

Attachment A

LORD SELKIRK-WEST KILDONAN COMMUNITY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On March 18, 2022, the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Community Committee recommend to the Governance Committee of Council that Council approve the following as part of the City of Winnipeg Governance Review:

1. Develop a formal orientation process that includes documented Roles and Responsibilities for Members of Council.
 - A. In addition to this already Council approved recommendation, that each department provide an in-depth orientation to its services and budgets to new Councillors, similar to past practice of the Property and Planning Department.
2. Formalize process for requests for information and reports from the Administration.
3. Increase Council access to resources, and improve public accessibility of Council budget information.
 - A. That Councillor's staff and Councillor Ward Allowance resources be increased to bring these resources in line with that of other major Canadian Cities.
4. Establish maximum number of appointments by the Mayor to ensure these appointments plus the Mayor, do not exceed 50% of Council.
 - A. That consideration be given to preventing formal or informal membership of the Executive Policy Committee and the Budget Working Group from exceeding 50% of Council members.
5. Streamline the flow of information and recommendations to Council and ensure all direction by Members of Council to the Administration is recorded as a resolution.
6. Incorporate a mechanism to ensure all wards are reasonably represented on Executive Policy Committee over time.
 - A. That programs, grants, and authority at the discretion of individual Ward Councillors be upheld and bolstered to ensure local proprieties continue to be met and addressed by the area Councillor.
7. That Recommendation 7, as contained in the City of Winnipeg Governance Review be replaced with the following, namely:
 - "7. That Community Committees continue to consider public hearing matters of a local nature."
8. Orient Indigenous Advisory Council to provide advice to Council as a whole.
9. Adjust proposed By-law amendment for Council Leaves of Absence.

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10. Increase accessibility of Council meeting information to the public.
 - A. That consideration be given in future years' operating budgets to fund improvements and upgrades to the City Clerk's Decision Making Information System to increase accessibility to the public.
11. Enable delegations to present to the Committee or Council after the Administration report on an item.
12. Increase accessibility of Council decision-making and public engagement processes to marginalized groups.
 - A. That a further study be undertaken to examine how marginalized groups can be engaged and their accessibility be increased.
13. Ensure the results of public input on a matter before Council are readily accessible to Council.
14. Establish an overarching Council approved strategic plan, including a framework to annually monitor progress, review priorities and renew the plan at least with each term of Council.
 - A. That the need for a multi-year Council approved Strategic Plan and Framework be enshrined in the City of Winnipeg Charter.
15. Streamline the Development Application Process.
16. That comments contained in the attachment entitled Lord Selkirk – West Kildonan Community Committee Commentary be reviewed by the Governance Committee of Council.

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Lord Selkirk – West Kildonan Community Committee Commentary

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Lord Selkirk – West Kildonan Community Committee advises and recommend to the Governance Committee of Council that Council approve the following as part of the City of Winnipeg Governance Review:

1. Develop a formal orientation process that includes documented Roles and Responsibilities for Members of Council.

In addition to this already Council approved recommendation, the LSWKCC recommends each department provide an in depth orientation to its services and budgets to new councillors similar to past practice of the Property and Planning Department.

2. Formalize process for requests for information and reports from Administration.

This recommendation is essential for ward offices to accomplish the many responsibilities of the Council member to the ward and city.

3. Increase Council access to resources, and improve public accessibility of Council budget information.

Over the last eight years, given the increased administrivia related to all the ethical conduct, openness, transparency and accountability, councillor offices are in need of specialized staffing for research and other policy supports to make good decisions that effect the people in their wards. And, given access to various data/information systems to councillor offices, there is a need to have human resources to reduce the work load on public servants to provide and synthesize all the open data now available. Another factor is the increased size of the wards making it more difficult to communicate with the public. The recommendation on marginalized groups brings into focus the ability to educate these groups on how to understand and participate in the budget process. It is one thing to provide a bunch of numbers and another to explain the interrelationship between all the city entities in a billion-dollar budget.

LSWKCC recommends that Councillor's staff and Councillor Ward Allowance resources be increased to bring these resources in line with that of other major Canadian Cities.

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4. Establish maximum number of appointments by Mayor to ensure these appointments plus the Mayor, do not exceed 50% of Council.

Given there is no recommendation to change the EPC power structure, Council needs to ensure the intent of the City of Winnipeg Charter is upheld in that EPC's decisions should not have majority votes already in place to ensure democracy flourishes.

5. Streamline the flow of information and recommendations to Council and ensure all direction by Members of Council to the Administration is recorded as a resolution.

LSWKCC supports this recommendation.

6. Incorporate a mechanism to ensure all wards are reasonably represented on EPC over time.

Given there is no recommendation to change the power structure for EPC, being the Mayor's domain, there is little use in expecting each ward to be represented on EPC as the expectation on EPC is to follow the Mayor's lead which may not correspond to a councillor's political commitments causing disfunction on EPC. A better way to deal with ward representation is to stop the erosion of budget programs that give a councillor some autonomy in serving their residents and businesses. When it comes to policies and legislation, there is plenty of opportunity to a councillor to give appropriate direction ultimately subject to a democratic vote, especially if a ward office is appropriately resourced.

7. Discontinue Community Committee role in the Development Application Process.

There is a lot to say and consider when changing DASZ applications with LSWKCC councillors divided to some degree on this topic of a planning commission versus community committee and other committees being involved. Community committees can work well with changes to the path to Council where the final by-law decisions happen. There is a lot of work happening on the part of the Public Service to make improvements in the Review's Recommendation "15", and this effort will ensure appropriate information is on the table when community committees have to make a decision on an application. The Public Service right now are experts in the many matters related to a DASZ and secondary plans etc. One issue raised that needs to change is the added conditional uses and variances to a DASZ are on a different path, and LSWKCC believes the combined hearing matters should go together in a fashion that allows for some kind of appeal to Council. LSWKCC recommends that Community Committees continue to be the hearing bodies for public hearing matters that are of a local nature, as outlined in current By-laws, and that any final decisions do not proceed on the basis that somehow councillors do not have the technical ability to make proper decisions which is falsely described in the MNP Governance Review related to.

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8. Orient Indigenous Advisory Council to provide advice to Council as a whole.

LSWKCC is in full support of this recommendation.

9. Adjust proposed By-law amendment for Council Leaves of Absence.

This recommendation is fine.

10. Increase accessibility of Council meeting information to the public.

Our Clerks Department has thoroughly gone over the needed improvements to modernize Winnipeg's DMIS system which has been a leader on such systems since its inception in the late 1990's. DMIS is essential in the Mayor's goal of openness, transparency and accountability of Council and the city. LSWKCC strongly recommends that consideration be given in future Operating Budgets to approve funds to upgrade the Decision Making Information System.

11. Enable delegations to present to the Committee or Council after the Administration report on an item.

This recommendation allows the public to present a more informed position to a committee, and LSWKCC supports any method that can make this recommendation happen in an efficient and effective manner.

12. Increase accessibility of Council decision-making and public engagement processes to marginalized groups.

The feasibility of such a recommendation is beyond any description in the Governance Review. There needs to be a separate study on how to accomplish something a marginalized group may not care about. Marginalized groups empower themselves when any government is doing something to antagonize them. In terms of not being interested in civic government, councillor experiences can improve participation by actually being out there on the streets acting on their behalf. From 2010 to 2014, the voter turn out was much higher in marginalized areas in Mynarski for example.

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13. Ensure the results of public input on a matter before Council are readily accessible to Council.

There is has been a huge improvement in this reporting, and LSWKCC supports continuous improvement in disseminating the results.

14. Establish an overarching Council approved strategic plan, including a framework to annually monitor progress, review priorities and renew the plan at least with each term of Council.

LSWKCC recommends that the overarching Council approved strategic plan is established in the City of Winnipeg Charter with a description of how all Council members will be involved in formulating the plan before it goes to Council for a vote unlike the budget that is presented to Council by EPC under the Charter.

15. Streamline the Development Application Process.

Total support including streamlining a DASZ from community committee to Council.