently, each application form for a citizen appointment to civic boards and commissions includes a voluntary and confidential self-declaration questionnaire which allows applicants to identify themselves as a member of one or more designated equity groups. This information is used to ensure that boards and committees are representative of the community they serve.

The proposed amendments attached to this report as Appendix A, reflect the necessary changes to ensure that permanent residents are able to apply for citizen positions on these committees.

If approved, the City Clerk's Department will also revise its annual selection process for positions on boards and commissions in order to reflect the changes to the policy.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** January 8, 2021

Project Name:
Amendment to the Council Policy on Citizen Appointments to Boards and Commissions

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

N/A

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

The recommendations contained in this report align with OurWinnipeg Direction 3: Work with community partners to foster an inclusive and equitable community.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

N/A

SUBMITTED BY

Department: City Clerk's Department
Prepared by: L. Cowan, Senior Committee Clerk
Date: January 12, 2021

Attachments: Appendix A