Minutes - Executive Policy Committee - April 14, 2004

Minute No. 301
Report - Standing Policy Committee on Public Works - April 6, 2004

Item No. 3 **Enhanced Traffic Management and/or Enforcement to Control Vehicle Cruising, Congregating and Street Racing, in Kildonan Park and Various Other Locations in the City of Winnipeg**
File ST-4

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works and submits the following to Council:

1. That the administrative report dated March 23, 2004, be received as information.

2. That no additional parking restrictions be implemented within Kildonan Park for 2004.

Minutes - Executive Policy Committee - April 14, 2004

Report - Standing Policy Committee on Public Works - April 6, 2004

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Steeves,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 6, 2004, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works concurred in the recommendation and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

COUNCIL:

On March 24, 2004, Council granted a thirty (30) day extension of time for the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works to report back on enhanced traffic management and/or enforcement in problem areas, and further, that the Administration be requested to report back on the possibility of installing “No Parking” signs along portions of the roadway in Kildonan Park.

Council further granted a one hundred and twenty (120) day extension of time to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works to report back on the possibilities for the development of a motor sport park in Winnipeg including costs, capital and operating funding, projected revenues, location, size and other considerations; and to identify any other potential solutions.

COUNCIL:

On October 22, 2003, Council granted a sixty (60) day extension of time for the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works to report back on the matter.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 7, 2003, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works requested that a sixty (60) day extension of time be granted in order for the Administration to report back on the matter.

On July 8, 2003, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works referred the matter to the Administration to convene a high level committee comprising of, but not limited to the following departments: Planning, Property and Development, Winnipeg Police Service, Community Services and Public Works.

Minutes - Executive Policy Committee - April 14, 2004

Report - Standing Policy Committee on Public Works - April 6, 2004

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL:

On June 25, 2003, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works:

Moved by Councillor Smith,
Seconded by Councillor Lazarenko,

WHEREAS the Parks and Open Space Division of the Public Works Department has been working with the Winnipeg Police Service for solutions to the cruising/vehicle congregating/street racing problems on Portage Avenue, in Kildonan Park and various other locations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Administration be directed to:

1. consider enhanced traffic management and/or enforcement in problem areas;

2. investigate the possibilities for the development of a motor sport park in Winnipeg including costs, capital and operating funding, projected revenues, location, size and other considerations;

3. identify any other potential solutions;

and report back within 90 days to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works and that the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services and the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Re: Enhanced Traffic Management and/or Enforcement to Control Vehicle Cruising, Congregating and Street Racing, in Kildonan Park and Various Other Locations in the City of Winnipeg

For Submission To: Standing Policy Committee on Public Works

Original Report Signed By: A/Director of Public Works

Report Date: March 23, 2004

Recommendations:

1. That this report be received as information.
2. That no additional parking restrictions be implemented within Kildonan Park for 2004.

REPORT SUMMARY:

Key Issues:

- Winnipeg has a number of automotive enthusiasts interested in “cruising“ in their vehicles, particularly in Kildonan Park, and on Portage Avenue, in the spring and summer seasons. As a result, at certain times, traffic gridlock, noise and related problems occur, mainly on Sundays. As well, illegal street racing has increased in all parts of the city, also mainly on Sundays. The Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) has found that these problems cannot be solved by increased enforcement alone and have established a departmental street racing and cruising committee to develop comprehensive strategies in the areas of prevention, intervention and enforcement.

- The Parks and Open Space Division of the Public Works Department (in conjunction with WPS and Traffic Services) piloted a number of successful initiatives in 2003/04 in Kildonan Park to control vehicle cruising, and congregating.

- Administration does not recommend additional roadway parking restrictions in Kildonan Park for 2004.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION(S):

General Implications:

- [X] None
- [ ] For the organization overall and/or other departments
- [ ] For the community and/or organizations external to the City
- [ ] Involves a multi-year phase in process

Comments:

Policy Implications:

- [X] No
- [ ] Yes

Comments:

Environmental Implications:

- [X] No
- [ ] Yes

Comments:

Human Resource Implications:

- [X] No
- [ ] Yes

Comments:

Financial Implications:

- [X] Within approved current and/or capital budget
- [ ] Current and/or capital budget adjustment needed

Comments:

REASON FOR THE REPORT:

On March 9, 2004, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works asked for the Public Works Department to report back on enhanced traffic management and/or enforcement in problem areas, and further, that the Administration be requested to report back on the possibility of installing ‘No parking’ signs along portions of the roadway in Kildonan Park.

HISTORY:

On June 25, 2003, Council referred to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works the motion that:

WHEREAS the Parks and Open Space Division of the Public Works Department has been working with the Winnipeg Police Service for solutions to the cruising/vehicle congregating/street racing problems on Portage Avenue, in Kildonan Park and various other locations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Administration be directed to:

1. Consider enhanced traffic management and/or enforcement in problem areas;
2. Investigate the possibilities for the development of a motor sport park in Winnipeg including costs, capital and operating funding, projected revenues, location, size and other considerations;
3. Identify any other potential solution;

and report back within 90 days to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works and for subsequent consultation with the Standing Policy Committees on Protection and Community Services and Property and Development.

On March 9, 2004, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works passed a further recommendation to Council:

1. That a thirty (30) day extension of time be granted to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works to report back on enhanced traffic management and/or enforcement in problem areas, and further, that the Administration be requested to report back on the possibility of installing ‘No parking’ signs along portions of the roadway in Kildonan Park.

2. That a one hundred and twenty (120) day extension of time be granted to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works to report back on the possibilities for the development of a motor sport park in Winnipeg including costs, capital and operating funding, projected revenues, location, size and other considerations; and to identify any other potential solutions.

DISCUSSION:

Street racing is an illegal activity that is not exclusive to our city. It has developed its own culture and is occurring in most major cities across North America. Street racing has been responsible for deaths, injuries, property damage and nuisance/noise complaints.

Each year, Winnipeg experiences public safety issues surrounding illegal street racing that result in demands on the Winnipeg Police Service. As these can be serious threat-to-life concerns, the calls are given high priority. This has a negative impact on the WPS dispatch queue. The WPS reviewed street racing and associated activities and determined that there are actually three separate problems:

1. **Vehicle Cruising**
   Car enthusiasts and spectators cruise up and down Portage Avenue and impromptu tire spinning or races occur from light to light. Spectators line the street to watch and even videotape the activities, including the Police issuing tickets. Cruising also occurs in Kildonan Park causing traffic gridlock along the park roadway system and, at times back on to Main Street.

2. **Vehicle Congregating**
   Car enthusiasts congregate at various sites around the city to display their vehicles. Parking lots on Portage Avenue and roadway parking areas in Kildonan Park are the most common. The problems often associated with this are public disorder, noise and liquor violations.

3. **Street Racing/Burnouts**
   Street race enthusiasts and spectators attend various locations throughout the city for the purpose of engaging in illegal street racing. This generally occurs on Sunday nights, however, other nights are becoming more active. The locations may be publicized on WEB sites and some racers use cell phones to communicate race locations amongst each other. These racing sites sometimes attract hundreds of young adults and youth spectators.

Beginning In 2002, the WPS initiated a coordinated effort to address illegal street racing through the establishment of a street racing and cruising committee with representatives from WPS Divisions #11, #16, #26, #27, Media and the Duty Office to develop strategies and action plans as well as the creation of a special unit dedicated to the policing of this activity. This unit, which operates primarily on Sundays, utilizes six 2-officer cruisers that could otherwise respond to other emergency situations. The WPS spends $50,000 annually attempting to police illegal street racing, cruising and congregating activities.

The WPS street racing and cruising committee adopted a comprehensive strategy and took action that included prevention, intervention and enforcement tactics. The Winnipeg Police Service provided the following summary of their initiatives:

Prevention:

- **Engineering modifications to existing roadways -** The WPS consulted the Transportation Division of the Public Works Department, which noted that quarter mile stretches of straight roadway offer the potential for street racing but determined that any engineering modifications to existing roadways would be cost prohibitive and ineffective, as street racers would only find alternate locations.
- **Congregation in Private Parking Lots -** Polo Park Shopping Centre, as well as the businesses on the west side of St. James Street, have cooperated with the WPS and have closed their parking lots on Sunday evenings to prevent street racers from congregating on site.
- **Awareness Education -** The WPS engaged in an awareness effort with local car clubs by attending two Technical High Schools and providing joint presentations. These messages were further presented to the media and were aired on A-Channel TV. Efforts were also made to update the media on the result of the Sunday enforcement initiative.
- **The installation of photo radar at strategic locations** - The installation of photo radar at strategic locations around the city to deter street racing will be considered by the WPS in conjunction with the placement of future units.

Intervention:

- **Citizen Patrol –** A "citizen patrol" made up of members of established car clubs has been developed. Further efforts are to be taken to improve its operational viability.

Enforcement:

- **The Sunday night enforcement initiative** - resulted in over 800 tickets being issued city-wide. Joint efforts between the WPS and the Park Police have also proven to be successful with future "special projects" being planned.

The Parks and Open Space Division worked in partnership with the WPS, the Transportation Division of Public Works Department, and a residents' advisory committee regarding the reduction and control of vehicle cruising and congregating in Kildonan Park. The following initiatives were implemented during 2003:

- **Installation of speed bumps –** Speed bumps were strategically installed in the Park in 2002. Numerous complaints from "traditional" park users were received regarding the use of speed bumps. As a result the initiative was discontinued in 2002 and are not recommended for 2004

- **No parking signs along portions of the roadway** were piloted for two weeks in June of 2000. At that time the public, including seniors, families, young adults and people with disabilities, complained and petitioned to remove the restrictions citing safety and inconvenience over not being able to park and easily access children's programs, the outdoor pool, sports fields, picnic areas, and flower gardens. The public pointed out that the restrictions caused more driving in the park. After considering all these concerns and the failure to achieve the desired reduction in traffic congestion in the park, the additional restrictions were lifted. Given this experience the Administration does not recommend any additional parking restrictions for 2004.
- **Elimination of the left turn to prohibit continuous looping from Peguis Drive on McKay Drive** - has proven to be successful in reducing traffic problems and will be continued in 2004.
- **Closure of the Scotia Street entrance -** has proven to be successful in reducing traffic problems and will be continued in 2004.
- **Extension of the duration of the green light onto Main Street -** has proven to be successful in reducing traffic problems and will be continued in 2004.
- **Restriction of the maximum number of vehicles -** in the park is currently under evaluation as a new initiative for 2004.
- **Enhanced traffic control and other enforcement activities** – were highly successful and will also be continued (in partnership with WPS) in 2004.

Conclusion

The appropriate departments involved are committed to on-going monitoring and evaluation of current initiatives and implementation of new initiatives as deemed appropriate.

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** **March 18, 2004**

Project Name:

Enhanced Traffic Management and/or Enforcement to Control Vehicle Cruising, Congregating and Street Racing, in Kildonan Park and Various Other Locations in the City of Winnipeg

COMMENTS:

As this report is being submitted for information purposes only there is no financial impact associated with the recommendations at this time.

"Original signed by Darcy Stewart, CA"
Manager of Finance & Administration

Approved by Divisional Financial Analyst: ☑

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In preparing this report, there was consultation with:

Winnipeg Police Service, Legal Services Division, Corporate Services Department: and Transportation Division Public Works Department:

This Report Submitted by:

Department: Public Works
Division: Parks and Open Space
Prepared by: J.P. Tchir, P.Eng., Parks Services Officer 986-4354
Processed by:
File No.: