Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – April 22, 2025

REPORTS

Item No. 3 City of Winnipeg Nominee – Inland Port Special Planning Authority Board

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. That James Platt, Senior Planner with the Planning, Property and Development Department, be reappointed as the City of Winnipeg representative to the Inland Port Special Planning Authority Board for a three-year term beginning June 1, 2025, and expiring June 1, 2028.

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 Duncan,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: City of Winnipeg Nominee – Inland Port Special Planning Authority Board

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
H. Borys	H. Borys	T. Graham	S. Armbruster, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Inland Port Special Planning Authority Board (IPSPAB) advises the Province on planning matters within the Inland Port Special Planning Area. James Platt is the City's representative on the IPSAB. His three-year term will expire in June 2025. The Public Service recommends he be reappointed for another three-year term.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That James Platt, Senior Planner with the Planning, Property and Development Department, be reappointed as the City of Winnipeg representative to the Inland Port Special Planning Authority Board for a three-year term beginning June 1, 2025, and expiring June 1, 2028.

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

Section 12.9(1) of *The Planning Act* prescribes the composition of the Inland Port Special Planning Authority, which includes a representative from the City of Winnipeg. James Platt was appointed to the Board for a three-year term beginning June 1, 2022. Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations is asking the City of Winnipeg, via Council resolution, to reappoint James Platt or submit a new nomination to the Board for a three-year term beginning June 1, 2025, and expiring June 1, 2028 (see Attachment A – Letter from Municipal Relations).

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

If the recommendation is concurred in, the Council resolution will be provided to Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations which identifies James Platt, Senior Planner with the Planning, Property and Development Department, as the City’s nominee for appointment to the Inland Port Special Planning Authority by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations of this report.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

The *Planning Act Amendment (Special Planning Areas)* legislation was adopted on March 8, 2016. The legislation created the Inland Port Special Planning Area and the Inland Port Special Planning Authority (IPSPA). It also transferred approving authority for planning and subdivision applications from the Rural Municipality (RM) of Rosser and the South Interlake Planning District (SIPD) to the Minister of Municipal Government (now Municipal and Northern Relations).

The IPSPA advises the Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations on planning matters within the Inland Port Special Planning Area, including development proposals. Within the Inland Port Special Planning Area, the IPSPA will hold public hearings to:

- Consider the adoption of, or amendment to, the development plan by-law or the zoning bylaw, subdivision applications, and the declaration of obsolete plans of subdivision.
- Hear and decide appeals respecting applications for variances.
- Advise and assist the Minister on matters affecting land use planning within the area.
- Perform any other duties assigned to it by the Minister.

Section 12.9(1) prescribes the composition of the IPSPA as follows:

- Two representatives of the RM of Rosser
- One representative of the City of Winnipeg.
- One representative of CentrePort Canada Inc.
- One representative of Winnipeg Airports Authority Inc.
- One representative of the Province of Manitoba.

The City of Winnipeg's representative must be nominated by Council resolution, and this nominee has to be recommended to the Lieutenant Governor in Council by the Minister of Municipal and Northern Relations for appointment to the Authority.

As per Section 12.4(1) of *The Planning Act*, the term of office for a member of the IPSPA is three years.

The three-year term of City's current representative will conclude on June 1, 2025. The City has been asked to recommend that James Platt be reappointed as its representative or nominate a new representative by resolution of Council (see Attachment A – Letter from Municipal and Northern Relations).

MEMBER COMPETENCIES

According to Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations, the following are desirable competencies of IPSPA members:

- Knowledge of issues pertaining to land use planning and sustainable development;
- Ability to think strategically and consider issues from a regional and provincial perspective;
- An understanding of administrative tribunal and appeal procedures is an asset;

- The ability to read and interpret written and visual material and verbal information to ascertain facts and then make and articulate recommendations in a fair and unbiased manner;
- Excellent written and oral communication and active listening skills are required; and
- Legal knowledge would be an asset but is not essential.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

As the IPSPA is expected to operate in a fair, objective and transparent manner, the City of Winnipeg must also consider any real, apparent or potential conflict of interest situations prior to the nomination of any individual. This involves careful consideration to avoid or effectively resolve conflict of interest situations where private or personal interests improperly influence or could reasonably be perceived to improperly influence the performance of a member's duties and responsibilities. IPSPA members will be required to sign a Conflict of Interest Declaration Form.

Board members are eligible for coverage of expenses according to Manitoba's General Manual of Administration.

NOMINEE

James Platt has been a Senior Planner with the City of Winnipeg since 2014 and has been employed as a Planner with the City of Winnipeg since May 2013.

Mr. Platt is a Registered Professional Planner (RPP) and has been a member in good standing of the Manitoba Professional Planners Institute and the Canadian Institute of Planners for over 10 years.

Mr. Platt has in-depth knowledge of the City of Winnipeg strategies, by-laws and regulations related to the capital region, Inland Port Special Planning Area, and airport area. During his time with the City, he has demonstrated this knowledge through his involvement in airport-related secondary plan development and infrastructure studies, the Winnipeg Metropolitan Region's regional growth strategy, and review of land use notifications from capital region municipalities, including the Inland Port Special Planning Area. Mr. Platt was the City of Winnipeg representative on the IPSPA Development Review Committee, which supported the IPSPA Board, from IPSPA inception in 2016 until his initial appointment on the IPSPA Board on June 1, 2022. Mr. Platt has represented the City's interest on the IPSPA Board since June 1, 2022.

Prior to his employment at the City of Winnipeg, Mr. Platt was the Regional Manager of the Provincial Community and Regional Planning (now Manitoba Municipal and Northern Relations) Portage la Prairie Office, where he was the delegated approving authority for development in 21 municipalities, including five in the capital region. Mr. Platt has a strong understanding of capital region land use planning matters.

Mr. Platt has represented the City of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba at Municipal Board hearings.

Mr. Platt holds a Bachelor of Applied Arts Degree in Urban and Regional Planning (Ryerson) and a Master of City Planning Degree in City Planning (Manitoba). Mr. Platt served as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Manitoba's City Planning program for 17 years, from August 2006 to October 2023.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement Date: March 12, 2025

Project Name:

City of Winnipeg Nominee – Inland Port Special Planning Authority Board

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Mike McGinn March 12, 2025
Mike McGinn, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

N/A

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

The Complete Communities Direction Strategy directs the City of Winnipeg to support the role of James Armstrong Richardson International Airport as a major transportation hub for passengers and cargo. Supporting Direction and Enabling Strategies include:

- Collaborate with the Winnipeg Airports Authority on initiatives that capitalize on the airport's capacity to generate strategic economic development.
- Work with the Winnipeg Airports Authority and partners in the realization of the Airport Area as a major centre for goods distribution and manufacturing and airport-related commercial/employment activity.

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

Consideration was given as to whether this report connects to the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) and its Goals and Objectives, and it was determined that the PRS is not applicable to this specific report.

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Planning, Property and Development
Division: Office of the Director
Prepared by: H. Borys
Date: March 12, 2025

Attachments:

Attachment A – Letter from Provincial Municipal and Northern Relations