Manitoba Nurses for Health and the Environment (MNHE)
Infirmières Manitobaines pour la santé et l'environnement

Jan 18, 2022

Re: Response to Winnipeg Governance Report, 2021

The Manitoba Nurses for Health and the Environment (MNHE) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the City of Winnipeg's Governance Report, 2021. The MNHE is a specialty group under the auspices of the Association of Regulated Nurses of Manitoba (ARNM). The MNHE works to shine a light on the link between the environment and health, and to promote healthy sustainable environments through nursing leadership and advocacy.

The opportunity to review the Winnipeg Governance Report is appreciated, but the limited time line allowed to review the report does not allow for a full review of the document and discussion with other group members, or the community.

The City of Winnipeg Charter Act is the primary provincial legislation governing the City of Winnipeg. It establishes the general purpose of the city which includes developing and maintaining viable and sustainable communities, and promoting and maintaining the health, safety and welfare of inhabitants.

There are 15 recommendations in this report, and while the MNHE supports the majority of the recommendations, it is not clear that any of the recommendations stem from the above stated purposes of the City of Winnipeg or that they would lead to the creation of equity between communities which is essential for a just society.

Recommendation 1 focuses on the need for a formal orientation for councillors. The MNHE would like to see the orientation include information on what constitutes an equitable society and how council members can see it as part of their duty to make decisions that will improve the health and welfare of all residents in sustainable communities. An example for ensuring sustainable communities is including plans for accessible green spaces in every community to meet population needs and in every multi-family building.

Recommendation 3: The MNHE would like to add support to the recommendation that all council members should be treated as equal when it comes to access to information. Access to information is essential, if councillors are to do their jobs to the best of their abilities and meet the needs of Winnipeg residents.

Recommendation 7 is to discontinue the Community Committee's role in the Development Application Process. The MNHE does not support this recommendation. The participation of community committees in the review of these applications should not be stopped prior to establishing an improved process with decision criteria based on the stated purposes of a city, including exposing every development application to review under a health and sustainability lens by individuals with the appropriate knowledge base, and an environmental impact study when warranted.

The input from the city planners needs to be tempered by individuals with knowledge on sustainability and public health who do not have established relationships with the developer

community which are forged by working with the developers when creating the development application (sometimes there are numerous applications over a number of years).
It should also be noted that councillors may support developments outside of their ward in order to meet the City's goals for developments inside the perimeter, and to avoid the having more developments within their ward. This can lead to an over development of some mature communities with no increase in green space or other amenities to support these new developments. (See figure one)

Before this recommendation could be implemented, there would need to be a means to ensure community input.

Recommendation 11 is to enable delegations to present to the Committee or Council after the Administration report on an item. The MNHE agrees with this recommendation in principle, but does not support it, as individuals presenting often need to take time from their workplace or other scheduled events. It is important for delegates to be able to gage when they will called upon to present or they may be prevented from appearing. Meetings can go on until late in the day and there needs to be a means of providing delegates with a time-line as to when they will be called to speak or the City may lose valuable input from the community.

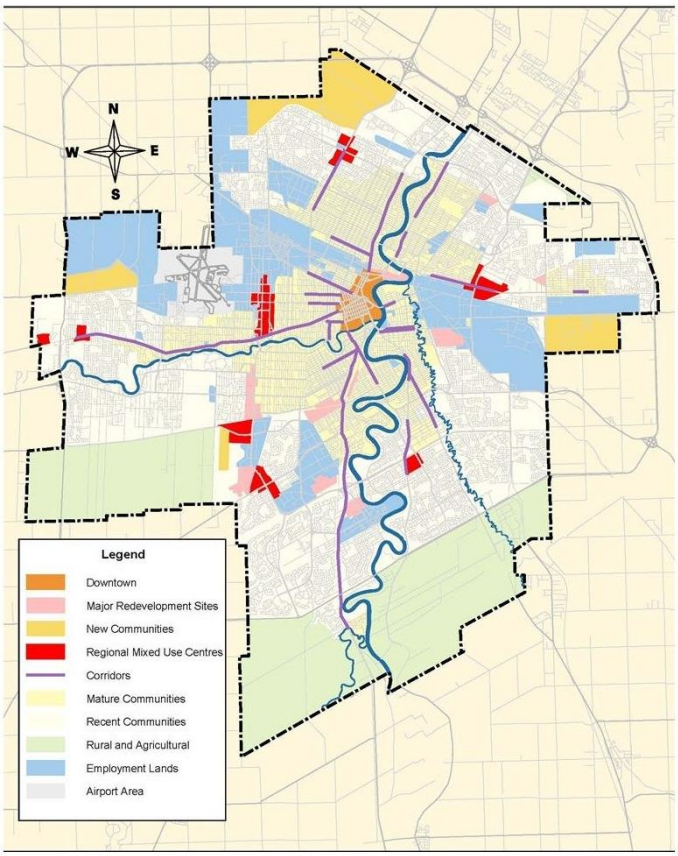
Recommendation 14 is to **e**stablish an overarching Council approved strategic plan, including a framework to annually monitor progress, review priorities and renew the plan at least with each term of Council. The MNHE strongly suggests that any strategic plan include a means of measuring climate change and environmental impacts as a priority.

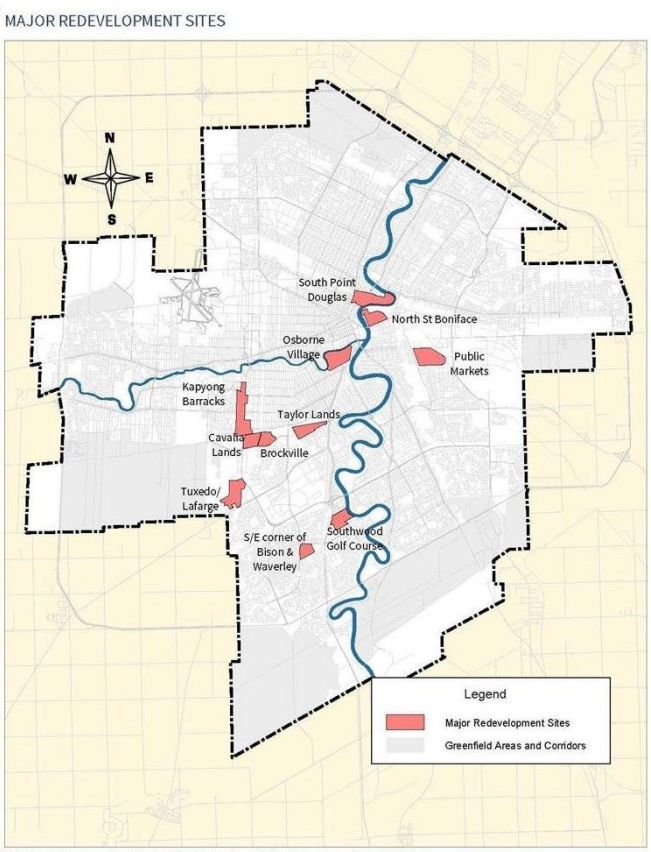
Recommendation 15 is to streamline the Development Application Process. The MNHE does not support this recommendation until a process is decided upon that includes input on the environmental and health impacts of a development on the local and wider community, including impacts on traffic, sustainable forms of transportation, tree canopy and impervious surfaces.

Thank you for your time, we look forward to working with the City of Winnipeg in the future to address critical issues affecting health and planning.

Yours sincerely,

Shirley Forsyth,
Manitoba Nurses for Health and the Environment
Infirmières Manitobaines pour la santé et l'environnement





2020 https://winnipeg.ca/Interhom/CityHall/OurWinnipeg/Documents/Urban-Structure.pdf

56 City of Winnipeg *OurWinnipeg* Residential Growth Study, Summary Report, 2021

Developments and the redefining of the Corydon Osborne communities

https://www.winnipeg.ca/Interhom/CityHall/OurWinnipeg/Documents/Residential-Growth-Study-Summary-Report.pdf

Figure one