Minute No. 739
Report – Executive Policy Committee – September 14, 2022

Item No. 14 Esplanade Riel Lighting Policy

COUNCIL DECISION:

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

1. That the Esplanade Riel Lighting Policy (Appendix A) be approved, with the following amendment:

    A. That the policy be amended in order to ensure that the Winnipeg Sign located at The Forks is subject to the same guidelines and procedures.

    B. That the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated the authority to amend the policy in order to implement the intent of Recommendation 1. A, and that all future amendments to the policy continue to require Council approval.

2. That the Proper Officers at the City of Winnipeg be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

Report – Executive Policy Committee – September 14, 2022

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Bowman,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 14, 2022, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service with the following amendments:

- Delete Recommendation 1 and replace it with the following:

    1. That the Esplanade Riel Lighting Policy (Appendix A) be approved, with the following amendment:

        A. That the policy be amended in order to ensure that the Winnipeg Sign located at The Forks is subject to the same guidelines and procedures.

        B. That the Chief Administrative Officer be delegated the authority to amend the policy in order to implement the intent of Recommendation 1. A, and that all future amendments to the policy continue to require Council approval.

and submitted the matter to Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Esplanade Riel Lighting Policy

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
F. Wiltshire	F. Wiltshire	N/A	M. Geer, Acting CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In January 2022, a request for proposals (RFP) was issued by Public Works Department for LED lighting on Esplanade Riel. The RFP on the light project was to replace the existing incandescent lighting that illuminates the bridge cables and centre spire, with energy efficient LED lighting in order to reduce energy costs, as well as maintenance costs. The project also included the installation of programmable colour lighting in order to enhance aesthetics, and to allow them to be programmed to change colours.

On July 29, 2022, Esplanade Riel was first illuminated in a multitude of colours, and has been lit every night since that date. Adoption of the Esplanade Riel Lighting Policy will formalize the lighting program.

The Esplanade Riel Lighting Policy aims to ensure all specialty lighting requests for Esplanade Riel are submitted in a standardized process and that the guidelines of acceptance, denial, or changes that may be made to the request are clear to both internal and external stakeholders.

Esplanade Riel is a signature piece of the Winnipeg skyline, and it is recognized that specialty lighting will be highly visible and a reflection of the entire City. Specialty lighting of Esplanade Riel should reflect, celebrate, and build community spirit. Esplanade Riel is also a symbol of pride for Winnipeg, and part of representing our City to national and international audiences.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Esplanade Riel Lighting Policy (Appendix A) be approved.

2. That the Proper Officers at the City of Winnipeg be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

Only Council has the authority to approve Council Policies.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no administrative or financial implications to implementing the Esplanade Riel Lighting Policy. The Esplanade Riel Lighting Policy will ensure all specialty lighting requests are submitted in a standardized process and that the guidelines are clear to all stakeholders.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

In January 2022, a request for proposals (RFP) was issued by Public Works Department for LED lighting on Esplanade Riel. The RFP on the light project was to replace the existing incandescent lighting that illuminates the bridge cables and centre spire, with energy efficient LED lighting in order to reduce energy costs, as well as maintenance costs. The project also included the installation of programmable colour lighting in order to enhance aesthetics, and to allow them to be programmed to change colours. Each one of the 55 lights on Esplanade Riel can be digitally programmed to display a specific colour or a lighting sequence.

On July 29, 2022, Esplanade Riel was first illuminated in a multitude of colours, and has been lit every night since that date. Adoption of the Esplanade Riel Lighting Policy will formalize the lighting program.

Esplanade Riel is a signature piece of the Winnipeg skyline, and it is recognized that specialty lighting will be highly visible and a reflection of the entire City. Specialty lighting of Esplanade Riel should reflect, celebrate, and build community spirit. Esplanade Riel is also a symbol of pride for Winnipeg, and part of representing our City to national and international audiences.

The Esplanade Riel Lighting Policy (Appendix A) aims to ensure all specialty lighting requests for Esplanade Riel are submitted in a standardized process and that the guidelines of acceptance, denial, or changes that may be made to the request are clear to both internal and external stakeholders.

Lighting requests must be received a minimum of three weeks prior to the requested date of lighting, and must be submitted via an online form that will be located on the City of Winnipeg website. Requests for the following calendar year, will be considered starting November of the previous year. For example, 2023 requests will be considered November 2022.

Applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis and must be submitted by a not-for-profit organization or must by community-oriented and support either:

- an event or cause of national or international significance,
- a local festival or event that positively impacts local community spirit, or
- a local, national or international awareness issue that builds community.

Priority will be given to significant Canadian dates such as New Year's Eve, Canada Day, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and Remembrance Day. City functions or large-scale public events, such as the Canada Summer Games, may take priority over other events.

Tributes or memorials for well-known local, provincial, or national figures will follow/complement recognized City of Winnipeg Protocol, or direction from Council or the Chief Administrative Officer. Provincial, national, or international tragedies or celebrations will be based on direction from the City of Winnipeg Protocol Office in consultation with Provincial and Federal Protocol Offices.

Local professional sports teams may be recognized on the date of their season opener, playoff games, and league championship/finals including NHL Winnipeg Jets, CFL Winnipeg Blue Bombers, AHL Manitoba Moose, American Association Winnipeg Goldeyes, and CPL Valour Football Club.

Requests that do not merit public support, have a significant risk of polarizing the community, or are mainly personal, private, political, or commercial in nature, will be refused. These may include protesting or dissenting voices on current municipal, provincial, or federal legislation.

In the event no specialty lighting request has been received for any particular date, the Customer Service & Communications Department will light Esplanade Riel in a colour of their choice.

Whether or not a specialty lighting request has been approved for that night, Esplanade Riel lights shall be lit starting at astronomical sunset and will remain on until astronomical sunrise. If approved for that night, specialty lighting will occur between sunset and midnight, unless otherwise approved.

Whether or not a specialty lighting request has been approved for that date, a daily dynamic light show will be programmed to play for 10-minutes every hour, on the hour, from sunset until midnight, with the last show running from midnight until 12:10 a.m. If a specialty lighting request has been approved for that date, the dynamic light show will be programmed in a colour that complements and enhances any pre-programmed specialty lighting request approved for that date.

Occasionally there are events of local, provincial, national or international significance that require Esplanade Riel to be lit. These emergent events could include anything from natural disasters or the passing of a significant local, provincial, or national figure to a celebration or a tribute to an individual of importance. When an emergent event occurs and discussion around lighting the bridge is initiated, the Customer Service & Communications Department will work with the City of Winnipeg Protocol Office to ensure agreement and messaging around the emergent lighting. In the event of an emergent event, any pre-programmed specialty lighting request may be pre-empted. The Customer Service & Communications Department will reach out to the applicant, and work to find an alternative date to schedule the specialty lighting, if possible.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date: August 24, 2022**

Project Name:

Esplanade Riel Lighting Policy

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

Jason Duke - August 24, 2022
Jason Duke, CPA, CGA
A/ Manager of Finance & Administration (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Public Works
- City Clerk's
- Legal Services (as to legal issues)

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

n/a

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

n/a

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

n/a

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Customer Service & Communications
Division: Office of the Director
Prepared by: F. Wiltshire
Date: August 26, 2022

File No: N/A

Attachment:

Appendix A: