Winnipeg

PRESENTATION TO

City of Winnipeg Executive Policy Committee

Concerning the Waverley West development proposal

FROM

Winnipeg Public Library Board

PO Box 1887 Station Main
Winnipeg, MB. R3C 3R2
Phone: (204) 986-8028 Fax: (204) 986-8029
Email: wplboard@winnipeg.ca

January 2005

THIS IS EXHIBIT "44" REFERRED TO
IN FILE NO. EP-1.1 (PW 2/2005)
DATED THIS 4TH DAY OF JAN 2005

CLERK

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Winnipeg Public Library Board has no views one way or the other on the proposal to redesignate Waverley West. However, the board is of the opinion that, should the Waverley West development proceed, an additional branch library will need to be constructed. This represents a cost which should be considered by the proponents, but also an opportunity for achieving a new level of community service.

IN PREPARING THIS REPORT THERE WAS CONSULTATION WITH, AND CONCURRENCY BY:

Winnipeg Public Library Board Executive
Rick Walker, Manager, Winnipeg Public Library

Much of what is included in this presentation was originally gathered in the "Building on Synergies: Library Facilities Study Report [LFSR]", prepared for the Winnipeg Public Library Board by Advanced Strategic Management Consultants, prior to the City's PUF Study.

THIS REPORT SUBMITTED BY:

Winnipeg Public Library Board

Report prepared by:
Ian Walker
Winnipeg Public Library Board Executive Member-at-Large

PRESENTATION

The Winnipeg Public Library board is grateful to the Mayor and Councillors for their support of library services, in particular for the Millennium Library, and the recent increase in the materials budget. We appreciate being involved in focus groups and the ongoing communication re PUFS.

The Winnipeg Public Library Board has no views one way or the other on the proposal to redesignate Waverley West. However, the board is of the opinion that, should the Waverley West development proceed, an additional branch library will need to be constructed. This represents a cost which should be considered by the proponents, but also an opportunity for achieving a new level of community service.

Not counting the Millennium Library, on average each of the existing branch libraries in the library system serves an average population of 34,000. The nearest library, Pembina Trail, serves a population of 35,530. The proposal before us indicates that an additional 30,000 people may eventually live west of Waverley. An additional branch will be needed eventually, based on population growth alone. [LFSR p.26]

The library's branches have demonstrated the flexibility to handle additional circulation during the redevelopment of the Millennium Library. In the early years of development, the existing library facilities in the area could handle an increase in usage; plus he evidence on hand indicates that the demographic profile for Waverley West would be similar to the multi-cultural character of the area served by the Pembina Trail branch. However the growth of Waverley West would eventually require Pembina Trail to nearly double in usage, which is unreasonable; eventually a new branch will be required.

We welcome the redevelopment of the Millennium Library, the centrepiece of the library system. However, branch libraries also play an important role in building neighbourhoods and enhancing the quality of life for all the residents of Winnipeg. *Plan Winnipeg 2020 Vision* speaks of the importance of creating healthy and safe neighbourhoods with a sound infrastructure. Our studies have concluded that 'Branch libraries are viewed as an integral part of the community. They establish a sense of space and create neighbourhood stability. It is clear that the Library must maintain its physical presence within the city's communities and neighbourhoods.' [LFSR p.39]

The optimum location for a branch library is one which is convenient to get to from home or work. As a rule of thumb, the library administration finds that a branch should be located no more than 2.5 km from a residence. Only 1/3 of the Waverley West area would be within this distance to the nearest branch. A new branch library located in the north-west part of Waverley West would also improve service to the Lindenwoods and Whyteridge areas.

The development of Waverley West would permit the realization of the Community Campus concept contained in the Public Use Facilities Study, permitting synergistic programming opportunities. PUFS notes [p. 24] that branch libraries offer and support a significant share of local programming, and are efficient in supporting programs.
[The profile of a new branch library is outlined in the LFSR, [p. 35.] A new library would be either a community library or a neighbourhood library.]

A new facility would provide the opportunity to incorporate the exciting new developments in library design such as have been used in the Millennium Library, and in new construction in other centres such as Vancouver and Montreal. New design techniques have given branches an inviting character that strongly contributes to a sense of community.