

Inquiry - Councillor M. Loewen - Representation at Meetings from Controlled Corporations and Other External Entities

ISSUE

The City of Saskatoon has established various controlled corporations and other bodies to manage City-owned facilities or deliver services on its behalf. Occasionally, matters end up on a City Council or committee meeting agenda which require the perspective and expertise of the board of the administration of a particular controlled corporation or similar agency. Council's procedure bylaw does not compel representatives of these organizations to attend such meetings. However, the Office of the City Clerk has implemented an internal remedy to address this issue.

BACKGROUND

The Standing Policy Committee on Finance, at its meeting held on August 17, 2020 considered meeting procedures of one of the controlled corporations and received questions that could not be answered for there was no representation present at the meeting. As a result, Councillor M. Loewen made the following inquiry:

"That the Administration report back regarding the possibility of refining Committee procedures in order to ensure that when necessary, representatives from controlled corporations and other external entities with business before a City Committee are available to answer questions of Committee. This could be achieved either by indicating committee's wishes prior to the meeting regarding attendance, making attendance a standard requirement, or through other mechanisms."

As follow up to the Standing Policy Committee on Finance meeting, the City Clerk's Office communicated with the controlled corporation to confirm that representation was present at the Regular Business Meeting of City Council held on August 31, 2020. This ensured that the questions of the Committee could be addressed by a corporate representative.

CURRENT STATUS

The Administration has a regular process where communication to the controlled corporations and other external entities is made when a matter arises in relation to their corporation, with a request that representation be present at the meeting in the event that questions arise.

This practice has been implemented as an internal policy on a go forward basis, and while there may be cases where an external organization is unable or does not wish to have representation, the opportunity and request will have been made.

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The Leadership Team Governance Subcommittee does not recommend a change to *The Procedures and Committees Bylaw, 2014* at this time. We will continue to monitor the issue. However, a formal change to the Bylaw would be of little benefit in compelling third parties to attend meetings in any event.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications.

NEXT STEPS

No next steps are required.

Report Approval

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