Minute No. 22
Report – Executive Policy Committee – November 17, 2021

Item No. 7 City of Winnipeg Bid for the 2031 Pan American Games

COUNCIL DECISION:

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

1. That the Public Service, in conjunction with external stakeholders, work with Economic Development Winnipeg and Tourism Winnipeg to explore a potential Winnipeg bid to host the 2031 Pan American Games or a future Junior Pan American Games, and that discussions regarding a possible bid be initiated with the federal and provincial governments.

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 Mayes,
Seconded by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

BE IT RESOLVED that Item 7 of the Executive Policy Committee report dated November 17, 2021, be amended as follows:

- In Recommendation 1 add "or a future Junior Pan American Games" after "2031 Pan American Games".

The motion for the adoption of the amendment was put and declared carried.

The motion for the adoption of the item, as amended, was put and declared carried.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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

That the Public Service, in conjunction with external stakeholders, work with Economic Development Winnipeg and Tourism Winnipeg to explore a potential Winnipeg bid to host the 2031 Pan American Games and that discussions regarding a possible bid be initiated with the federal and provincial governments,

and submitted the matter to Council.

David Grant submitted a communication dated November 16, 2021, in opposition to the matter.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION:

On October 28, 2021, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,
Seconded by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the economy of the City of Winnipeg, in particular its service, hospitality and tourism sectors;

AND WHEREAS strategic government investment would help to stimulate local spending and financial growth;

AND WHEREAS the Pan American Games are one of the world's largest multi-sport events and bring together more than 6000 elite athletes from North America, South America, Central America and the Caribbean;

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg is one of only two Canadian cities to have successfully hosted the Pan American Games, in 1967 and again in 1999, including its estimated 100,000 associated visitors;

AND WHEREAS thirty-two years passed between the hosting of the 1967 and 1999 Pan American Games and in 2031 another thirty-two years will have passed since the City of Winnipeg hosted the event;

AND WHEREAS its widely-acknowledged success as Pan American Games host spurred the City on to host other large events, a development that continues to positively contribute to Winnipeg's service and tourism industries;

AND WHEREAS the Pan American Games of 1967 and 1999 left behind sporting and recreational infrastructure that provides lasting value to City residents, including amenities such as the Pan Am Pool, Pan American Track and Field Stadium and the Investors Group Athletic Centre;

AND WHEREAS large sporting bids require considerable time to organize prior to submission;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Service, in conjunction with external stakeholders, work with Economic Development Winnipeg and Tourism Winnipeg to explore a potential Winnipeg bid to host the 2031 Pan American Games and that discussions regarding a possible bid be initiated with the federal and provincial governments.