Minutes – City Centre Community Committee – September 4, 2026

REPORTS

Item No. 9 Public Space Management Plan

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The City Centre Community Committee recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to develop a Public Space Management Plan establishing a coordinated, proportionate and measurable approach to maintaining safe, accessible and usable public spaces affected by unsheltered homelessness, including:

1. Clear service standards for garbage and debris removal, sanitation and biohazards, accessibility, repairs, safety and restoration.

2. A prioritization framework based on the scale, frequency, severity and persistence of public-space impacts.

3. Clear responsibilities and service intervals for municipal departments and partners responding to public-space impacts.

4. Measurable reporting that demonstrates whether interventions restore public spaces and whether those improvements are sustained, including reporting that distinguishes between temporary clearance, relocation and sustained resolution.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Gilroy,

That Rule 10(3) of The Procedure By-law No. 50/2007 be suspended in order that the following item, which was received less than four business days preceding the committee meeting, be considered by Committee.

Carried

The Chairperson called Councillor Gilroy to the Chair in order to move the following motion:

Moved by Councillor Rollins,

WHEREAS the City of Winnipeg has a responsibility for the management, maintenance, sanitation, accessibility and safe use of public spaces.

AND WHEREAS the City's recent encampment reporting has focused primarily on measures such as encampments cleared and volumes of garbage and debris removed, but does not provide sufficient information to determine whether public spaces have been restored or whether those improvements have been sustained.

AND WHEREAS an encampment being recorded as “cleared” does not necessarily mean that the associated public-space impacts have been resolved, particularly where people return to the same location or the impacts recur.

AND WHEREAS the displacement of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness from one location to another cannot, by itself, be considered a successful public-space management outcome.

AND WHEREAS the scale and frequency of municipal intervention should be proportionate to the size of an encampment and the nature, severity and persistence of its impacts on public space.

AND WHEREAS the absence of sufficient housing or shelter does not remove the City's responsibility to maintain public spaces and requires the City to have clear standards for sanitation, accessibility, safety, maintenance and restoration.

AND WHEREAS other Canadian municipalities are increasingly integrating public-space management with outreach, sanitation, safety and service coordination, including the use of managed or enhanced daytime spaces and community partnerships.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY (continued):

AND WHEREAS Winnipeg's current approach has not demonstrated sufficient capacity to manage public-space impacts at the required scale, including dedicated staffing, outreach, service coordination and other resources;

AND WHEREAS the status quo is not adequately serving residents, people experiencing unsheltered homelessness, frontline organizations, businesses or the City, and Council requires clear and actionable information;

THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Policy Committee be requested to direct the Winnipeg Public Service to develop a Public Space Management Plan establishing a coordinated, proportionate and measurable approach to maintaining safe, accessible and usable public spaces affected by unsheltered homelessness, including:

1. Clear service standards for garbage and debris removal, sanitation and biohazards, accessibility, repairs, safety and restoration.

2. A prioritization framework based on the scale, frequency, severity and persistence of public-space impacts.

3. Clear responsibilities and service intervals for municipal departments and partners responding to public-space impacts.

4. Measurable reporting that demonstrates whether interventions restore public spaces and whether those improvements are sustained, including reporting that distinguishes between temporary clearance, relocation and sustained resolution.

Carried

Councillor Rollins resumed the Chair.