Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 13, 2023

REPORTS

Item No. 9 Welcoming Winnipeg – Naming Unnamed Trail in Transcona to Cousineau Family Trail (Transcona 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 currently unnamed sidewalk and bi-directional bike lane in the west boulevard of Day Street be named Cousineau Family Trail.

2. That supplementary signage or a new permanent marker be installed that speaks to the importance of relearning and reclamation of Métis history and heritage, subject to:

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

    B. Upon securing funding, the new marker will be drafted in consultation with the applicant and Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members. Installation 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:	Gillingham, Browaty, Lukes, Mayes, Orlikow, Rollins	6
Nay:		0

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Welcoming Winnipeg – Naming Unnamed Trail in Transcona to Cousineau Family Trail

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 name an unnamed trail in Transcona to Cousineau Family Trail was submitted. The facility is located in the west boulevard of Day Street.

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.

Funding has not yet been identified for this project, which is tentatively budgeted between $5,000 and $10,000. Indigenous Relations and the applicant will explore opportunities to secure financial support for this project on an ongoing basis. If funding is not secured, the creation of the new signage or permanent marker will be deferred to a later date when budget is available.

After careful consideration, the Committee of Community Members (CCM) is recommending that Council support this request and that, in addition to naming the trail, supplementary signage or a new permanent marker be installed that speaks to the importance of relearning and reclamation of Métis history and heritage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the currently unnamed sidewalk and bi-directional bike lane in the west boulevard of Day Street be named Cousineau Family Trail.

2. That supplementary signage or a new permanent marker be installed that speaks to the importance of relearning and reclamation of Métis history and heritage, subject to:

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

    B. Upon securing funding, the new marker will be drafted in consultation with the applicant and Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members. Installation 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

There are no immediate implications to the Recommendations, as the installation of signs and markers will only occur once funding is secured.

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 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 name an unnamed trail in Transcona to Cousineau Family Trail was submitted. The facility is located in the west boulevard of Day Street.

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 June 6, 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
    - Cousineau family members were some of the founding members of the Transcona Trails Association, formed in 2003 to create a trail system for walking and cycling to improve health, and the family has put in thousands of volunteer hours to improve the health and quality of life in our community. The Cousineau family currently contributes volunteer hours to the development of trails and greenspaces in Transcona to make it a better place to live.

2. Research and Rationale
    - The site of this trail is located in Treaty No. 1 territory (the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe, Ininew and Dakota) and the National Homeland of the Red River Métis.
    - Although volunteers do not work for acknowledgement, the naming will promote good will towards volunteers in the community.

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", 88% of respondents to the online survey said 'yes'. There were forty-one responses received.

4. Other considerations
    - The trail's new name and supplementary signage could serve as an opportunity for relearning and reclamation of Métis histories and heritage in the area.

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.

Funding has not yet been identified for this project, which is tentatively budgeted between $5,000 and $10,000. Indigenous Relations and the applicant will explore opportunities to secure financial support for this project on an ongoing basis. If funding is not secured, the creation of the new signage or permanent marker will be deferred to a later date when budget is available.

After careful consideration, the CCM is recommending that Council support this request and that in addition to naming the trail, supplementary signage or a new permanent marker be installed that speaks to the importance of relearning and reclamation of Métis history and heritage. These signs/markers will be drafted in consultation with the applicant and the CCM, and installed by the Public Service.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement Date: February 2, 2023

Project Name:
Welcoming Winnipeg – Naming Unnamed Trail in Transcona to Cousineau Family Trail

COMMENTS:

Funding has not yet been identified for this project, tentatively budgeted between $5,000 and $10,000; Indigenous Relations will explore opportunities to secure financial support for this project on an ongoing basis. If funding is not secured, the creation of the new signage or permanent marker will be deferred to a later date when budget is available.

Jason Duke - February 2, 2023
Jason Duke, CPA, CGA
Acting Manager of Finance (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Public Works Transportation Division

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: T. Prystupa
Date: February 8, 2023
File No: N/A

Attachments:

Appendix A: 2022-003 Request Summary

Appendix B: 2022-003 Public Engagement Summary Report

Appendix C: Welcoming Winnipeg – Request Assessment Tool