

CITY HALL Roundup

Councillors can give back cash

A city committee says any unspent funds from a councillor's discretionary ward budget can be returned at the end of the year. Coun. Paula Havixbeck (Charleswood-Tuxedo) told council's governance committee she would like to return the additional \$40,000 allocated to her discretionary ward budget this year. Havixbeck said she returned about \$9,000 in unspent funds in 2012 and does not need the additional funds, saying the increase has become a "lightning rod" for public criticism.

This year, councillors will have \$114,000 to spend in their annual ward budgets after city council approved a \$40,000 increase.

Governance chairman Coun. Grant Nordman said the current policy is for councillors to return any unspent funds at the end of the year.

Coun. Harvey Smith (Daniel McIntyre) said it seems Havixbeck is just trying to keep the issue in the news and create a news story.

All that's wrong with the Cube

THE city will draft a comprehensive list of deficiencies at the Cube by next month.

On Thursday, council's downtown development committee asked Winnipeg's public administration to put together a complete list of things that need to be fixed at the Cube outdoor stage in the Exchange. There are numerous problems that need to be repaired before the stage can be fully functional — including the metal curtain and lights that don't work.

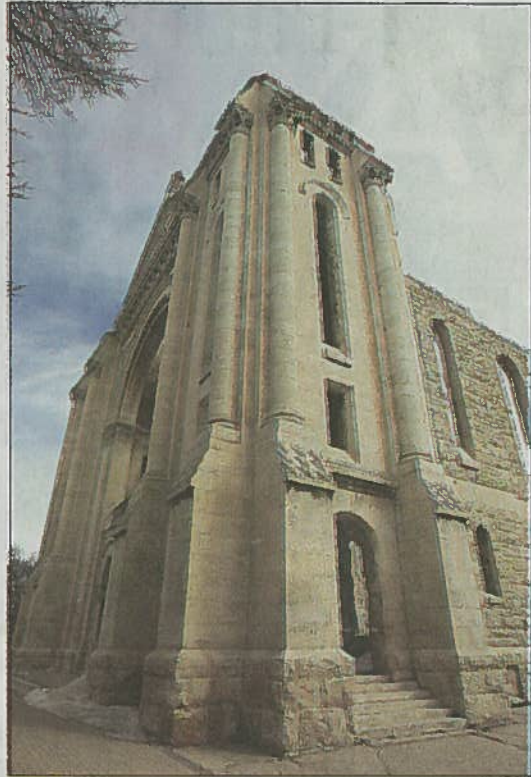
Downtown development chairman Coun. Mike Pagtakhan said there are problems with the curtain, and he's heard about rivets popping and electronic issues with the lights. He said he wants to see the Cube's issues resolved once and for all.

Last year, two weeks of performances were cancelled after the Cube's metal curtain was deemed unsafe to operate when too many rivets popped.

Standard criteria for grants?

WINNIPEG will examine whether it should develop standard criteria for awarding funding grants.

On Thursday, Coun. Paula Havixbeck (Charleswood-Tuxedo) urged council's finance committee to ask city administration to develop criteria for



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St. Boniface Cathedral needs improvements.

funding grants, including requiring museums, arts and other non-profits to provide annual financial statements and explain whether the grant is for one-time funding or an ongoing need.

The committee voted in favour of exploring the idea and finance chairman Coun. Russ Wyatt (Transcona) said the hope is the criteria could be part of Winnipeg's next budget process. He said the city gives organizations tens of millions of dollars, and it's a good idea to look at the grants and their purpose.

Committee OK's cathedral grant

COUNCIL'S downtown development committee approved a plan to give a \$350,000 heritage conservation grant to St. Boniface Cathedral.

A city report said St. Boniface Cathedral has requested \$350,000 in financial assistance from all three levels of government to help protect and preserve the cathedral's integrity and stability. The report said the cathedral's capital campaign is \$6 million to help replace the metal roof and altar window, restore the 1908 ruins and conduct major upgrades to the electrical and mechanical systems.

The plan still has to be approved by executive policy committee and city council.

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