Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – April 18, 2023

REPORTS

Item No. 6 Donation of Obsolete Wireless Access Point Devices to the Internet Society Manitoba Chapter

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommended to Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to donate the old, ready to be recycled, 802.11g point to point wireless access point devices, to the Internet Society Manitoba Chapter for the North End Connect Project.

2. 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 Browaty,

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to donate the old, ready to be recycled, 802.11g point to point wireless access point devices, to the Internet Society Manitoba Chapter for the North End Connect Project.

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

and forwarded to Council.

Carried

Joel Templeman, Executive Director, Internet Society Manitoba Chapter, submitted a communication with respect to the matter.

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 13, 2023, the Executive Policy Committee laid over the Council Motion of February 23, 2023, for 30 days.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On February 23, 2023, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Executive Policy Committee:

Moved by Councillor Eadie,
Seconded by Councillor Allard,

WHEREAS during the first year of COVID-19, students and their families living in poverty discovered their lack of affordable internet services were further compounded by not being able to participate in home-based K to 12 education;

AND WHEREAS in consultation with stakeholders in the North End, Mr. Joel Templeman, Executive Director of the Internet Society Manitoba Chapter, has established the North End Connect Project, to provide at no cost or very little cost, wireless internet services to the R2W postal code, as expressed by Mr. Templeman;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

> "The key to long-term sustainability of a community network is to keep costs and risks as low as possible. Our ability to repurpose the city's unwanted equipment is both environmentally responsible and will allow us to expand our trial at limited additional expense."

AND WHEREAS since September, 2021, Mr. Templeman has been discussing with the Innovation and Technology Department, the Public Works Traffic Signals Branch and initially with the Mynarski Ward Office and Mayor Bowman's Office, the donation of up to 70 units of 802.11g point to point wireless access point devices that are old, ready for recycling;

AND WHEREAS this community-based project is following other successful efforts in Baltimore and New York City for those living in poverty, and this project is the template other areas in Winnipeg needing to bring people living in poverty into today's internet service-based government and economy;

AND WHEREAS other entities such as Broadband Communications North and Computers for Schools are contributing their resources towards this North End Connect Project envisioned by Indigenous Vision For The North End;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to donate the old, ready to be recycled, 802.11g point to point wireless access point devices, to the Internet Society Manitoba Chapter for the North End Connect Project.