Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – March 12, 2024

REPORTS

Item No. 22 Increasing Winnipeg Food Council Budget for Small Grants Program

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Executive Policy Committee received the recommendation of the Winnipeg Food Council as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Food Council be received as information.

Carried

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 27, 2024, the Winnipeg Food Council passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the Winnipeg Food Council experienced high demand for its Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens small grants program again in 2023, with a total ask of over $60,000;

AND WHEREAS the Winnipeg Food Council had an approved budget of $10,000.00 for the small grants program in 2023, accounting for 16% of the total requested;

AND WHEREAS over the past two years the City has provided $17,000 in grant funding from a total ask of over $157,000.00;

AND WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg plans for density, net zero climate goals, and improved resiliency, the importance and demand for dedicated spaces for urban community gardens for residents to grow nutritious foods will continue to exponentially increase, and with it, an inherent risk to higher food bank usage;

AND WHEREAS food bank usage in Manitoba has increased 150% since 2019, with a 30% increase in 2023;

AND WHEREAS the Winnipeg Food Council was unsuccessful when it brought forward a motion to increase its Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens small grants program by $5,000.00 considered at the Executive Policy Committee meeting on March 21, 2023;

AND WHEREAS the Winnipeg Food Council hopes that the City of Winnipeg can come alongside to empower diverse communities united in our collective goal of urban food security;

AND WHEREAS the Winnipeg Food Council would like to increase the amount of funding for this program, and is therefore endorsing an increase to the small grants budget line for 2024;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that as part of the 2024 budget review process, the Executive Policy Committee be requested to endorse an increase of $5,000.00 to the Winnipeg Food Council 2024 operating budget in order to address food insecurity through building small grant capacity.

On February 7, 2024, the Winnipeg Food Council laid over consideration of the matter for up to 30 days.