Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – September 14, 2022

REPORTS

Item No. 9 Welcoming Winnipeg – Creating New Historical Marker: Elm Park Bridge (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 the Kingston Crescent neighbourhood subject to:

    A. The text for the new interpretive panels, once finalized, being reviewed and supported by the Committee of Community Members (CCM) and 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 Rollins,

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

Yea:	Bowman, Allard, Browaty, Chambers, Mayes, Rollins	6
Nay:		0

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Welcoming Winnipeg – Creating New Historical Marker: Elm Park Bridge

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 in the form of two interpretive panels that acknowledge the rich history of the Kingston Crescent neighbourhood was submitted. These panels would be installed permanently and speak to both traditional teachings about the gifts offered by the trees, the importance of the Red River, and the history of the area after settlers arrived. The applicant has applied for 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 $9,935.00.

The Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History policy aligns at a municipal level with Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Call to Action #43 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), particularly Article 15:

1. 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.
2. States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among Indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.

After careful consideration, the Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members (CCM) is recommending that Council support this request, subject to the text for the new interpretive panels, once finalized, being reviewed and supported by the CCM and the Ward Councillor, prior to installation. The marker will be installed in consultation with the Public Service.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

    A. The text for the new interpretive panels, once finalized, being reviewed and supported by the CCM and 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 (EPC) that the recommendations of the community member-based committee be forwarded to EPC 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 the Kingston Crescent neighbourhood. They will acknowledge both the traditional teachings about the gifts offered by the trees, the importance of the Red River, and the history of the area after settlers arrived.

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 to review requests to change historical or place names and provide a recommendation to the Executive Policy Committee (EPC) and Council for final decision.

On February 12, 2021, a formal Welcoming Winnipeg request form was unveiled to the public; a request to create a new historical marker in the form of two interpretive panels that acknowledge the rich history of the Kingston Crescent neighbourhood was submitted. These panels would be installed permanently and speak to both traditional teachings about the gifts offered by the trees, the importance of the Red River, and the history of the area after settlers arrived. The exact location of this marker is still to be determined by the Public Service. The option proposed by the applicant is the south entrance to the Elm Park Bridge (corner of Riverdale Street and Kingston Crescent); the Public Service is confirming the feasibility of this location.

Considerations for this request

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 May 17, 2022, meeting. Additionally, 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
    - This project offers an educational opportunity to residents and visitors. It includes: a brief history of the area and Indigenous teachings provided by a Knowledge Keeper; the creation of Elm Park in 1890; and, acknowledges the declining tree canopy in the area with a call to action to appreciate and preserve them.
    - As proposed by the applicants: by presenting Indigenous perspectives on interpretive panels about a settler-developed area, we have the opportunity to share knowledge and inspire dialogue that may lead to others embarking on a journey towards reconciliation and healing.

Research and Rationale

- The panels have been developed in concert with an Indigenous Knowledge Keeper from the start, and an Elder has also been brought into the process to provide advice and guidance.
- The intent of the project is to introduce residents and visitors to the rich history of elm trees in Elm Park, from Indigenous use, to the establishment of Elm Park, to today's role of shade trees making the area an idyllic and popular gathering place.
- The applicants have learned through shared traditional teachings, of the importance of the river that surrounds the neighbourhood and the dense forests that once grew along the riverbanks. It has been shared that the trees offer gifts of shelter, medicine, and oxygen. We understand, with humility, that the Trees have called us together to help them, to care for them, and to give back to them.
- Elm Park was established in 1890 as a private park where people went for Sunday picnics, healing walks and recreation. In 1912, the City started building the steel Elm Park Bridge. In the early 20th century, Elm Park was sold off as "forest lots" for housing, and the area is now known as Kingston Crescent. Many of the 100+ year-old elms and 200+ year old oaks have died, and the remaining giant shade trees are threatened due to effects of climate change, disease, and old age.

2. Community Support
    - With respect to the public input process, in response to the question: “Do you think the Committee of Community Members should support this request”, 83% of respondents to the online survey said ‘yes’. There were six responses received.
3. Other considerations
    - 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 $9,935.00.

The Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History policy aligns at a municipal level with Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Call to Action #43 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), particularly Article 15:

1. 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.
2. States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among Indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.

After careful consideration, the Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members (CCM) is recommending that Council support this request, subject to the text for the new interpretive panels, once finalized, being reviewed and supported by the CCM and the Ward Councillor, prior to installation. The marker will be installed in consultation with the Public Service.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: June 15, 2022

Project Name:

Welcoming Winnipeg – Creating New Historical Marker: Elm Park Bridge

First Year of Program **2022**

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
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	$ 9,935	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 9,935	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	9,935	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments:

Direct costs of $9,935 will be used to enhance Elm Park Bridge as outlined in the report. Existing budget amount represents the funding approved under the Gail Parvin Hammerquist Fund City-Wide Heritage Program.

Jocelyn Peters - June 15, 2022

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

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Public Works Department

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Complete Communities Direction Strategy 2.0

1.2 Recognize and celebrate Indigenous heritage
Work collaboratively with Indigenous communities and stakeholders to recognize and celebrate Indigenous heritage values and spaces.

OurWinnipeg 2045

5.4 Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples
Prioritize municipal implementation responsibilities within the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' Calls for Justice. LG, ER, EP, HW, CB

5.8 Community Cohesion
Provide opportunities for creative, cultural, and artistic expression through municipal facility design, public place-making, and community-led initiatives to promote community relationship-building, identity and sense of belonging. HW, CB

5.9 Heritage Conservation
Provide opportunities for heritage education, truth-telling, and reconciliation, through the commemoration, conservation, and stewardship of both tangible and intangible heritage resources, including Indigenous land-based practices and artifacts, public names, places, and art, museum artifacts, and archived information. LG, HW

6.37 Heritage Conservation
Conserve cultural, natural, and heritage resources and districts, as defined in Complete Communities, and Indigenous land-based practices to celebrate sense of place through community history, architecture, civic identity and cultural perspectives. ER, HW

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

N/A

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

The information and recommendations presented in this report align with and advance the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (2021 – 2031) as follows:

They embody the following Guiding Principles:

- We will Uphold Human Rights
- We will Honour Relationships and Reconciliation with Indigenous People

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Chief Administrative Office
Division: Indigenous Relations
Prepared by: D. Carriere
Date: July 7, 2022
File No: N/A

Attachments:

Appendix A: 2022-005 Request Summary

Appendix B: 2022-005 Public Engagement Summary Report

Appendix C: Welcoming Winnipeg – Request Assessment Tool