Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – May 22, 2024

REPORTS

Item No. 13 Welcoming Winnipeg – Creating New Marker: Bunibonibee Cree Nation Plane Crash (St. James Ward)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service, as amended, and recommended to Council:

1. That a new permanent monument honouring victims of the 1972 plane crash that killed eight children attending residential schools and the pilot be installed on the Yellow Ribbon Greenway Trail near Linwood Street and Silver Avenue.

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 Mayes,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in, with the following amendment:

- In Recommendation 1, add the words “victims of” immediately prior to “the 1972 plane crash”

and forwarded to Council.

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Welcoming Winnipeg – Creating New Marker: Bunibonibee Cree Nation Plane Crash

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
C. Sveinson	M. Jack	J. Speidel, acting For C. Kloepfer	M. Jack

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 30, 2020, Council passed a motion to adopt the Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy. This 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 Indigenous histories and contributions in the stories remembered and commemorated. Welcoming Winnipeg will proactively utilize a lens of balance, inclusion, and Indigenous perspectives.

On February 12, 2021, a formal Welcoming Winnipeg request form was unveiled to the public; a request to create a new monument to honour a 1972 plane crash in Winnipeg, which was carrying students attending residential schools and bound for Bunibonibee Cree Nation. Tragically, the pilot and students did not survive the crash. While there is a memorial for the victims in Long Plain First Nation, where two of the students attended school, no memorial exists at the crash site.

The Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History policy aligns at a municipal level with Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Call to Action #43 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), particularly Article 15:

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories and aspirations which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.

2. States shall take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding and good relations among Indigenous peoples and all other segments of society.

Funding for this project was secured by the proponent of the project. Any additional incidental costs will be allocated to the Indigenous Relations Division's Journey of Reconciliation budget, up to $5,000.

After careful consideration, the Committee of Community Members (CCM) is recommending that Council support this request.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a new permanent monument honouring the 1972 plane crash that killed eight children attending residential schools and the pilot be installed on the Yellow Ribbon Greenway Trail near Linwood Street and Silver Avenue.

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 January 30, 2020, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee (EPC) that the recommendations of the community member-based committee be forwarded to EPC and then to Council for final decision.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

If the recommendations of this report are approved, a new permanent monument honouring the 1972 plane crash that killed eight children attending residential schools and the pilot will be installed on the Yellow Ribbon Greenway Trail near Linwood Street and Silver Avenue.

Funding for this project was secured by the proponent of the project. Any additional incidental costs will be allocated to the Indigenous Relations Division's Journey of Reconciliation budget, up to $5,000.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

Welcoming Winnipeg History

On January 30, 2020, Council passed a motion to adopt the Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History Policy. This 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 Indigenous histories and contributions in the stories remembered and commemorated. Welcoming Winnipeg will proactively utilize a lens of balance, inclusion, and Indigenous perspectives.

As recommended in this policy, the inaugural Committee of Community Members (CCM) was established in August 2020; a key function of this committee is review requests to change historical or place names and provide a recommendation to the Executive Policy Committee (EPC) and Council for final decision

Considerations for this request

The CCM reviewed the decision-making history and the information provided (summarized in Appendix A). Additionally, the public input that was collected over a two-week period was provided to the CCM to consider as part of their recommendation-making process. An overview of the feedback collected has been included in a Public Engagement Summary Report (Appendix B).

The CCM considered how this request meets the following definition of a “Welcoming Winnipeg” request, which was created through two phases of public engagement in 2019 and was refined by the CCM. A Welcoming Winnipeg request is one that:

- Ultimately achieves a balanced perspective/story;
- Honours Indigenous peoples as the original peoples of this land and the contemporary context in which Indigenous peoples continue to have relationship with this land;
- Promotes Indigenous reclamation of land, space and/or language;
- Offers an educational opportunity; or,
- Supports telling the complete history of Winnipeg.

Utilizing the Welcoming Winnipeg Request Assessment Tool (Appendix C), the CCM identified the following as key considerations:

1. Welcoming Winnipeg
    - This project offers an educational opportunity and supports telling the complete history of Winnipeg: there is currently no memorial in the city that recognizes the accident and many residents know little, if anything about this tragedy.
    - Planes were often the primary means of transportation to some residential schools, especially in the North. In many Indigenous communities, the arrival of a plane signaled the tearing away of children from their families.
        - From 2008 to 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada documented the horrific physical, verbal, emotional and sexual abuse experienced by students who were taken to residential schools. These schools were designed to forcibly erase Indigenous culture, language, spirituality and ways of being.

2. Rationale
    - This plane crash and the death of the children onboard is a devastating event in Winnipeg’s history that is not represented within our city. It also marks another tragedy resulting from the harmful legacy of the residential school system.
    - The new commemorative site and monument will ensure that the names of these children and the devastating impacts of residential schools are remembered as part of Winnipeg’s collective history.

3. Community Support
    - With respect to the public input process, in response to the question: “Do you think the Committee of Community Members should support this request”, 64 percent of respondents said ‘yes’. There were 25 responses received.

4. Other considerations
    - Funding for this project was secured by the proponent of the project.
    - Any additional incidental costs will be allocated to the Indigenous Relations Division’s Journey of Reconciliation budget, up to $5,000.

After careful consideration, the Committee of Community Members (CCM) is recommending that Council support this request.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: April 10, 2024

Project Name:

Welcoming Winnipeg – Creating New Marker: Bunibonibee Cree Nation Plane Crash

First Year of Program **2024**

	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Capital					
Capital Expenditures Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budgeted Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Funding Sources:					
Debt - Internal	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Debt - External	-	-	-	-	-
Grants (Enter Description Here)	-	-	-	-	-
Reserves, Equity, Surplus	-	-	-	-	-
Other - Enter Description Here	-	-	-	-	-
Total Funding	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Total Additional Capital Budget Required	$ -				
Total Additional Debt Required	$ -				
Current Expenditures/Revenues					
Direct Costs	$ 5,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Incremental Revenue/Recovery	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cost/(Benefit)	$ 5,000	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Less: Existing Budget Amounts	5,000	-	-	-	-
Net Budget Adjustment Required	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -

Additional Comments:

Direct costs of $5,000 represents the estimated additional incidental costs to install a new permanent monument on the Yellow Ribbon Greenway Trail as outlined in the report. Funding will come from the Indigenous Relations Division's Journey of Reconciliation budget.

Randy Bernard

Randy Bernard, CPA, CMA
Manager of Finance & Administration (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

- Parks and Open Space (Public Works Department)

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.

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 Division
Prepared by: D. Carriere
Date: April 10, 2024

Attachments:

Appendix A: 2023-003 Request Summary

Appendix B: 2023-003 Public Engagement Summary Report

Appendix C: Welcoming Winnipeg – Request Assessment Tool