March 20, 2023

**To**: Executive Policy Committee members, His Worship Mayor Gillingham, Chairperson Councillor Browaty, Councillor Lukes, Councillor Mayes, Councillor Orlikow, Councillor Rollins

**From**: Shirley Forsyth, Winnipeg

**Re: Budget line for review of community plans and increased funding for planning**

Thank you for hearing my presentation today. My name is Shirley Forsyth and I am a resident of the Corydon Osborne community. I am retired from working as a Planner in Manitoba Health's Capital Planning Department; I have a Master's in Planning and I was a registered nurse.

I am here today to speak about the 2023 budget and planning. In particular, I am requesting funding for the review of Winnipeg's community plans so that the best and most appropriate planning decisions are made for our City and its residents. I decided to attend this budget meeting because I was advised at a community meeting by several city councillors that the Corydon Osborne Community Plan could not reviewed as required in the community plan, due to the lack of a budget line and funding for planners in the budget. I would like to request that the budget contain a line for the review of community plans which are currently unfunded. Both the Osborne and Corydon Osborne community plans are long overdue for a comprehensive review. Moreover I think it is really important for the long term well-being the our City that funding for planning be increased to the median of the amounts shown below in slide 7 of the 2023 Balanced Budget Update,
( https://clkapps.winnipeg.ca/dmis/ViewDoc.asp?DocId=23457&SectionId=&InitUrl=
March 9, 2023, Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development Special Meeting).

**Slide 7 of the 2023 Balanced Budget Update**

## How We Did

### Performance Measurements – City Planning*

### Efficiency Measurement

**Total Costs for Planning per Capita (2021)**




This measure reflects the total cost to provide planning services. The amount spent on planning-related activities and application processing can vary significantly from municipality to municipality based on the types of applications, different organizational structures and legislation, and priorities established by local Councils.

| | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wpg. Trend | $8.44 | $8.69 | $8.51 | $8.51 | $8.71 |

Source: Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada (PLNG250T)

https://clkapps.winnipeg.ca/dmis/ViewDoc.asp?DocId=23457&SectionId=&InitUrl=

* Source: 2023 Preliminary Budget - Volume 2

Winnipeg 7

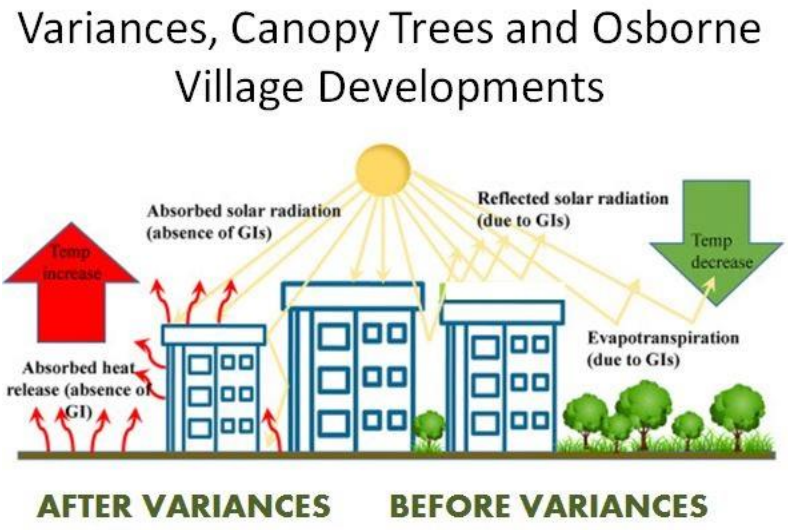
It is urgent that planning dollars be included in the budget so that decisions are made on criteria that support the long term well-being of our communities and take into consideration population health, climate change, the need for green spaces and canopy trees. Currently, new developments are proceeding without acknowledging the need to create sustainable healthy communities. Decisions are being made based on precedence and not what is best for the City and its residents based on current best practice.

The reckless development taking place in our City is exemplified in what has occurred on River Avenue in Osborne Village. In recent years, almost every lot with green space and / or canopy trees has been lost to the community.

## RECENT MULTI-UNIT DEVELOPMENTS ON RIVER AVE.




For these developments on River Avenue, there were 83 variances requested that would result in decreased green space, a reduction in area necessary to grow canopy trees on River Ave. and homes moved closer to roads. There are health dangers associated with breathing in toxins from car exhaust and tires that can be ameliorated with canopy trees.



Current planning decisions are not taking resident health or the environment into consideration; for example, the variance, “j. *no trees for street edge landscaping along Nassau Street and River Avenue*.” (File DAV 155756/2016D) was passed and is now serving as precedence for other developments such as 90 Wellington Crescent, 586 and 588 River Avenue (File DAV 228750/2022D [c/r DASZ 57/2022]) Decisions should be made on best practices and not on precedence and we need planners who are dedicated to working on these issues.

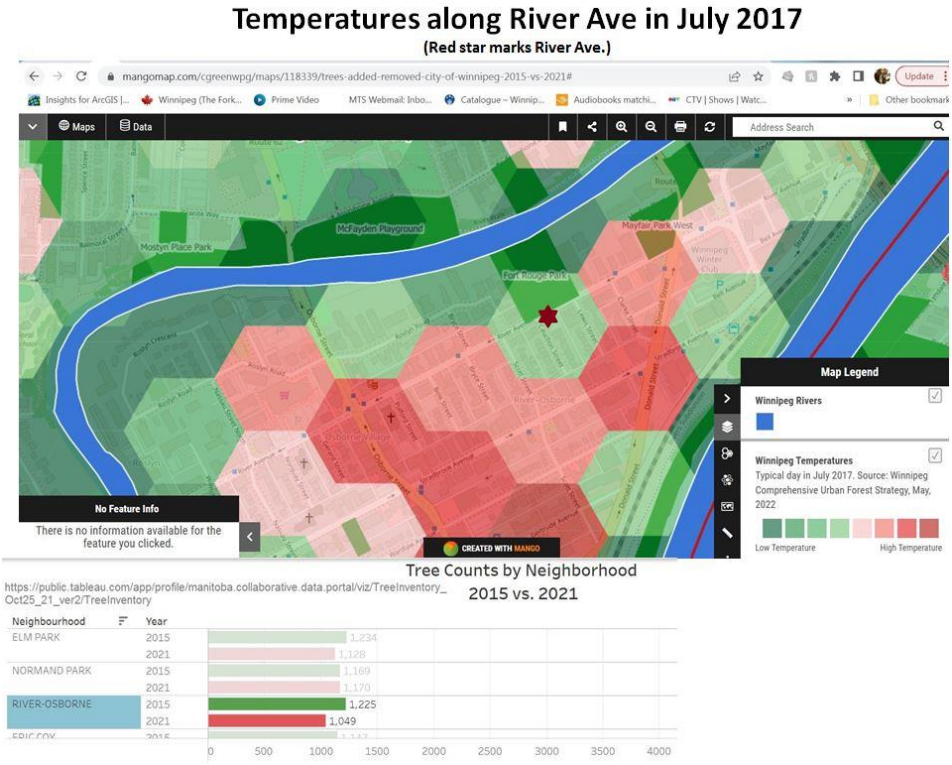
I utilized the Interactive Tree Loss Map from the **Trees Please** website ( https://treespleasewinnipeg.com/treedata/ ) to look at trees being planted in the Osborne Village area (see red circle) and the situation is dire.  Between 2015 and 2021, almost no trees were added to public land in the Osborne Village area while almost every development resulted in the loss of trees from private land.




An updated community plan would show the loss of trees and green space and provide a plan for a sustainable future in which increased mortality from heat sinks and air pollution could be reduced, and the quality of life improved.

.

## Temperatures Along River Ave and Tree Counts




I was chair of the Corydon Resident's Committee when the Corydon Osborne Community Plan was created in 2014, and the community requested that the Plan be updated every five years using the 2009 Corydon Village Pre-Plan Assessment and after consultation with the community to add data missing from the 2009 document such as green space and the number of trees on public and private property. (The Pre Plan planning document was removed from the City website and can now be found at https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5eb5c8f75d26a316fb2c1245/t/5ebae8dd00fe7c3639c844df/1589307735490/CorydonPreplan.pdf )

The Corydon Osborne Community plan approved by City Council contains the recommendation that it be reviewed every five to ten years. The Plan has not been reviewed, nor has the Osborne Plan received an in depth review, and it was passed in 2006. In order to understand what is occurring in our communities, we need to have detailed reviews of our community plans. Please insure that there is a budget line for the reviewing of community plans in the budget and that City Planning receives the necessary funding to hire the staff with the education and experience to conduct these reviews.

Thank you for hearing my request for an increase in funding for city planning to the median amount shown in Slide 7, and for use to update our community plans.

Best regards,
Shirley Forsyth

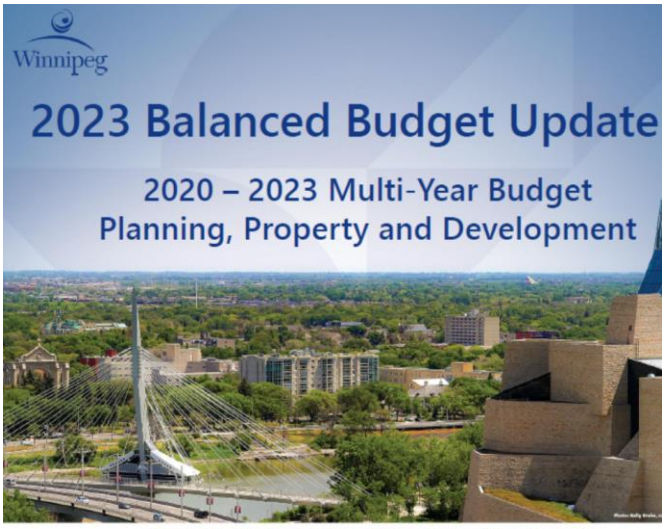
Extra Information:

## Performance Measurements – City Planning*

### Performance Reporting

| Service Goal / Measure Description | 2020 Actual | 2021 Actual | 2022 Target | 2023 Target |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Support the review, alignment, and implementation of OurWinnipeg and Complete Communities Direction Strategy through interdepartmental coordination, local area plans, zoning by-laws and other tools and guidelines.** | | | | |
| Total Costs for Planning per Capita [A] | $8.51 | $8.64 | $8.64 | $8.64 |

Pg 6




Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development

March 9, 2023

https://clkapps.winnipeg.ca/dmis/ViewDoc.asp?DocId=23457&SectionId=&InitUrl=

P7

## Capital Summary – By Service

| Service ($000's) | 2022 Adopted Budget | 2023 Preliminary | 2024 - 2028 Forecast | 6-year Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cemeteries | 150 | 200 | 1,324 | 1,524 |
| City Planning | 700 | | | - |
| Development Approvals, Building Permits & Inspections | 1,019 | 100 | 210 | 310 |
| Heritage Conservation | 100 | 543 | 12,347 | 12,890 |
| **Total Capital Submission** | **1,969** | **843** | **13,881** | **14,724** |

Pg 22



**Nuytten, Kathy <KNuytten@winnipeg.ca>**

Fri, 17 Mar, 09:07 (1 day ago)

Good morning,

Unfortunately City-wide network issues prevented the Executive Policy Committee from hearing from some remote participants yesterday.

The committee has committed to receive and consider any and all submissions from those individuals who were unable to speak.

If you would like to provide a written submission for consideration by the Executive Policy Committee, please provide it by 12:00 p.m. on Monday, March 20, 2023.

We apologize for the inconvenience this has caused.

Kathy Nuytten, on behalf of Andrew Poitras,

Manager of the Decision Making Process, CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

TELEPHONE: 204-986-3088

EMAIL: knuytten@winnipeg.ca