Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – May 22, 2024

REPORTS

Item No. 21 Inclusive and Accessible Communications

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Executive Policy Committee received the recommendation of the Human Rights Committee of Council as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Lukes,

That the recommendation of the Human Rights Committee of Council be received as information.

Carried

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 6, 2024, the Human Rights Committee of Council passed the following motion:

WHEREAS the Accessibility & Inclusion Subcommittee of the Human Rights Committee of Council (HRCC) has done some rigorous recruitment and has successfully built a strong subcommittee comprised of accessibility subject matter experts;

AND WHEREAS the Accessibility & Inclusion Subcommittee is made up of passionate people with personal and professional lived experience;

AND WHEREAS the Subcommittee has prioritized three main areas to focus on: built environment, transit and access to communication;

AND WHEREAS the Subcommittee has members from the Deaf and hard of hearing community and they have brought valuable insight to the barriers faced when accessing communication for the City of Winnipeg;

AND WHEREAS per the Accessibility for Manitobans Act (AMA), all documents and information on the Decision-Making Information System should be available in braille and plain language;

AND WHEREAS the HRCC and City of Winnipeg do not currently provide American Sign Language (ASL) for many of their live meetings or public announcements;

AND WHEREAS all live meetings currently are not accessible for Deaf and hard of hearing people;

AND WHEREAS public announcements regarding emergencies and or important update are not currently accessible or inclusive;

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

AND WHEREAS every Winnipegger deserves access to important information;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The Executive Policy Committee be requested to direct the Winnipeg Public Service to report back within 120 days on expanding inclusive and accessible communication offered throughout the City of Winnipeg including:

1. That all documentation published on the Decision-Making Information System be available in braille and plain language.

2. That communications issued by the City of Winnipeg offer image description and pictorial language options as an alternative format.

3. That American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation be provided at all City of Winnipeg service announcements, including emergency advisories and announcements from the Mayor's Office.

4. That ASL interpretation be provided for all public committee meetings including Council, the Executive Policy Committee, Standing Policy Committees, Community Committees and ad-hoc committees of Council, preferably via live-stream, but at a minimum for attendees watching live.

5. That closed captioning be included in all videos produced by the City of Winnipeg.

Doug Momotiuk and Shawna Joynt submitted a communication in support of the matter.