Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – September 14, 2022

REPORTS

Item No. 10 Adding to a Historical Marker: Dawson Road MB Centennial Panels (St. Boniface Ward)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. That the existing Dawson Road MB Centennial Panels (located at the South East corner of Lagimodière Boulevard and the Trans-Canada Highway) be refurbished subject to:

    A. Funding for this project being secured, tentatively budgeted between $5,000-$10,000.

2. That the new proposed marker be installed near the existing panels subject to:

    A. The text for the new marker, once finalized, be reviewed and supported by the Committee of Community Members (CCM) prior to installation, which will be done in consultation with the Public Service.

3. 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: Adding to a Historical Marker: Dawson Road MB Centennial Panels

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
C. Sveinson	M. Jack	N/A	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 refurbish and add to the existing panels acknowledging the Dawson Road Centennial Panels (located at the South East corner of Lagimodière Boulevard and the Trans-Canada Highway) was submitted.

While the existing text on the panels is accurate and easy to understand, it tells the Dawson Trail story from a colonial perspective, as one of the then new Canadian Government's exploits and first military victories in the West under Garnet Wolseley. This version of history ignores the valuable stories of the Indigenous Peoples whose lives were forever changed by the road that need to be told. A new marker would give space to tell these stories.

This 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 Committee of Community Members (CCM) is recommending that Council support this request. Funding for the new historical marker has been secured by the applicant. Funding has not yet been identified to refurbish the two existing markers,

tentatively budgeted between $5,000-$10,000. Indigenous Relations will explore opportunities to secure financial support for this project on an ongoing basis. If funding is not secured, the restoration of the existing signage will be deferred to a later date when budget is available.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the existing Dawson Road MB Centennial Panels (located at the South East corner of Lagimodière Boulevard and the Trans-Canada Highway) be refurbished subject to:

    A. Funding for this project being secured, tentatively budgeted between $5,000-$10,000.

2. That the new proposed marker be installed near the existing panels subject to:

    A. The text for the new marker, once finalized, be reviewed and supported by the CCM prior to installation, which will be done in consultation with the Public Service.

3. 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, a new historical marker will be placed near the existing Dawson Road MB Centennial Panels (located at the South East corner of Lagimodière Boulevard and the Trans-Canada Highway). Upon securing additional funding, the existing signs will be restored.

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 refurbish and add to the existing panels acknowledging the Dawson Road Centennial Panels (located at the South East corner of Lagimodière Boulevard and the Trans-Canada Highway) was submitted.

Considerations for this naming 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 March 29, 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
    - While the existing text on the panels is accurate and easy to understand, it tells the Dawson Trail story from a colonial perspective, as one of the then new Canadian Government's exploits and first military victories in the West under Garnet Wolseley. This version of history ignores the valuable stories of the Indigenous Peoples whose lives were forever changed by the road that need to be told. A new marker would give space to tell these stories.
    - A key outcome of the 2019 Welcoming Winnipeg public engagement process identified that participants expressed low support for removing historical markers. There was a shared belief between those who support removing markers and those who support keeping historical markers that context and education is a priority.
2. Research and Rationale
    - The Anishinaabe were living around the area long before Dawson or the road; it was an Anishinaabe Chief who originally showed Dawson the way through the Lake of the Woods path to the Red River colony; the Métis played an integral role in building the road and actually guided the Military expedition forces to the Red River Settlement to quell the resistance.
    - This request is part of a larger project to develop an Interpretive Corridor from Winnipeg (Saint-Boniface) to the Lake of the Woods – so the version of the story as told by the people would never be forgotten. 15 markers will highlight traditional place names in Michif and French, with some Anishinabe and Cree, and will tell some of the more

famous stories and some of the least known stories of the Dawson Trail. A series of small exhibits along the trail will create more mini-destinations to discover.

3. 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”, 92% of respondents to the online survey said ‘yes’. There were 13 responses received.
4. Other considerations
    - The City of Winnipeg's current interpretive panels commemorating the Dawson Road will remain faded and in need of upgrade in an area that is highly visible and growing with residential and commercial development. More importantly, its content would remain biased and incomplete without the creation and installation of an additional marker.

The Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History policy was adopted because of a demonstrated need for changes to how the City approaches commemoration and to ensure Indigenous perspectives are reflected in the City’s historical markers and place names. This 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:

3. 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.
4. 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 Committee of Community Members (CCM) is recommending that Council support this request. Funding for the new historical marker has been secured by the applicant. Funding has not yet been identified to refurbish the two existing markers, tentatively budgeted between $5,000-$10,000. Indigenous Relations will explore opportunities to secure financial support for this project on an ongoing basis. If funding is not secured, the restoration of the existing signage will be deferred to a later date when budget is available.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement Date: August 19, 2022

Project Name:
Adding to a Historical Marker: Dawson Road MB Centennial Panels

COMMENTS:

The financial impact of adding a new historical marker near the existing Dawson Road Centennial Panel will be determined by the cost of any signage approved for this location. If approved, the cost of signage will be fully offset by a funding contribution by the applicant, resulting in no net impact to the City. The design of this signage has not yet been determined so costs are not yet known.

Funding has not yet been identified to refurbish the two existing markers, tentatively budgeted between $5,000-$10,000; Indigenous Relations will explore opportunities to secure financial support for this project on an ongoing basis. If funding is not secured, the restoration of the existing signage will be deferred to a later date when budget is available.

Jocelyn Peters - August 19, 2022
Jocelyn Peters, CPA, CGA
Manager of Finance (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Public Works Department - Active Transportation

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.

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.

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.

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.

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: August 19, 2022
File No:

Attachments:

Appendix A: 2022-002 Request Summary

Appendix B: 2022-002 Public Engagement Summary Report

Appendix C: Welcoming Winnipeg – Request Assessment Tool