Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – October 20, 2021

REPORTS

Item No. 5 Welcoming Winnipeg – Creating a New Historical Marker: Lawson Ogg (St. Vital Ward)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That a new historical marker (in the form of two interpretive panels) be permanently installed in Kingston Park (320 Kingston Crescent), subject to the following:

    A. That one panel will acknowledge the contributions of Lawson Ogg (as per Appendix D) and the other will provide a traditional land acknowledgement, still to be drafted.

    B. That the text drafted for the traditional land acknowledgement panel be reviewed and supported by the Committee of Community Members, in consultation with the Ward Councillor, prior to installation.

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Yea:	Bowman, Allard, Browaty, Gillingham, Gilroy, Mayes, Rollins	7
Nay:		0

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Welcoming Winnipeg – Creating a New Historical Marker: Lawson Ogg

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
C. Sveinson	M. Jack	C. Kloepfer	M. Jack

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 30, 2020, Council passed a motion to adopt the Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy. This policy was developed to guide the City in making decisions regarding requests to create new, add to, or remove/rename historical markers and place names and resolve the absence of Indigenous histories and contributions in the stories remembered and commemorated. Welcoming Winnipeg will proactively utilize a lens of balance, inclusion, and Indigenous perspectives.

On February 12, 2021, a formal Welcoming Winnipeg request form was unveiled to the public; a request to create a new historical marker acknowledging the contributions of Lawson Ogg and the 1950 Red River Flood and to have it placed in Kingston Park (320 Kingston Crescent). This historical marker would be in the form of two interpretive panels and be permanently installed. The applicant has applied and secured grant funding through the Heritage Research and Interpretive Grants under the Gail Parvin Hammerquist Fund City-Wide Heritage Program for the creation and installation of this permanent historical marker. The total funds secured from the Gail Parvin Hammerquist Fund is $7,046.66.

After careful consideration, the Committee of Community Members (CCM) is recommending that Council support this request, as amended in discussion with the applicant and outlined in the recommendations. This policy aligns at a municipal level with Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Call to Action #43 – United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), particularly Article 15.1, which states: Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information. The recommendations made by the CCM with respect to this request will contribute to ensuring residents and visitors have a greater understanding of Indigenous peoples' historical connections to this area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a new historical marker (in the form of two interpretive panels) be permanently installed in Kingston Park (320 Kingston Crescent), subject to the following:

A. That one panel will acknowledge the contributions of Lawson Ogg (as per Appendix D) and the other will provide a traditional land acknowledgement, still to be drafted.

B. That the text drafted for the traditional land acknowledgement panel be reviewed and supported by the Committee of Community Members, in consultation with the Ward Councillor, prior to installation.

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

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On January 30, 2020, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee that the recommendations of the community member-based committee be forwarded to the Executive Policy Committee and then to Council for final decision.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

If the recommendations of this report are concurred in, two interpretive panels will be permanently installed in Kingston Park (320 Kingston Crescent); one will acknowledge the contributions of Lawson Ogg (as per Appendix D) and the other will provide a traditional land acknowledgement, still to be drafted.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

Decision-making history

On January 30, 2020, Council passed a motion to adopt the Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy. This policy was developed to guide the City in making decisions regarding requests to create new, add to, or remove/rename historical markers and place names and resolve the absence of Indigenous histories and contributions in the stories remembered and commemorated. Welcoming Winnipeg will proactively utilize a lens of balance, inclusion, and Indigenous perspectives.

As recommended in this policy, the inaugural Committee of Community Members (CCM) was established in August 2020; a key function of this committee is review requests to change historical or place names and provide a recommendation to the Executive Policy Committee (EPC) and Council for final decision.

On November 20, 2020, the Riel Community Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and approved that the North-South portion of Kingston Crescent between the Kingston Parks and East of Riverdale Avenue, be designated with the honourary street name “Lawson Ogg Way” for a period not exceeding five years commencing on the date of the installation of the street sign and/or sign topper.

On February 12, 2021, a formal Welcoming Winnipeg request form was unveiled to the public; a request to create a new historical marker acknowledging the contributions of Lawson Ogg and the 1950 Red River Flood and to have it placed in Kingston Park (320 Kingston Crescent). This

historical marker would be in the form of two interpretive panels and be permanently installed. The applicant has applied and secured grant funding through the Heritage Research and Interpretive Grants under the Gail Parvin Hammerquist Fund City-Wide Heritage Program for the creation and installation of this permanent historical marker. The total funds secured from the Gail Parvin Hammerquist Fund is $7,046.66.

Considerations for this request to install a new historical marker

The CCM reviewed the decision-making history and the information provided by the applicant (summarized in Appendix A) and then as a delegate at the committee's June 4, 2021 meeting. Feedback from the CCM to the applicant included:

- Reference to Lawson Ogg serving as a lieutenant with the Royal Winnipeg Rifles; the committee suggested that there is an opportunity to provide historical context of the Royal Winnipeg Rifles.
    - The Royal Winnipeg Rifles fought against the Métis (and First Nations allies) during the 1885 North-West Resistance (or North-West Rebellion), the result of which was the permanent enforcement of Canadian law in the West and the conviction and hanging of Louis Riel.
- Reference to the design and completion of the Red River Floodway greatly reduced the risk of future flooding for *Winnipeg residents,* however that has been to the detriment of many communities outside of the urban centre.
- Is there an opportunity to include acknowledgment of Métis and First Nations historical connection to the land on which Kingston Park now sits, in terms of the Métis river lots and Indigenous peoples' deep connection to the Red River?

This feedback was received and it was agreed the applicant would attended the July 9, 2021 meeting to discuss revisions made to the permanent two panel installation in response to the CCM's feedback. Following the July meeting, the applicant proposed the installation of the revised panel commemorating Lawson Ogg (Appendix D), which removes reference to the Royal Winnipeg Rifles without its historical context. They also proposed that the second panel text could be drafted over the winter, with a focus on a traditional land acknowledgment that recognizes the historical ties of First Nations and Métis to the area and the Red River, as Kingston Park is situated in an oxbow of the Red River.

The public input that was collected over a two-week period was provided to the CCM to consider as part of their recommendation-making process. An overview of the feedback collected has been included in a Public Engagement Summary Report (Appendix B).

The CCM considered how this request meets the following definition of a "Welcoming Winnipeg" request, which was created through two phases of public engagement in 2019 and was refined by the CCM. A Welcoming Winnipeg request is one that:

- Ultimately achieves a balanced perspective/story;
- Honours Indigenous peoples as the original peoples of this land and the contemporary context in which Indigenous peoples continue to have relationship with this land;
- Promotes Indigenous reclamation of land, space and/or language;
- Offers an educational opportunity; or,
- Supports telling the complete history of Winnipeg.

Utilizing the Welcoming Winnipeg Request Assessment Tool (Appendix C), the CCM identified the following as key considerations:

1. Welcoming Winnipeg
    - The initial proposal offered an educational opportunity about Lawson Ogg and the 1950 Red River Flood, which included a banner with a land acknowledgement at the top of the two permanent interpretive panels (outlined as Phase 1 in Appendix A). The applicants hope to continue to explore the history of the neighbourhood in Phase 2. If and when Phase 2 is developed, the applicants will be required to submit a new Welcoming Winnipeg request form.
    - After much discussion between the applicant and the CCM, the permanent interpretive panels will not only provide an educational opportunity on these things, but are intended to meet other Welcoming Winnipeg objectives, including: honouring Indigenous peoples as the original peoples of this land and the contemporary context in which Indigenous peoples continue to have relationship with this land; telling the complete history of Winnipeg; and, achieving a balanced perspective/story. This will be the focus of the second panel, which is still to be drafted

2. Research and Rationale
    - The permanent interpretive panels will provide context to the “Lawson Ogg Way” honourary street name as well as an educational opportunity on the “heroic efforts of so many volunteers and to Lawson Ogg who gave his life in the service of this community” (Appendix A).
    - As the Kingston Park is situated in an oxbow of the Red River, it has deep ties to First Nations and the Métis Nation; the applicant proposed “telling our stories through the lens of reconciliation within a decolonizing framework. Rather than focusing solely on the settler story, we are proposing a project whose research is grounded in respectful dialogue and trust building relationships with Indigenous and Métis community members” (Appendix A).
        - The initial proposal planned for a second phase of the project, exploring the history of the neighbourhood; it was there that they proposed exploring Indigenous connections to the neighborhood. If and when Phase 2 is developed, the applicants will be required to submit a new Welcoming Winnipeg request form.
        - The CCM is recommending in this report an approach that embeds Indigenous perspectives in both phases of the project to reinforce that Indigenous history is not something that has happened outside of, or apart from, the settler narrative of the history of this place.

3. Community Support
    - A petition with 67 signatures was submitted with the request form.
    - Only six responses were received through the public feedback process, so it is difficult to determine whether or not there is widespread support for this project.

4. Other considerations
    - Lawson Ogg has recently been honoured with the honourary street name “Lawson Ogg Way”.

After careful consideration, the CCM is recommending that Council support this request, as amended in discussion with the applicant and outlined in the recommendations. This policy

aligns at a municipal level with Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Call to Action #43 – United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), particularly Article 15.1, which states: Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information. The recommendations made by the CCM with respect to this request will contribute to ensuring residents and visitors have a greater understanding of Indigenous peoples' historical connections to this area.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: September 16, 2021

Project Name:

Welcoming Winnipeg – Creating a New Historical Marker: Lawson Ogg

First Year of Program **2021**

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 7,047	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 7,047	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	7,047	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments:

Direct costs of $7,046.66 will be used to enhance Kingston Park as outlined in the report. Existing budget amount represents the funding approved under the Gail Parvin Hammerquist Fund City-Wide Heritage Program.

Electronically approved by J. Peters

Jocelyn Peters, CPA, CGA
Manager of Finance (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Parks and Open Space (Public Works Department)

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Complete Communities Direction Strategy

Supporting Direction 1 - Conserve, protect, and celebrate the significant heritage resources that illustrate the broad range of Winnipeg's heritage values.

Supporting Direction 2 - Provide leadership in heritage conservation that links to broader civic goals of economic development, sustainability, and neighbourhood planning.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

N/A

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Chief Administrative Office
Division: Indigenous Relations
Prepared by: D. Carriere
Date: September 27, 2021
File No: N/A

Attachments:

Appendix A: 2021-003 Request Summary

Appendix B: 2021-003 Public Engagement Summary Report

Appendix C: Welcoming Winnipeg – Request Assessment Tool

Appendix D: Revised Lawson Ogg Panel