Economic Response and Recovery Plan

WHEREAS secondary plans enable strategic and timely economic development

AND WHEREAS updating existing and establishing new secondary plans are cited as priorities in Complete Communities 2.0

AND WHEREAS the cost to develop secondary plans may meet criteria for cost recovery under the Capacity-Building stream of the Canada Community-Building Fund

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the strategic development of secondary plans that focus on economic development such as, but not limited to, Strategic Infrastructure Plan, South Point Douglas secondary plan, Airport Area Vicinity Plan, Downtown Secondary Plan, a city wide zoning review and brownfield redevelopment plan be prioritized as projects to be funded by the Canada Community Building Fund

**Comments on the City of Winnipeg Economic Development Plan**

The plan is quite empty on specific actions at this point. There are no clear goals and objectives, I see a plan that spends the money of future generations that allows some to feel good that something was done.

**It is time we support our communities through Conscious Consumerism and wise investment.**

Think of it as Impact Investing. When leaders understand that it is the resident (customer) wo holds the power, we will become more conscious of the impact of every decision and investment.

That is what makes this document so important to us and our consumers (residents).

It must address the priorities of businesses, investors, and residents. It must be clear. What are the milestones? What are the goals and objectives? Is it meant to create efficiencies? Will the investments improve the service we provide to consumers? How will we know the plan was successful? Will we have continuous updates?

We must be conscious of the fact this is not our money to spend on politics. Residents want to know that a $90 million dollar recovery strategy is going to be worth the investment and how long will it take to achieve success?

None of the items above are included in this plan before us. I would love to be more involved in the development, talk about our long-term objective, how can we address the key priorities of residents now to boost confidence from investors and residents alike. But I have come to understand that is not how City Hall works, sadly. It is time we support our communities through Conscious Consumerism and wise investment. I can offer many, but we are limited. So, I will provide thoughts on just three areas of low-hanging fruit.

**TRANSIT**

This department is suffering the worst impacts of COVID and losing millions.

The city decided to increase the cost of the U-Pass 2 years ago which represents approximately $20 million a year in revenue. Then COVID hit.

Even though students are back on campus and paying their tuition for winter semester 2022 right now, the U-Pass still isn't available to students.

$20 million for 2022 budget walking out the door. The affordable bus pass has not been widely accepted with less than 1000 users. It’s time for change and the Transit Master Plan is not the answer. We need safety measures implemented; we need to re-evaluate routes that has low ridership during non-peak hours.

We proudly highlight infrastructure work being done, but is it the work resident feel is a priority? Are we making the best use of our dollars or buying votes and headlines?

**DOWNTOWN**

If the goal is more people living downtown or staying after work, then the need to make the area more community oriented and safe, should be at the top of the list.

Start converting office tower space to student residences and condos. Offer a program to promote the redevelopment of Historical building – TIF – The old Bay building.

I would suggest council direct the planning department to focus it's resources on redeveloping the downtown, instead of on expanding the suburbs and airport area west.

Adding more resources to PPD can also drive city economic activity. More private investment can occur in regions where the city publishes new area plans. Planning allows for more certainty which encourages more private sector investment.

If the city wants to boost the economy, then boost funding to PPD. Want growth? Increase PPD.

Action 1 - increase funding to PPD
Action 2 - initiate area plans for downtown, point Douglas, HSC areas
Action 3 - start converting office tower space to student residences and condos.

**TIF MOTION**
The Economic Recovery Plan much require all TIF to contain specific and measurable objectives, which can be reported on and evaluated at yearly intervals to determine the effectiveness of the tax payer funded TIF discounts to meet wider city objectives such as increased safety, reduced crime, improved community health and quality of life, poverty reduction and economic sustainability. The objectives should be clearly defined and quantifiable metrics which are clearly laid out as goals on a timeline.
Require all TIF agreements to contain legally binding renegotiation periods, including cancelation clauses, where the city and council can renegotiate, reframe, or exit the TIF based on meeting the performance objectives. Require such renegotiation periods to be scheduled in the TIF agreements at least every 5 years.

## PRIORITY INFRASTUCTURE

Today we seem to be investing in projects on an ad hock basis. We need to develop a strategic infrastructure plan. To launch our economy, infrastructure work will be a boost to our economy. We need to identify the best projects for ROI, a return on our $90 million investment. We need projects that can be completed on a 24-hour basis, let's get more done!

## INDIGENOUS ECONOMIC ZONES.

Our Winnipeg 2045 includes an Indigenous economic focus under Our Winnipeg Goal: Economic Prosperity. Item 3.10 Indigenous Economic Development Prioritize support of Indigenous-led opportunities for land, heritage, culture, art, entrepreneurial and tourism-related economic development for the benefit of Indigenous Peoples. LG, SE

It is time to get things done, I want to see the public service begin meaningful consultations with Indigenous Leaders to implement the intention of 3.10 Indigenous Economic Development To develop opportunities to build on and grow the indigenous economy in Winnipeg.

Let's celebrate our community's indigenous culture, with specialized restaurants, private art galleries, clothing, and bookstores. A museum that focuses solely on our indigenous past.

We can create new opportunities, which are better than merely words.

In closing, the City of Winnipeg Economic Recovery plan must include quantifiable metrics such as, the city will see an increase in the;

· Number of festival permits issued
· Number of mobile vendor permits issued for area
· Number of residential permits (new and renovations)

· Number of admissions to theatre and performing arts venues
· Number of admissions to museum and gallery venues
· Number of hotel stays
· Number of conferences at centres and hotels
· Number of library admissions or loans
· Number of free events at the cube stage
· Student and staff population of local area university and college campuses
· Number of electric vehicle charging stations
· Number of publicly accessible washrooms
· Number of area street patrols
· Number of admissions to local recreation centre and pools
· Ranking on Take Pride Winnipeg Litter Index

Conscious consumerism needs to understand that reductions can and will play a significant role in boosting an economy.

As an example, we need to plan a specific reductions in;

· Violent crime statistics
· Number of bicycles stolen
· Number of vacant business spaces
· Number of vacant residential spaces

**Indigenous Economic Zones**

Where as Our Wpg2045 includes Indigenous economic focus under OurWinnipeg Goal: Economic Prosperity - 3.10 Indigenous Economic Development Prioritize support of Indigenous-led opportunities for land, heritage, culture, art, entrepreneurial and tourism-related economic development for the benefit of Indigenous Peoples. LG, SE

There for be it resolved that the public service be directed to begin consultations with Indigenous Leaders to implement the intention of Indigenous economic focus under OurWinnipeg Goal: Economic Prosperity - 3.10.

To develop opportunities to build on and grow the indigenous economy in Winnipeg.

**Tif Motion**

Require all TIF to contain specific and measurable objectives, which can be reported on and evaluated at yearly intervals to determine the effectiveness of the tax payer funded TIF

discounts to meet wider city objectives such as increased safety, reduced crime, improved community health and quality of life, poverty reduction and economic sustainability. The objectives should be clearly defined and quantifiable metrics which are clearly laid out as goals on a timeline.

Require all TIF agreements to contain legally binding renegotiation periods, including cancelation clauses, where the city and council can renegotiate, reframe, or exit the TIF based on meeting the performance objectives. Require such renegotiation periods to be scheduled in the TIF agreements at least every 5 years.

**In the Economic and Recovery Plan – please acknowledge my initial commitment with my name – as done for Councillors Gillingham and Klein : (Appendix B - Pg 87 http://clkapps.winnipeg.ca/DMIS/permalink.asp?id=A20211108(SM)AC-4 )**

**DEVELOPMENT:**

Enable new approaches for developer securities. Developers with liquidity can use resources to reinvest into other projects throughout Winnipeg instead of capital being locked into securities, and in turn, support a robust development industry that addresses demand in Winnipeg's new and existing communities as we focus on economic recovery;

**Therefore be it resolved, to facilitate increased development, implement the use of Developer/Surety Bonds.**

City planners work with developers and Councillors on a daily basis to facilitate development. Much work, conversation and discussion is required to enable hundreds of millions in development applications to come forward.

Currently, City planners have been working from home since the pandemic started but are not provided with company cell phones. To reach a planner, developers and Councillors must call the City office land line, leave a message, wait till the planner checks messages, and return the call. The return calls are from blocked number, so unless the developer or Councillor is available that instant to take the call, the call is missed and the process must start all over. This is an incredibly inefficient manner to facilitate hundreds of millions in development.

**Therefore, be it resolved that each Community Committee planner be provided a work cell phone.**

**Also therefore be it resolved, that the Public Service review internal communication tools that can leverage economic and social development.**

**PARKS**

Access to regional parks is not always as easy as accessing a local community or neighbourhood park. Considering older adults, females and First Nations have been negatively impacted more than other populations, transportation and access to regional parks will be a challenge.

**Therefore be it resolved that the focus is  not just on regional park infrastructure, but also includes community and neighbourhood parks.**

**Therefore also be it resolved that the Public Service work with the area Councillors in the identification of park and park projects.**

**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION**

**Therefore be it resolved that any active transportation infrastructure look at prioritizing improvements to enable safer access to regional, community and neighbourhood parks.**

FortWhyte Alive brings people together to share unforgettable experiences and build sustainable relationships with nature and each other. With 660-acre of reclaimed urban green space, there is an incredible opportunity to improve active transportation access.

Recent developments in the RM of MacDonald, with the confirmed addition of two sets of lights on McGillivary, are now allowing for the installation of a crosswalk entering the south end of Fort Whyte Alive, which will increase pedestrian access

**Therefore be it resolved that an active transportation access to the south end of Fort Whyte Alive be prioritized.**

**SPRAY PADS**

Whereas adding splash pads while at the same time either de-commissioning or converting wading pools into accessible playgrounds to promote outdoor safe recreation in underserved areas to align with the Wading Pool Rationalization and Spray Pad Reinvestment Strategy approved by Council on November 26, 2020.

Therefore be it resolved that any investment in spray pads identify also underserviced areas that do not necessarily align with the Wading Pool rationalization and Spray Pad Reinvestment Strategy.

**PUBLIC ART**

Whereas Public Art strengthens the revitalizing of places / enlivening destinations and supports objectives of the City's recovery strategy, while meeting the requirements of the gas tax fund usage.

Whereas Public Art can of course comprise sculptural artworks, but also can be as simple as artist-designed functional elements in regional parks, active transportation pathways or spray pads.

Therefore be it resolved that the focus on capital investment include a component of public art in priority projects.

Therefore also be it resolved that public art be a condition of TIFF agreements with developers can assure enhancement in the private and public realm over the long term.