Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – April 18, 2023

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – April 17, 2023

Item No. 4 The Montreal Pledge – Cities United in Action for Biodiversity

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment and submitted the following to Council:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to report back in 90 days on the City of Winnipeg becoming a signatory to the Montreal Pledge: Cities United in Action for Biodiversity, (attached for reference as Appendix A).

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

Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – April 18, 2023

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,

That Rule 10(3) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended in order that the following item, which was received less than four business days preceding the committee meeting, be considered by Committee.

Carried

Moved by Councillor Mayes,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste, and Environment be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

The following persons submitted communications with respect to the matter:

- David Grant
- David Green, Trees Please Winnipeg
- Erna Buffie, Trees Please

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 17, 2023, the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment concurred in the Council Motion of March 23, 2023 and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

The following persons submitted communications in support of the matter:

- Ron Thiessen, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Manitoba Chapter
- Wendy Buelow
- Heather Eckton
- Emma Durand-Wood, Trees Please Winnipeg Coalition
- Denis DePape, Save Our Seine
- Howard Warren
- Adrian Werner
- South Osborne Residents' Group
- Derek Earl, BizforClimate
- Erna Buffie, Trees Please
- Ann Loewen, Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment
- Heather Fast, Manitoba Eco-Network

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – April 17, 2023

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

- Andrea Sutherland, Bishop Grandin Greenway
- Arlene Draffin Jones, Council of Women of Winnipeg (CWW)
- Muriel St John, Crescent Park Rescue
- Michael Kvern
- Pam Lucenkiw
- Peter Krahn
- Victoria Romero, University of Manitoba Students' Union
- Shannon Bahuaud

COUNCIL DECISION:

On March 23, 2023, Council ruled automatic referral of the following motion to the Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment:

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,
Seconded by Councillor Mayes,

WHEREAS the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan outlines the City's role in reducing corporate carbon emissions and taking a leading role in protecting our environment;

AND WHEREAS at the COP-15 conference on biodiversity, which took place in Montreal in December 2022, countries across the world were encouraged to sign on to the Montreal Pledge as part of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;

AND WHEREAS a number of Canadian municipalities including Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver have signed on to the Montreal Pledge to take 15 concrete actions to protect biodiversity;

AND WHEREAS many of the 15 actions identified in the pledge have already been, or are in the process of being, implemented by the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS the pledge encourages signatories to act swiftly to protect biodiversity and reduce pollution;

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Water, Waste and Environment – April 17, 2023

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

AND WHEREAS clause 15 of the pledge ensures equitable participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in decision-making and in the process of acquiring and transmitting knowledge about biodiversity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Service report back within 90 days on the City of Winnipeg becoming a signatory to the Montreal Pledge: Cities United in Action for Biodiversity, (attached for reference as Appendix A).