

Councillor H. Gough – Statutory and Other Council-Appointed Boards Reporting to Council and Committees

ISSUE

What are the mechanisms for statutory and other Council-appointed boards to report to Council and Committees?

BACKGROUND

At its meeting held on [November 12, 2019](#), the Governance and Priorities Committee (“GPC”) resolved:

“That the Administration report back on the mechanisms for Statutory and other Council-appointed Boards to report to Council and Committees with particular consideration of speaking time limits and further that the report consider the distinction between reporting of new business or follow up on ongoing files.”

CURRENT STATUS

The Procedures and Committees Bylaw, 2014 (the “Bylaw”) provides that the time allowed for each person speaking to Council shall be five minutes excluding any time spent answering questions. There is no exception for statutory and other Council-appointed boards. In addition, there is no distinction between reporting on new business or follow up on ongoing files.

It has been normal practice to allow the statutory boards and controlled corporations more than five minutes to present at budget during the Council budget meetings.

The Bylaw does allow for suspension of the rules by a unanimous vote of the Council members present at the Council meeting.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS

The procedure bylaws of Calgary, Edmonton and Regina were reviewed. None of these cities appear to distinguish between city-related organizations and other people with respect to speaking time limits.

The current rules have been in place for several years and from the Administration’s perspective have worked adequately. In addition, the current speaking limits specifically exclude the time required to answer questions from members of Council. Council is always entitled to ask appropriate questions of any speaker to ensure they have all the necessary facts to make a decision. There is also the option for Council to consider suspension of the rules, if necessary, as allowed in the Bylaw.

Further, none of the cities reviewed had a distinction with respect to reporting of new business or follow up on ongoing files.

The City has many related organizations and/or members of the public who provide services to the City of Saskatoon. The Friends of the Gordie Howe Bowl Foundation is such an example. Council also appoints a representative to that Board. There are other such examples. Without clear rules as to speaking limits it may cause confusion as to when the rules apply, and to which organizations.

The Administration is not recommending changes to the Bylaw at this time. If GPC wants to recommend changes to Council, we would suggest that the names of specific entities that are intended to be exempt from the speaking limits in the Bylaw be specifically placed in the Bylaw to provide clarity.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

There are no privacy, financial, legal, social or environmental implications identified.

NEXT STEPS

There are no next steps.

Report Approval

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