Minute No. 418
Report – Executive Policy Committee – May 18, 2021

Item No. 2 Financial Support for the Main Street Project Van Patrol Outreach Program

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be granted an extension of time of 30 days to review the request from Main Street Project for financial support for its van patrol outreach program beyond March 31, 2021, and report back on potential city funding support for this initiative, as well as the St. Boniface Street Links mobile community support unit, including specific sources of city funds and a requirement that any city funding be matched by the Province of Manitoba.

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 His Worship Mayor Bowman,
That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted.

In amendment,
Moved by Councillor Klein,
Seconded by Councillor Nason,

WHEREAS the services offered to the City of Winnipeg by the Main Street Project through the use of an outreach vehicle include the following:

A. Visiting those in crisis or who are on the streets and need support
B. Providing harm reduction supplies
C. Transport back to shelter
D. Volunteer transport for the Winnipeg Police Service and Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service
E. Encampment response, monitoring, and support
F. Protective care
G. Connection to other Main Street Project services (including Covid-19 isolation services);

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg relies on the Main Street Project to perform these services at no cost the City;

AND WHEREAS the Main Street Project has stated that a lack of such funding will result in a reduction of service from its outreach van program. Such a reduction of service will result in increased costs to the City through the usage of resources from the Winnipeg Police Service and the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service;

AND WHEREAS the Main Street Project has stated this program costs $800,000 per year to operate, equivalent to $91.32 per hour;

AND WHEREAS community donors and the Province of Manitoba are relied on for contributing the remaining $400,000 to the Main Street Project for running the outreach van;

AND WHEREAS the Main Street Project has requested $400,000, equivalent to $45.66 per hour, in funding from the City of Winnipeg for running an outreach van with two caseworkers or outreach workers in downtown Winnipeg on a 24 hour basis;

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

AND WHEREAS the services performed by the Main Street Project would otherwise have to be performed by the Winnipeg Police Service or Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service at a much greater cost to the City;

AND WHEREAS the cost to the City of Winnipeg for two constables and a cruiser car is at least $285.60 per hour, over six times the rate available from the Main Street Project;

AND WHEREAS the work performed by the Main Street Project is highly specialized and has demonstrated strong success within the local community;

AND WHEREAS through allowing the Main Street Project to dedicate its expertise and resources to serving the downtown with its outreach vehicle, frees up staff and equipment resources within the Winnipeg Police Service and Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service which can be redirected to other areas of importance;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg Charter states that the Purposes of the City 5(1)(d) includes "to promote and maintain the health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants" and the efforts of the Main Street Project directly compliment this purpose;

AND WHEREAS the Main Street Project is a trusted Winnipeg based non-profit community led organization, operating in Winnipeg since 1972, 50 years.

AND WHEREAS on November 26, 2020 Council adopted the Recreation and Library Facility Investment Strategy which included allocating "$7 million to the Land Dedication Reserve Fund, distributed equally amongst each of the 15 electoral wards over three years;"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. That a grant in the amount of $400,050 be approved to the Main Street Project to assist with the cost of the operation of the outreach vehicle program in 2021.

2. That the grant be funded through the reallocation of $26,670 from each of the 15 electoral ward's portion of the $7.0 million in Land Dedication Reserve Funding approved by Council on November 26, 2020 as part of the Recreation and Library Facility Investment Strategy.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

3. That the authority be delegated to the Chief Financial Officer to negotiate and approve the terms and conditions of the grant agreement in accordance with this motion, and such other terms and conditions deemed necessary by the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor to protect the interests of the City.

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

The motion for the adoption of the amendment was put.

Councillor Nason called for the yeas and nays which were as follows:

Yea: Councillors Klein, Nason and Schreyer 3

Nay: His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Gilroy, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins, Santos and Sharma. 13

and the motion for the adoption of the amendment was declared lost.

The motion for the adoption of the item was put.

In accordance with Rule 47(7) of the Procedure By-law 50/2007 a recorded vote was held on the motion for the adoption of the item, as more than three Councillors asked to be recorded as having voted in opposition to the motion.

Yea: His Worship Mayor Bowman, Councillors Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Eadie, Gillingham, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Santos, Schreyer and Sharma. 12

Nay: Councillors Gilroy, Klein, Nason and Rollins, 4

and the motion for the adoption of the item was declared carried.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 18, 2021, the Executive Policy Committee submitted to Council that an extension of time of 30 days be granted for the Winnipeg Public Service to report back on the matter

COUNCIL DECISION:

On March 25, 2021, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee, as amended, and adopted the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service review the request from Main Street Project for financial support for its van patrol outreach program beyond March 31, 2021, and report back in 60 days on potential city funding support for this initiative, as well as the St. Boniface Street Links mobile community support unit, including specific sources of city funds and a requirement that any city funding be matched by the Province of Manitoba."

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

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 17, 2021, the Executive Policy Committee passed the following motion:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service review the request from Main Street Project for financial support for its van patrol outreach program beyond March 31, 2021, and report back in 60 days on potential city funding support for this initiative, including specific sources of city funds and a requirement that any city funding be matched by the Province of Manitoba.

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

and submitted the matter to Council.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION:

On February 25, 2021, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,
Seconded by Councillor Gilroy,

WHEREAS Main Street Project (MSP) currently operates the only van patrol outreach program for unsheltered residents that operates 24 hours per day, 7 days a week, 365 days per year;

AND WHEREAS MSP's van patrol program is supporting unsheltered residents, and a principal partner in the City of Winnipeg's Voluntary Transport Protocol, Emergency Cold Weather Response System and non-emergency related transportation for those in need;

AND WHEREAS during the cold snap outreach teams receive hundreds of calls every night from concerned Winnipeggers; including calls from the City of Winnipeg's 311 unit; to which they respond by seeking out those in the community who appear to be at risk providing help such as a ride to their emergency shelter, or to provide warm clothing, water, coffee, food and harm reduction supplies;

AND WHEREAS MSP has written to all members of Council seeking funding support for ongoing operating costs for its van patrol outreach program;

AND WHEREAS MSP advises that it currently only has confirmed funding from Canada for the overnight portion of its van patrol beyond March 2021, leaving no funding for the van patrol outreach program during the evening or daytime;

AND WHEREAS all three levels of government have a role to play to ensure the safety and well being of unsheltered residents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Service review the request from Main Street Project for financial support for its van patrol outreach program beyond March 31st, 2021 and report back in 60 days on potential city funding support for this initiative, including specific sources of city funds and a requirement that any city funding be matched by the Province of Manitoba.