STANDING POLICY COMMITTEE ON PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 356
Councillor Steek noted that Council had been waiting since June 2003 to hear from the Planning, Property and Development Department as to whether or not there would be a definitive policy on land sales. He advised that both the cities of Calgary and Edmonton list all properties for sale on their websites and questioned if the Chairperson felt the idea had any merit.

Councillor Vandal advised that the motion presented by Councillor Steek last June which suggested that administration get back to every request to purchase property within a specified time frame, was received as information. He noted that this was an administrative function and best left as such. He further noted that he did feel that listing properties for sale on a website did have merit.

Councillor Steek questioned if the Chairperson believed that there should be a policy that offers to purchase property should be reported back to the Committee, and whether a policy as to responding to offers in a timely fashion should be developed.

Councillor Vandal replied that there was no need for a policy directing the administration to respond to offers to buy property, inasmuch as it was an administrative function and occurs already. He stated that if a property was surplus and for sale, the administration would bring the offer forward to the Committee. But if a property was not for sale and an offer was made, then the Department should evaluate the matter and decide what to do.

Councillor Steek questioned if an offer was received by the City for a piece of property, should not the Committee be notified so they could explain to the person making the offer why the offer was not being accepted.

Councillor Vandal replied that this policy was in place now, and asked if the Councillor knew of specific properties not being responded to, that he bring them forward to the Committee.