Minute No. 399
Minutes– Council – July 17, 2025

Report – Executive Policy Committee – July 8, 2025

Item No. 7 Welcoming Winnipeg Policy Review

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the Public Service be granted an extension of time of 90 days to report back on changes to the current Welcoming Winnipeg Policy based on suggestions outlined in the Thematic Interview Report, attached as Appendix A, including the following:

    A. A response document of Welcoming Winnipeg Committee.

    B. A review of existing policies or policy amendments that assist in producing better outcomes, greater alignment and expedition of goals for the Welcoming Winnipeg process in line with the purpose resolving the absence of Indigenous experience, perspectives, and contributions.

    C. A review of Committee of Community Members' terms of reference.

    D. Funding implications of specific actions and policies that may require additional resources.

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

Report – Executive Policy Committee – July 8, 2025

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by His Worship Mayor Gillingham,

That the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 8, 2025, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to Council.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On March 27, 2025, Council adopted the adopted the following,

1. The Public Service be directed to:

    A. Report back to Council in 120 days on changes to the current Welcoming Winnipeg Policy based on suggestions outlined in the Thematic Interview Report, attached as Appendix A, including the following:

        i. A response document of Welcoming Winnipeg Committee.

        ii. A review of existing policies or policy amendments that assist in producing better outcomes, greater alignment and expedition of goals for the Welcoming Winnipeg process in line with the purpose resolving the absence of Indigenous experience, perspectives, and contributions.

        iii. A review of Committee of Community Members' terms of reference.

        iv. Funding implications of specific actions and policies that may require additional resources.

Report – Executive Policy Committee – July 8, 2025

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

COUNCIL DECISION (continued):

B. Enter into a single-source contract with Merrell-Ann Phare, author of the Welcoming Winnipeg Policy: Thematic Interview Report, for consulting services to provide guidance on the implementation of the report's recommendations, including those out of scope of the Welcoming Winnipeg policy such as a review of existing policies or policy amendments that may expedite naming work either inside or outside of the Welcoming Winnipeg process, to be funded by the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

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

NOTICE OF EXTENSION REQUEST

Title: Welcoming Winnipeg Policy Review

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head
C. Sveinson	S. Armbruster

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Service requests that an extension of up to 90 days be granted to report back on the following:

A. Report back to Council in 120 days on changes to the current Welcoming Winnipeg Policy based on suggestions outlined in the Thematic Interview Report, attached as Appendix A, including the following:

i. A response document of Welcoming Winnipeg Committee.

ii. A review of existing policies or policy amendments that assist in producing better outcomes, greater alignment and expedition of goals for the Welcoming Winnipeg process in line with the purpose resolving the absence of Indigenous experience, perspectives, and contributions.

iii. A review of Committee of Community Members' terms of reference.

iv. iv. Funding implications of specific actions and policies that may require additional resources.

REASON FOR THE EXTENSION

A draft administrative report is being prepared. The Public Service requests additional time to complete a comprehensive review of the policy and facilitate thorough consultations with relevant departments and stakeholders.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY

Minutes – Council – March 27, 2025

Minute No. 190

Executive Policy Committee – Notice of Motion

Item No. 1 Welcoming Winnipeg Policy Review

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the motion, as amended, and adopted the following:

1. The Public Service be directed to:

    A. Report back to Council in 120 days on changes to the current Welcoming Winnipeg Policy based on suggestions outlined in the Thematic Interview Report, attached as Appendix A, including the following:

        i. A response document of Welcoming Winnipeg Committee.

        ii. A review of existing policies or policy amendments that assist in producing better outcomes, greater alignment and expedition of goals for the Welcoming Winnipeg process in line with the purpose resolving the absence of Indigenous experience, perspectives, and contributions.

        iii. A review of Committee of Community Members' terms of reference.

        iv. Funding implications of specific actions and policies that may require additional resources.

    B. Enter into a single-source contract with Merrell-Ann Phare, author of the Welcoming Winnipeg Policy: Thematic Interview Report, for consulting services to provide guidance on the implementation of the report's recommendations, including those out of scope of the Welcoming Winnipeg policy such as a review of existing policies or policy amendments that may expedite naming work either inside or outside of the Welcoming Winnipeg process, to be funded by the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

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:

On February 27, 2025, the following Notice of Motion was filed with the Clerk, in accordance with section 17(1) of the Procedure By-law No. 50/2007.

Moved by His Worship Mayor Gillingham,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

WHEREAS Council adopted the Welcoming Winnipeg: Reconciling our History policy on January 30, 2020, an important initiative to ensure Indigenous histories and personages, as the original peoples of Canada, are included in Winnipeg's place names;

AND WHEREAS aspects of the Welcoming Winnipeg initiative have been identified in the past as needing improvement and the five-year mark of the policy's adoption is an opportune moment to amend the policy;

AND WHEREAS Merrell-Ann Phare, B.A., LL.B., L.L.M., of Phare Law Corporation, was commissioned by Mayor Gillingham to ascertain how the policy could be refined;

AND WHEREAS policy feedback was received from Council, Indigenous Relations Division, the Committee of Community Members, the Office of the Mayor and the Chief Administrative Officer as part of that work;

AND WHEREAS the resulting Welcoming Winnipeg Policy: Thematic Interview Report is a useful guiding document that identifies key policy areas requiring attention, foremost among them the need for policy clarity;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Public Service be directed to:

    A. Report back to Council in 120 days on changes to the current Welcoming Winnipeg Policy based on suggestions outlined in the Thematic Interview Report, attached as Appendix A, including the following:

        i. Funding implications of specific actions and policies that may require additional resources;

        ii. clarification that the policy affords equitable opportunity to all communities and groups, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, for park and place renamings;

        iii. a review of existing policies that may overlap with the Welcoming Winnipeg policy;

        iv. Committee of Community Members' terms of reference.

    B. Enter into a single-source contract with Merrell-Ann Phare, author of the Welcoming Winnipeg Policy: Thematic Interview Report, for consulting services to provide guidance on the implementation of the report's recommendations, to be funded by the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

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

In amendment,

Motion 1
Moved by His Worship Mayor Gillingham,
Seconded by Councillor Eadie,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Notice of Motion No. 1 under the Executive Policy Committee, titled 'Welcoming Winnipeg Policy Review', be amended by deleting Recommendation 1.A.ii and replacing with the following:

"ii. a restructuring of the policy to focus exclusively on resolving the absence of Indigenous experience, perspectives and contributions, including recommendations on how to advance and vote on non-Indigenous naming and renaming applications through alternative Council channels."

Withdrawn

In amendment,

Motion 8
Moved by Councillor Rollins,
Seconded by His Worship Mayor Gillingham,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Notice of Motion No. 1 under the Executive Policy Committee, titled 'Welcoming Winnipeg Policy Review', be amended as follows:

- Delete Recommendations 1.A.i-iv., and replace with the following:

  "i. A response document of Welcoming Winnipeg Committee.

  ii. A review of existing policies or policy amendments that assist in producing better outcomes, greater alignment and expedition of goals for the Welcoming Winnipeg process in line with the purpose resolving the absence of Indigenous experience, perspectives, and contributions.

  iii. A review of Committee of Community Members' terms of reference.

  iv. Funding implications of specific actions and policies that may require additional resources."

- In Recommendation 1.B., add the following words after "report's recommendations":

  ", including those out of scope of the Welcoming Winnipeg policy such as a review of existing policies or policy amendments that may expedite naming work either inside or outside of the Welcoming Winnipeg process,"

Carried

The motion for adoption of the item, as amended, was put.

Carried