EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE

QUESTION PERIOD

Minute No. 84
Councillor Benham questioned what federal program would deliver the 17 million dollars to the City of Winnipeg for the capital costs of community centres to which His Worship Mayor Katz replied that the Premier, the President of Treasury, and Mr. Godfrey, have emphatically stated that the 17 millions dollars was available for the City to make use of.

Councillor Benham questioned if the Mayor could site the criteria of any federal program that currently exists to provide cities with the capital costs for community centres to which His Worship advised that the Premier, the President of the Treasury and Mr. Godfrey were waiting for Council to determine what it intends to do with these monies as far as recreational facilities were concerned.

Councillor Benham further questioned if the Mayor could site any federal program at any time which has provided cities with the capital costs for community centres to which His Worship advised that he wasn't aware of such a program, but further reemphasized stated that the funds were available for the City to make use of.

In regards to the Council Seminar held regarding the Public Use Facilities Study (PUFS), Councillor Gerbasi questioned when the Administration would provide Council with a plan and timelines for commencing public consultations on the PUFS recommendations.

His Worship replied that the administration was completing the report in regards to PUFS and that there would be another Council Seminar held early in the New Year for Members of Council to provide input and examine the recommendations.

Noting that since Council had not received the PUFS plan from the administration and had thus not yet made any decisions regarding the plan, Councillor Gerbasi questioned how it was possible for the Mayor to have approached other levels of government with funding requests and questioned whether the requests were generic or specific.

His Worship clarified that both levels of government were waiting for Council to decide what it was going to do and that once a decision was made, the information would be shared with the federal and provincial governments.

Executive Policy Committee – Question Period (continued)

In noting that the Rapid Transit Review Task Force had commenced its meetings, Councillor Benham questioned Councillor Wyatt, as Chair of the Rapid Transit Review Task Force, if the meetings were open to Councillors and the public, to which Councillor Wyatt replied that the task force was currently meeting as an internal group.

Councillor Benham further questioned why the meetings would not be open to the public when Council had just approved a budget for the Task Force to hold public hearings to which Councillor Wyatt replied that the process would be very transparent and that public workshops and consultations were slated for January, 2005. He added that the target work plan indicated that there would be a discussion paper in the spring which would again involve workshops and public dialogue, resulting in two rounds of workshops open to the public. He advised that information would be supplied on the website once the public meetings, dates and locations were determined for January; noting that the website would also have a questionnaire for additional public input.

Councillor Benham inquired if the format of the workshops and public consultations would allow public interest groups, such as the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce, Social Planning Council, Labour Council and others, to present publicly to the task force their views on bus rapid transit in the form of a brief or presentation.

Councillor Wyatt responded that the organizations named by Councillor Benham would probably be approached to make presentation to the task force at a time set aside just for them because of their importance in the community. He further acknowledged that they would have an opportunity to make a presentation or a written submission and would absolutely have, as any other members of the public, a chance to participate. He further stated that the workshops would be done in a format which would allow people to express themselves in smaller groups and that the information would be recorded and considered by the Task Force and Advisory Council.

Councillor Gerbasi asked Councillor Magnifico, as Chair of the Red Tape Commission, what the budget would be for the Red Tape task force and where the money would be taken from. Councillor Magnifico replied that the budget was approximately $120,000 and stated that he believed the bulk of the funds were being allocated from the Mayor's Office accounts.

Councillor Gerbasi requested that the full amount to be expended by the Red Tape Commission and the source of the funds be made public within 30 days.

Councillor Magnifico stated that he could not guarantee that the disclosure would occur within 30 days, but stated that expenditure of the funds would be transparent.

Executive Policy Committee – Question Period (continued)

Councillor Gerbasi questioned if the Task Force intended to be finished the project of reviewing every program, service and aspect of what the City does in six months, to which Councillor Magnifico responded that the commission was talented and dedicated and was working towards the goal of being complete by May 31, 2005.

The Speaker ruled against a third round of questions in accordance with Rule 14.3 of the Procedure By-law.

Moved by Councillor Gerbasi,

That the rule be suspended to allow for a third round of questions.

The motion to suspend the rule was put.

Councillor Clement called for the yeas and nays, which were as follows:-

Yea: Councillors Benham, De Smedt, Gerbasi, Magnifico, Pagtakhan, Smith, Steeves, Thomas and Wyatt. 9

Nay: His Worship Mayor Katz, Councillors Eadie, Clement, Lubosch, Lazarenko and O'Shaughnessy. 6

and the motion for suspension of the rule was declared lost as the 2/3 majority required was not achieved.