Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – February 17, 2021

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks – February 10, 2021

Item No. 1 Establishment of a Consumption Site

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks and submitted the following to Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks in 120 days on the following:

    A. A report on the merits and feasibility of establishing a low barrier, supervised drug consumption site in the City of Winnipeg including:

        i. A review of applicable federal and provincial legislation governing the establishment and operation of supervised drug consumption sites and managed alcohol programs.

        ii. Consultation with subject matter experts including but not limited to officials in the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Manitoba Department of Families, Manitoba Department of Health and relevant community-based organizations.

        iii. All applicable funding programs at the federal and provincial levels available to support the establishment of harm reduction initiatives and operation of low barrier supervised drug consumption sites and managed alcohol programs.

        iv. A cross-jurisdictional scan of supervised drug consumption sites and managed alcohol programs in other Canadian cities with a focus on governance and operating structures.

        v. Consideration of culturally appropriate, Indigenous led governance and operating models that could be considered for a supervised drug consumption site in Winnipeg.

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 Gilroy,

That Rule 10(3) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended in order that the following item, which was received less than four business days preceding the committee meeting, be considered by Committee.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Yea:	Bowman, Allard, Gilroy, Mayes, Rollins	5
Nay:	Browaty, Gillingham,	2

Carried

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 10, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks recommended to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks in 120 days on the following:

    A. A report on the merits and feasibility of establishing a low barrier, supervised drug consumption site in the City of Winnipeg including:

        i. A review of applicable federal and provincial legislation governing the establishment and operation of supervised drug consumption sites and managed alcohol programs.

        ii. Consultation with subject matter experts including but not limited to officials in the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Manitoba Department of Families, Manitoba Department of Health and relevant community-based organizations.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

iii. All applicable funding programs at the federal and provincial levels available to support the establishment of harm reduction initiatives and operation of low barrier supervised drug consumption sites and managed alcohol programs.

iv. A cross-jurisdictional scan of supervised drug consumption sites and managed alcohol programs in other Canadian cities with a focus on governance and operating structures.

vi. Consideration of culturally appropriate, Indigenous led governance and operating models that could be considered for a supervised drug consumption site in Winnipeg.

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 January 28, 2021, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,
Seconded by Councillor Gilroy,

WHEREAS the COVID 19 pandemic has exposed gaps and inequities in the public health and healthcare systems that marginalize vulnerable groups such as those who use substances;

AND WHEREAS those who use substances report a loss of social connection and supports, greater increase in isolation, fear, and anxiety as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic, and more vulnerability to health impacts of COVID 19;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS there are precedents in other provinces and cities in peer outreach, harm reduction policies, programs and facilities, mobile care on city streets, and programmatic assistance for people who use alcohol and drugs that could be of use to Winnipeg if adopted here;

AND WHEREAS the Canada Centre on Substance Use and Addiction has warned Canada that the conditions around COVID 19 are leading people to increasing use of substances during the pandemic and the city of Winnipeg has seen an increase in substance use in transit shelters;

AND WHEREAS entry requirements at many Winnipeg shelters act as a barrier to those who use substances;

AND WHEREAS there are precedents in other Canadian cities of supervised injection sites having a net positive impact on health outcomes for substance-users;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Protection, Community Services and Parks in 120 days on the following:

1. A report on the merits and feasibility of establishing a low barrier, supervised drug consumption site in the City of Winnipeg including:

    A. A review of applicable federal and provincial legislation governing the establishment and operation of supervised drug consumption sites and managed alcohol programs.

    B. Consultation with subject matter experts including but not limited to officials in the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Manitoba Department of Families, Manitoba Department of Health and relevant community-based organizations.

    C. All applicable funding programs at the federal and provincial levels available to support the establishment of harm reduction initiatives and operation of low barrier supervised drug consumption sites and managed alcohol programs.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

D. A cross-jurisdictional scan of supervised drug consumption sites and managed alcohol programs in other Canadian cities with a focus on governance and operating structures.

E. Consideration of culturally appropriate, Indigenous led governance and operating models that could be considered for a supervised drug consumption site in Winnipeg.