REPORTS

Item No. 11 Process Improvements for Community Centre Renovation Grants

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee recommended to Council:

1. That the repeal of section 9(1) of the Community Centre Renovation Grant Program By-law No. 61/2019, and its replacement with the following provision be approved:

   Exception to Contribution Matching Requirement
   9(1) Where the Evaluation Committee approves any grant for renovations to a revenue-generating facility after May 30, 2024 and prior to January 1, 2028:

      1. The grant amount may exceed 50% of the total cost of the project to a maximum of $100,000; and

      2. The community centre that is the recipient of the grant will not be required to contribute any portion of the total project cost in order to qualify for the grant.

2. That the City Solicitor and Director of Legal Services be instructed to prepare a by-law in accordance with Recommendation 1 and bring same directly to Council for enactment at its May 30, 2024 meeting.

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Duncan,

WHEREAS on February 22, 2012 Council by resolution established an annual Community Centre Renovation Grant Program (CCRGP),

AND WHEREAS on January 27, 2022 Council amended the by-law to include section 9(1) as part of the COVID-19 Economic Response and Recovery Plan,

AND WHEREAS on January 1, 2024 subsection 9(1) expired as outlined in the 2022 amendment,

AND WHEREAS the outcomes of the COVID-19 Pandemic continue to negatively impact Community Centres across Winnipeg due to the increasing costs of materials, supplies and operations generally,

AND WHEREAS Community Renovation Grant Program remains a critical funding source for Community Centre capital infrastructure needs to support repairs, upgrades, retrofits, safety improvements, and renovation projects,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. That Council approve the repeal of section 9(1) of the Community Centre Renovation Grant Program By-law No. 61/2019, and its replacement with the following provision:

   Exception to Contribution Matching Requirement
   9(1) Where the Evaluation Committee approves any grant for renovations to a revenue-generating facility after May 30, 2024 and prior to January 1, 2028:

      1. The grant amount may exceed 50% of the total cost of the project to a maximum of $100,000; and

      2. The community centre that is the recipient of the grant will not be required to contribute any portion of the total project cost in order to qualify for the grant.

2. That the City Solicitor and Director of Legal Services be instructed to prepare a by-law in accordance with Recommendation 1 and bring same directly to Council for enactment at its May 30, 2024 meeting.

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

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 12, 2024, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the City Centre Community Committee with the following amendments:

- In Recommendation 1, delete the words "verbal report" and replace with "an interim verbal report at the April 16, 2024 meeting of the Executive Policy Committee and a written report in 120 days" and delete the word "considering" and replace with "clarification on the definition of"

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On February 23, 2024, the City Centre Community Committee passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the well-being of volunteers, and voluntary boards are vital to maintaining a healthy recreation system and maintaining city community centres in the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS Council has directed the doubling up of the Community Centre Renovation Grant to fund necessary building envelope repairs and to maintain community centre amenities;

AND WHEREAS long intervals between being funded, receiving funding, and expending funding can result in escalation in costs from contractors;

AND WHEREAS the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centre Boards in District 1 have been applying and receiving grants from the City of Winnipeg but are experiencing barriers and slow response times from the City of Winnipeg, impacting their scope of work and/or their ability to pay;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Centre Community Committee recommends the following to the Executive Policy Committee:

1. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to provide a verbal report back on streamlining and reducing the red tape associated with the Community Centre Renovation Grants for community centres, considering joint procurement, and additional FTE's.