Minute No. 52
Report – Executive Policy Committee – December 7, 2022

Item No. 14 **Welcoming Winnipeg – Creating New Marker: Assiniboia Residential School**
(River Heights-Fort Garry Ward)

COUNCIL DECISION:

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

1. That a new historical marker (in the form of three interpretive panels) be permanently installed at the site of the former Assiniboia Residential School.

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

Report – Executive Policy Committee – December 7, 2022

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Gillingham,

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

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 7, 2022, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to Council.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Welcoming Winnipeg – Creating New Marker: Assiniboia Residential School

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 create a new historical marker in the form of three interpretive panels acknowledging the site of the former Assiniboia Residential School was submitted. These panels would be installed permanently and provide a sacred space in the community in tribute to all those who attended Assiniboia Residential School as a place of healing, remembrance and education. 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 $8,850.00.

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 Committee of Community Members (CCM) is recommending that Council support this request. Funding for the new historical marker has been secured by the applicant.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a new historical marker (in the form of three interpretive panels) be permanently installed at the site of the former Assiniboia Residential School.

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, three interpretive panels will be permanently installed on the former site of the Assiniboia Residential School. They will acknowledge the stories of survivors and provide an educational opportunity to all visitors.

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 three interpretive panels acknowledging the site of the former Assiniboia Residential School was submitted. These panels would be installed permanently and provide a sacred space in the community in tribute to all those who attended Assiniboia Residential School as a place of healing, remembrance and education.

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 September 12, 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
    - The panels will give visitors a glimpse into the reality students of residential schools faced, which was far from the generous narrative that was portrayed by the Canadian government.
    - This project has been led by survivors and intergenerational survivors. Appropriate protocols have been followed, with a blessing of the site, tobacco has been offered and a pipe ceremony was held to ensure this project can move forward in a good way.

2. Research and Rationale
    - There were 17 federally-funded Indian Residential Schools in Manitoba, which included one location in Winnipeg known as the Assiniboia Indian Residential School. Federally funded and operated by the Grey Nuns and Oblate Fathers, the Assiniboia Indian Residential School was part of the Federal Government's educational system under the Indian Act which operated from 1958 until June 1973. The school still stands today and now functions as the Canadian Centre for Child Protection including Child Find Manitoba; the address is 615 Academy Road in the River Heights neighbourhood.
    - Many residents in River Heights didn't know about the school's existence and many people in Winnipeg did not know that there was a residential school in that neighbourhood during that era.

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", 100% of respondents to the online survey said 'yes'. There were eight responses received.

4. 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 $8,850.00.

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 CCM is recommending that Council support this request.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: November 14, 2022

Project Name:

Welcoming Winnipeg – Creating New Marker: Assiniboia Residential School

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	$ 8,850	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 8,850	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	8,850	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments:

Direct costs of $8,850 will be used to enhance the site of the former Assiniboia Residential School as outlined in the report. Existing budget amount represents the funding approved under the Gail Parvin Hammerquist Fund City-Wide Heritage Program.

Jason Duke - November 14, 2022

Jason Duke, CPA, CGA
A/ Manager of Finance & Administration (Campu
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Parks and Open Space (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 Division
Prepared by: T. Prystupa
Date: November 14, 2022
File No: N/A

Attachments:

Appendix A: 2022-009 Request Summary

Appendix B: 2022-009 Public Engagement Summary Report

Appendix C: Welcoming Winnipeg – Request Assessment Tool