Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – November 14, 2023

REPORTS

Item No. 15 Welcoming Winnipeg – Naming/Renaming Assets After Individuals and Groups of People

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee did not concur in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That the report of the Winnipeg Public Service be referred for incorporation into the wider review of the Welcoming Winnipeg process in 2024, in order for the matter to be considered as a whole.

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 Rollins,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service not be concurred in and the following be forwarded to Council:

1. That the report of the Winnipeg Public Service be referred for incorporation into the wider review of the Welcoming Winnipeg process in 2024, in order for the matter to be considered as a whole.

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

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Welcoming Winnipeg – Naming/Renaming Assets After Individuals and Groups of People

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
C. Sveinson	M. Jack	N/A	M. Jack

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Welcoming Winnipeg: *Reconciling our History* Policy was developed to guide the City in making decisions regarding requests to create new, add to or remove/rename historical markers, place names and resolve the absence of First Nations, Red River Métis and Inuit perspectives, experiences and contributions in the stories remembered and commemorated. It proactively utilizes a lens of inclusion, balance and Indigenous perspectives.

The Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members (CCM) is responsible for:

- Reviewing Welcoming Winnipeg requests and providing recommendations for consideration by the Executive Policy Committee and Council;
- Hosting delegations/community presentations;
- Providing input and advice to Indigenous Relations to align existing and newly created processes related to creating new, adding to or removing/renaming historical markers and place names.

On November 25, 2021, Council directed the Public Service to draft guidelines, in consultation with the CCM, with respect to naming and renaming City assets (that fall within the scope of Welcoming Winnipeg) after an individual to assist the CCM's recommendation-making process, and report back for Council's consideration.

Indigenous Relations (IRD) undertook a review of other Canadian municipal policies related to naming City assets after individuals (Appendix A). Taking inspiration from examples across the country, while also being mindful of the Welcoming Winnipeg Policy's unique mandate, IRD and the CCM developed guidelines, an assessment tool, and criteria with a scoring matrix.

These were developed to guide discussions and inform the CCM's recommendation-making process. Ultimately, all naming or renaming requests that go through the Welcoming Winnipeg process will appear before Council for final decision.

IRD is in the process of completing a wider review of the Welcoming Winnipeg process, and further revisions to the program are expected to come forward for Council consideration in 2024.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy be amended as per Appendix C of this report.

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 November 25, 2021, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee that the Public Service, in consultation with the Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members (CCM), draft guidelines with respect to naming and renaming City assets (that fall within the scope of Welcoming Winnipeg) after an individual to assist the CCM's recommendation-making process, and report back for Council's consideration.

Only Council has authority to amend Council policies.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members (CCM) will have guidelines, an assessment tool and criteria with scoring matrix to assist with their recommendation-making process when a request to name or rename an asset after an individual or group of people is received.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

History

The Welcoming Winnipeg: *Reconciling our History* 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 First Nations, Red River Métis and Inuit perspectives, experiences and contributions in the stories remembered and commemorated.

It proactively utilizes a lens of inclusion, balance and Indigenous perspectives.

The Welcoming Winnipeg Committee of Community Members (CCM) is responsible for:

- Reviewing Welcoming Winnipeg requests and providing recommendations for consideration by the Executive Policy Committee and Council;
- Hosting delegations/community presentations;
- Providing input and advice to Indigenous Relations to align existing and newly created processes related to creating new, adding to or removing/renaming historical markers and place names.

The CCM is guided by values and principles that were established by citizens of Winnipeg through a public consultation process in 2019 and refined by the committee in 2020. These include:

- Honouring the original peoples of this land and their descendants;

- The Treaty Relationship will be upheld;
- Indigenous Rights are respected; and,
- Traditional Indigenous laws, ceremonies and ways of being are recognized and affirmed.

The Welcoming Winnipeg policy and process is still relatively new and unique in Canada. There is no roadmap or best practice to replicate; all forms, resources, protocols and processes have had to be developed from inception, with many co-created by Indigenous Relations and the CCM.

On November 25, 2021, Council directed the Public Service to draft guidelines, in consultation with the CCM, with respect to naming and renaming City assets (that fall within the scope of Welcoming Winnipeg) after an individual to assist the CCM's recommendation-making process, and report back for Council's consideration.

Indigenous Relations undertook a review of Canadian municipal policies related to naming City assets after individuals (Appendix A). Taking inspiration from examples across the country, while also being mindful of the Welcoming Winnipeg Policy's unique mandate, Indigenous Relations and the CCM developed guidelines, an assessment tool, and criteria with a scoring matrix.

Purpose of Guidelines

The guidelines will provide structure to the CCM's recommendation-making process when considering requests to name or rename City assets for individuals or groups of people, living or deceased.

Guidelines

The CCM will generally discourage naming or re-naming assets after individuals or groups of people, but applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The members of the committee have determined they will not recommend naming/renaming assets after individuals who are not yet retired from their substantive career. This means they are no longer active in their field of expertise (but may still be involved in advocacy and community work) or are deceased.

After conducting a review of municipal policies related to naming City assets after individuals, some municipalities have similar criteria. Calgary is a City that follows a similar practice; Vancouver will typically consider naming/renaming assets after individuals who are no longer living.

Assessment Criteria

The purpose of the following criteria is to guide CCM members' discussion of each application. In assessing the request for naming after an individual or group of persons, the CCM will consider the following:

a) A person's or group's contributions to the promotion and reclamation of First Nations, Métis or Inuit language, rights, culture, spirituality and/or traditions.

b) The extent to which the contributions, achievements or interests of a person are connected to the municipal asset for which such name is proposed.

c) If/how a person or group meets the following criteria:

i. They have demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional dedication to service in ways that made a significant contribution to the community, city of Winnipeg, province of Manitoba or Canada;

ii. They have volunteered and gave extraordinary help or care to individuals, families or groups, or supports community services or humanitarian causes;

iii. They have fostered equality and reduced discrimination;

iv. They have risked their life to save or protect others;

v. They have demonstrated excellence, courage or exceptional dedication to service in ways that reflect the heritage and identity of a community within Winnipeg.

Each of the above criterion will be evaluated according to the assessment tool (Appendix B), with the score from each member providing an average score for each criterion. Each score will then be weighted as follows:

- Criterion “A” will be weighted at 40 percent to reflect its preeminent but not exclusive importance to the CCM mandate.
- Criterion “B” will be weighted at 30 percent.
- Criterion “C” will be weighted at 30 percent.

CCM members will take the scoring under advisement and it will contribute to CCM discussion about the application. Scoring by CCM members is not binding and does not supersede the final recommendation(s) of the committee for each application.

The guidelines, assessment form, criteria and scoring matrix were developed to guide discussions and inform the CCM’s recommendation-making process. Ultimately, all naming or renaming requests that go through the Welcoming Winnipeg process will appear before Council for final decision.

Next Steps

As noted above, Welcoming Winnipeg is a relatively new and unique program. Indigenous Relations has been monitoring the process for areas of improvement, and a wider review of Welcoming Winnipeg is in progress. Further revisions to the program are expected to come forward for Council consideration in the second quarter of 2024.

Requested Changes

At a briefing on October 11, 2023, an earlier draft of this administrative report was reviewed by Mayor's Office staff and the following revisions were requested:

- Include details regarding any further review of Welcoming Winnipeg processes and the anticipated timeline for reporting back.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: September 29, 2023

Project Name:
Welcoming Winnipeg – Naming/Renaming Assets After Individuals and Groups of People

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications in receiving this report as information.

Sheridel Faderon for R. Bernard
Randy Bernard, CPA, CMA
Manager of Finance & Administration (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

N/A

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

Goal: Social Equity
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.

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.

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.

Goal: City Building
6.43 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.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Climate Action Plan (CAP), and it was determined that the CAP is not applicable to this specific report.

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: D. Carriere
Date: September 29, 2023

Attachments:

Appendix A – Welcoming Winnipeg: Municipality Naming Practices

Appendix B – Assessment Tool: Naming or Renaming City Assets After Individuals

Appendix C – Amendment to Policy No. CO-014

Winnipeg

CITY OF WINNIPEG POLICY NO. CO-014

POLICY TITLE *Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History*	**ADOPTED BY** *City Council*	**EFFECTIVE DATE** *XXXXXXXX*
ORIGIN / AUTHORITY *Executive Policy Committee*	**CITY POLICY NO** CO-014	**MOST RECENT CONSOLIDATION** *XXX-XXX*

1. Purpose:

The amendments will incorporate an Assessment Tool for the committee of community members to use in its recommendation-making process when considering naming and renaming City assets (that fall within the scope of Welcoming Winnipeg) after an individual.

2. Amendment to Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy

Add the following new section.

3.3.4 The committee of community members will discourage naming or re-naming assets after individuals or groups of people, especially those who are not yet retired from their substantive career. However, applications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

When evaluating these requests, the committee will use the Assessment Tool, attached to this policy as Appendix A, to inform and guide its discussion towards reaching a final recommendation. Each section of the Assessment Tool is to be weighted as follows:

- Criterion “A” weighted at 40 percent.
- Criterion “B” weighted at 30 percent.
- Criterion “C” weighted at 30 percent.

3. Appendices

Add the Assessment Tool “Assessment: Naming or Renaming City Assets After Individuals and Groups of People” to the Policy as Appendix A.