Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – January 24, 2025

BUDGET REVIEW

Item No. 4 Seasonal Honorariums for Major Neighbourhood Cleanup Events (CentrePlan 2050 – Downtown Secondary Plan)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Executive Policy Committee received the matter as information.

(See Budget Review Item 13)

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Browaty,
That the matter be received as information.

Carried

COUNCIL DECISION:

On July 18, 2024, concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That first reading be given to CentrePlan 2050 Secondary Plan By-law No. 72/2024 (the "By-law", Appendix B of this report), with the following amendments:

    A. In Section 1.3.2, amend the third bullet point by adding the words "and removes the red tape associated with the Downtown Urban Design Standards" after the words "and predictability"

    B. Delete Section 1.3.4 in its entirety and replace with the following:

        "1.3.4 Review the Urban Design Review process to ensure it is clear, concise, and aligns with the Downtown Urban Design Standards, and first consider if it should be eliminated, in order to make development of greenspace, housing, commercial, and entertainment districts in the downtown faster, more efficient, and more affordable."

2. That, upon instruction from the Director of Planning, Property and Development, the Director of Legal Services and City Solicitor be directed to return the By-law directly to Council for second reading and third reading.

3. That the following actions and funding requests be referred to the 2025 Budget Review Process:

    A. Up to $250,000 for a pilot project to animate Graham Avenue once buses come off the street in June 2025 (coordination work to begin immediately in partnership with key Graham stakeholders), including programming at street level, with a timeline to be provided to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development in June 2025, to coincide with the transit withdrawal.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

B. Up to $1,500,000 for construction and detailed design drawings for Graham Avenue plus a "Graham Avenue Animation Strategy" (both to be implemented in partnership with CentreVenture) that outlines commitments and responsibilities of public, private, and non-profit partners, to ensure the street is a successful, safe, and well-maintained public space year-round.

C. Up to $2,250,000 annually in 2025, 2026, and 2027 to waive/reimburse fees associated with residential development Downtown, in recognition of the increased costs associated with Downtown development. Fees to be reimbursed would include (but may not be limited to) building permits, urban design review, heritage permits, and loss of paid parking for on-street staging.

D. Up to $250,000 to support the development and implementation of a community-focused plan for Thunderbird House and the surrounding area that includes, but is not limited to: safety, site maintenance, housing, single room occupancy (SRO) hotels, expectations for development, public open space, and ongoing support and investment.

E. $46,000 to fund seasonal honorariums for major neighbourhood cleanup events to assist with cleaning the Downtown area.

4. That the Public Service be directed to work with CentreVenture and other governments on the following initiatives, reporting back to Council with updates on the progress of initiative 4.A. through D. below within one year including any budgetary requests:

A. Establish a tri-level agreement with the federal and provincial governments (like the Winnipeg Core Area Initiative model) to assist with CentrePlan 2050 implementation.

B. Create a single window approach for intergovernmental collaboration on housing development Downtown to ensure programs across governments complement and support one another, and to help meet governmental targets for affordable and social housing.

C. Redevelop provincial or crown corporation-owned surface parking lots for residential development.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

D. Develop long-term coordinated development incentives with provincial and federal governments for market and non-market housing to meet our growth targets.

5. That the Public Service be directed to work with the Exchange District Business Improvement Zone to create a collection of linked entertainment spaces that can be managed as a whole, centered around Old Market Square. Approvals and processes would be streamlined to ensure event planning in this area is simple and straightforward.

6. That the Public Service be directed to report back to Council with options for establishing a dedicated long-term funding source for CentrePlan 2050 implementation, including exploring potential models for tripartite/multi-governmental agreements.

7. That the Public Service be directed to provide quarterly verbal progress report to the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development until July, 2025, on ways to make development in the downtown faster, more efficient, and more economical.

8. That the Public Service be directed to report back to the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works on the creation of rideshare curb stops on Portage Avenue.

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