Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – September 17, 2024

REPORTS

Item No. 8 Welcoming Winnipeg – Adding to an Existing Marker (Dr. Jose Rizal) (Point Douglas Ward)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. That a new plaque be installed near the existing monument of Dr. Jose Rizal at Waterford Green Common (north-west of the intersection of Old Commonwealth Path and Dr. Jose Rizal Way).

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 Santos,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in.

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Welcoming Winnipeg – Adding to an Existing Marker (Dr. Jose Rizal)

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
C. Sveinson	S. Armbruster	T. Graham	S. Armbruster, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On January 30, 2020, Council unanimously 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.

A request to add a new plaque near an existing monument of Dr. Jose Rizal at Waterford Green Common was submitted through the online Welcoming Winnipeg request process. Dr. Jose Rizal was a strong advocate for representation of the Philippines in the Spanish Parliament and equal legal rights for Filipino citizens. His literary works served as a catalyst for the widespread resistance against Spanish oppression in the Philippines. Dr. Rizal's arrest and eventual execution on December 30, 1896, further fueled rebellion and intensified the Filipino struggle for liberation.

The new plaque is being donated by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines and the proponent has indicated they have a funding source to complete this project.

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.

After careful consideration, the Committee of Community Members (CCM) recommends that Council approve this request, as it calls attention to the histories and impacts of colonization not just on Turtle Island (North America), but around the world.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That a new plaque be installed near the existing monument of Dr. Jose Rizal at Waterford Green Common (north-west of the intersection of Old Commonwealth Path and Dr. Jose Rizal Way).

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 concurred in, a new plaque will be installed on a pedestal near the existing monument of Dr. Jose Rizal at Waterford Green Common (north-west of the intersection of Old Commonwealth Path and Dr. Jose Rizal Way).

There are no financial implications to the City as the new plaque is being donated by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, is intended to be installed on a new pedestal near the existing monument, and the proponent has indicated on their application they have a funding source to complete this project.

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.

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:

3. 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.

4. 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.

Considerations for this request

The CCM reviewed the decision-making history and the information provided by the applicant (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
    - Offers an educational opportunity: This speaks of the efforts against colonization by a member of the Filipino community that many residents and visitors may not know about.
2. Rationale
    - The people of the Philippines and Indigenous peoples of Canada share some similar experiences and generational impacts of colonization. Both groups maintain their desire to decolonize, and are on their own respective journeys.
    - Honouring Dr. Jose Rizal with this new plaque not only calls attention to the historical impacts of colonization around the world, but also recognizes the people who speak out against colonialism.
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", 86% of respondents said 'yes'. 28 responses were received in total.
4. Other considerations
    - This new plaque is being donated by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines and is intended to be installed on a new pedestal near the existing monument.
    - The proponent has indicated on their application they have a funding source to complete this project.

After careful consideration, the Committee of Community Members (CCM) recommends that Council approve this request, as it calls attention to the histories and impacts of colonization not just on Turtle Island (North America), but around the world.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement **Date:** August 6, 2024

Project Name:
Welcoming Winnipeg – Adding to an Existing Marker (Dr. Jose Rizal)

COMMENTS:

The proponent has indicated on their application they have a funding source to complete this project resulting in no financial impact to the City.

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

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. LG, ER, EP, HW, CB

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. HW, CB

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. LG, HW

6.37 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. ER, HW

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: August 6, 2024
File No: N/A

Attachments:

Appendix A: 2023-005 Request Summary

Appendix B: 2023-005 Public Engagement Summary Report

Appendix C: Welcoming Winnipeg – Request Assessment Tool