Minute No. 669
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment – September 13, 2021

Item No. 7 Air Quality Monitoring

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment and adopted the following:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to Council within 90 days on an Air Quality Program & Protective Information for Winnipeggers that:

    A. The public service reaches out to the Air Quality office of Sustainable Development of the Manitoba Government improve coordination between governments and request specific plain-language changes to the monitoring information provided by the province of Manitoba and consider review of Winnipeg monitoring stations, determining whether more Winnipeg monitoring is needed.

    B. Notifies via our website and other communications Air Quality information that educates the public on changing conditions, climate change threats, create awareness and support preventative information on pollution efforts and effects. Including identifiable place where residents have information on AQHI such as is found on the town of Kelowna’s website.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 21, 2021, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 13, 2021, the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment considered the Council Motion of July 22, 2021, and recommended to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back to Council within 90 days on an Air Quality Program & Protective Information for Winnipeggers that:

    A. The public service reaches out to the Air Quality office of Sustainable Development of the Manitoba Government improve coordination between governments and request specific plain-language changes to the monitoring information provided by the province of Manitoba and consider review of Winnipeg monitoring stations, determining whether more Winnipeg monitoring is needed.

    B. Notifies via our website and other communications Air Quality information that educates the public on changing conditions, climate change threats, create awareness and support preventative information on pollution efforts and effects. Including identifiable place where residents have information on AQHI such as is found on the town of Kelowna’s website.

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

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION:

On July 22, 2021, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Water and Waste, Riverbank Management and the Environment:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,
Seconded by Councillor Gilroy,

WHEREAS for the first time Winnipeg had to respond to climate crises given variable weather and climate conditions that gave rise to forest fires and notable poor air quality in the city of Winnipeg resulting in protective measures to preserve resident's health like the proactive closures of outdoor activities;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg should have simple and accessible protective Air Quality Information as other cities and towns do on Air Quality health messaging so all residents can take precautions, mitigate risks and consider actions to enjoy outdoor activities, or reduce, reschedule activities in line with common risk categories of Air Quality Health index;

AND WHEREAS Air Quality information is important to residents to be ready and prepared in particular those with pre-existing health conditions, respiratory infections such as COVID19, older adults, pregnant women and those most likely to experience health effects from air particulate exposure need reliable, and clear Air Quality Information

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg took appropriate actions in July to protect residents, yet posted little to no information on Air Quality in line with the Air Quality Health index.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be instructed to report back to Council within 90 days on an Air Quality Program & Protective Information for Winnipeggers that:

1. The public service reaches out to the Air Quality office of Sustainable Development of the Manitoba Government improve coordination between governments and request specific plain-language changes to the monitoring information provided by the province of Manitoba and consider review of Winnipeg monitoring stations, determining whether more Winnipeg monitoring is needed.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

2. Notifies via our website and other communications Air Quality information that educates the public on changing conditions, climate change threats, create awareness and support preventative information on pollution efforts and effects. Including identifiable place where residents have information on AQHI such as is found on the town of Kelowna's website.

3. That the Proper Officers of the city be authorized to do all things necessary to fulfill the intent of the foregoing.