



Community Services Standing Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Time: 9:00 o'clock a.m.

Members Present:

Councillors

Ward 3 – Councillor Renaldo Agostino

Ward 4 – Councillor Mark McKenzie

Ward 5 - Councillor Ed Sleiman (Chairperson)

Ward 6 - Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

Councillor Regrets

Ward 2 - Councillor Fabio Costante

PARTICIPATING VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE ARE THE FOLLOWING FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant

ALSO PARTICIPATING IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ARE THE FOLLOWING FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Andrew Daher, Commissioner, Human & Health Services

Ray Mensour, Commissioner, Community Services

Jen Knights, Executive Director, Recreation & Culture

James Chacko, Executive Director, Parks & Facilities

Tanya Antoniw, Executive Director, Employment & Social Services

Kirk Whittal, Executive Director, Housing & Children Services

Alina Sirbu, Executive Director, Long Term Care & Administration

Michael Chantler, Acting Chief Executive Officer – Windsor Public Library

Stephen Laforet, Fire Chief

Emilie Dunnigan, Manager Development Revenue & Financial Administration

Stephen Lynn, Manager Social Policy & Planning

Linda Higgins, Manager, Intergovernmental Funding, Employment, Society & Health

Jennifer Tanner, Manager, Homelessness & Housing Support

Charmaine Valbuena, Coordinator Social Planning

Doran Anzolin, Executive Initiatives Coordinator

Samantha Magalas, Executive Initiatives Coordinator

Anna Ciacelli, Deputy City Clerk

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair calls the meeting of the Community Services Standing Committee to order at 9:00 o'clock a.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None disclosed.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

3.1. Adoption of the Community Services Standing Committee minutes of its meeting held March 6, 2024.

Moved by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac
Seconded by: Councillor Mark McKenzie

THAT the minutes of the Community Services Standing Committee meeting held March 6, 2024 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

Report Number: SCM 67/2024

4. REQUEST FOR DEFERRALS, REFERRALS OR WITHDRAWALS

None requested.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None presented.

6. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

None presented.

7. COMMITTEE MATTERS

7.1. Minutes of the Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan's Regional Systems Leadership Table of its meeting held December 12, 2023.

Moved by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac
Seconded by: Councillor Mark McKenzie

Decision Number: **CSSC 245**

THAT the minutes of the Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Plan's Regional Systems Leadership Table meeting held December 12, 2023 **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

Report Number: SCM 102/2024

7.2. Minutes of the Meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, Willistead Manor Inc., held February 8, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac
Seconded by: Councillor Mark McKenzie

Decision Number: **CSSC 246**

THAT the minutes of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, Willistead Manor Inc. meeting held February 8, 2024 **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

Report Number: SCM 82/2024

7.3. Minutes of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee of its meeting held February 20, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac
Seconded by: Councillor Mark McKenzie

Decision Number: **CSSC 247**

THAT the minutes of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting held February 20, 2024 **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

Report Number: SCM 61/2024

7.4. Minutes of the Committee of Management for Huron Lodge of its meeting held March 7, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac
Seconded by: Councillor Mark McKenzie

Decision Number: **CSSC 248**

THAT the minutes of the Committee of Management for Huron Lodge meeting held March 7, 2024 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 96/2024

8. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

8.1. 2024 Run With Responders and Tug Across the River - City Wide

Moved by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

Seconded by: Councillor Mark McKenzie

Decision Number: **CSSC 240**

THAT City Council **SUPPORT** the Run with Responders and Tug Across the River event (the "Events") hosted by Windsor Fire & Rescue to take place in Windsor on July 28, 2024; and,

THAT the Fire Chief be **AUTHORIZED** to sign all documents required for the Events to take place subject to their being satisfactory in financial content to the City Treasurer and satisfactory in legal form to the City Solicitor; and,

Whereas on February 2, 2024, the 2024 Capital Budget was deemed approved via Mayoral decision MD05-2024 with no funding being allocated for this event and subsequently City Council **SUPPORT** an expenditure up to \$10,000 be it further resolved,

THAT the City Treasurer **BE DIRECTED** to create a new capital project under Windsor Fire and Rescue for tracking purposes; and,

THAT the City Treasurer **BE DIRECTED** to transfer up to \$10,000 from the Tourism Development Infrastructure & Program (Fund 214) to the newly set up capital project.

Carried.

Report Number: C 46/2024

Clerk's File: SR/14717

8.2. Derwent Park – Approval of the Masterplan – Ward 8

Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac inquires whether the Cricket Organization in the City of Windsor has come forward with any fundraising efforts on their behalf. James Chacko, Executive Director Parks and Facilities, appears before the Community Services Standing Committee regarding the Administrative report "Derwent Park – Approval of the Masterplan – Ward 8" and indicates that

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members of the cricket community have expressed enthusiasm in supporting funding for the project but have not yet had concrete discussions until direction from council is received.

Councillor Mark McKenzie inquires about the difference between what is proposed at Derwent Park and what is currently being done at Optimist Memorial Park. Mr. Chacko indicates that at Optimist Memorial Park pitch is currently being replaced in consultation and in collaboration with a couple of the cricket stakeholders that are contributing funding. The difference is that the Optimist Park pitch is not full regulation size. The Derwent Park pitch will be regulation size. Mr. Chacko adds that the demand for cricket fields has exploded, and current locations are fully subscribed to.

Councillor Mark McKenzie inquires as to the reasoning why Derwent Park is the selected location and not Forest Glade Optimist Park as it is more centrally located. Mr. Chacko responds that Parks & Recreation Administration met with several ward councillors at the time and Derwent Park straddles Ward 7 & 8 boundary and is close to Ward 9 and the Expressway and was deemed easily accessible and also had under-utilized space. Mr. Chacko adds that the Installation of the cricket pitch would see the illumination of several well-used baseball diamonds as well and it is a good way to activate the unused space.

Councillor Mark McKenzie comments that from a walkability standpoint, the park is not as easily accessible.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino inquires whether this will be the only full-sized regulation pitch in the City of Windsor. Mr. Chacko responds that this will be the only full-sized pitch.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino inquires whether the City anticipates hosting tournaments and events. Mr. Chacko responds that future phases of the project will see the installation of field lighting, which will encourage hosting out of town teams, and the potential of partnering with St. Clair College and the University of Windsor. Mr. Chacko adds that this is seen as a gateway to seeing additional cricket and tournament play in the City of Windsor.

Councillor Ed Sleiman inquires whether there are other places for residents in the county to practice and play. Mr. Chacko responds that in the county, there are some under-sized pitches, but the majority of players and users are using Windsor pitches and are mostly from the Windsor, Lasalle and Tecumseh area. There is a large international student population that is using the space and there is a growing trend and usage in this sport.

Moved by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

Seconded by: Councillor Mark McKenzie

Decision Number: **CSSC 241**

- I. THAT Council **SUPPORT** the conceptual masterplan for Derwent Park as shown in Appendix A of this report which would require additional capital expenditures beyond Phase 1, which is funded in the 10-year capital plan, and further as it relates to Phase 1 of the plan:
- II. THAT City Council **PRE-APPROVE** and **AWARD** any procurement(s) necessary that are related to the installation of the cricket pitch including the fencing, player benches and

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irrigation system, provided that the procurement(s) are within approved budget amounts, pursuant to the Purchasing By-Law 93-2012 and amendment thereto, satisfactory in legal content to the City Solicitor, in financial content to the City Treasurer and in technical content to the Executive Director of Parks and Facilities; and further,

- III. THAT the Purchasing Manager **BE AUTHORIZED** to issue Purchase Orders as may be required to effect the Recommendations noted above, subject to all specifications being satisfactory in financial content to the City Treasurer, and in technical content to the Executive Director of Parks and Facilities; and further,
- IV. THAT the Chief Administrative Officer and City Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to sign any required documentation, satisfactory in legal content to the City Solicitor, in financial content to the City Treasurer and technical content to the Executive Director of Parks and Facilities; and,
- V. THAT Administration **BE AUTHORIZED** to use available funds within the project budget for any amendment(s) or change requirement(s)/directive(s) and additional documents relating to executed agreement(s), pursuant to the Purchasing By-Law 93-2012 and amendments thereto, satisfactory in legal content to the City Solicitor, in financial content to the City Treasurer, and in technical content to the Executive Director of Parks and Facilities; and further,

Whereas, on February 2, 2024, the 2024 10-year capital budget was approved via Mayoral Decision MD05-2024 which included an amount of \$1,000,000 for the implementation of Phase 1 be it further resolved:

- VI. THAT City Council **APPROVE** a pre-commitment of \$1,000,000 in 2025 Canada Community-Building Fund, Fund 176, funding from the Cricket Pitch behind Safety Village project, PFO-002-24, so that funding is made available for immediate use; and further,
- VII. THAT the City Treasurer **BE DIRECTED** to bring forward a capital budget issue in the amount estimated to be \$6,528,000 as part of the 2025 10-year capital plan for consideration; and,
- VIII. THAT administration **BE DIRECTED** to begin seeking out corporate sponsorship funding for future phases of the Derwent Park project.

Carried.

Report Number: S 37/2024
Clerk's File: SR/14766

8.3. South Cameron Park Trails – Approval of the Conceptual Plan – Ward 10

Moved by: Councillor Mark McKenzie
Seconded by: Councillor Renaldo Agostino

Decision Number: **CSSC 242**

THAT On February 2, 2024, the 2024 10-year capital budget was approved via Mayoral Decision MD05-2024 which did not include any amount for the implementation of the South Cameron Conceptual Trail Plan; be it further resolved,

- I. THAT Council **SUPPORT** the South Cameron Conceptual Trail Plan as shown in Appendix A of this report which would require additional expenditures which are not currently included in the 10-year capital plan; and further,
- II. THAT the City Treasurer **BE DIRECTED** to bring forward a capital budget issue in the amount estimated to be \$2,634,240 as part of the 2025 10-year capital plan for consideration.

Carried.

Report Number: S 38/2024
Clerk's File: SR2024

8.4. Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety & Well-Being Plan Update

Moved by: Councillor Renaldo Agostino
Seconded by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

Decision Number: **CSSC 243** CSSC 226

THAT the report of the Manager of Social Policy & Planning dated April 11, 2024 entitled "Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety & Well-Being Plan Update - City Wide" **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried.

Report Number: S 53/2024, SCM 42/2024 & SCM 365/2023
Clerk's File: SS/14026

8.5. Asylum Claimants Transferred to Windsor Hotels by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Update – City Wide

Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac requests that Administration summarize the report. Andrew Daher, Commissioner, Health & Human Services appears before the Community Services Standing Committee regarding the Administrative report "Asylum Claimants Transferred to Windsor Hotels by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Update – City Wide" and provides a brief summary of the report, including the Federal Government contacted the City of Windsor to ask if the municipality would assist in taking on some of the asylum claimants; the Government would be funding the hotels and meals for these individuals; a few hundred turned into about 1400 at its peak; the government has been working with other municipalities to redistribute the number of

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asylum claimants; The City of Windsor provided a resolution from council that stated that we cannot accept any more claimants; Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) acknowledged the resolution and as a result the numbers in these hotels have decreased; there are about 840 claimants currently in the City of Windsor; administration has been working closely over the last year to find a pathway for the claimants so that they do not go into the shelter system; IRCC was contacted to request that they take on some of the individuals into the hotels where there is already available capacity; this step prevented about 100 individuals from entering emergency shelters; Federal funding that was received covered the cost of incurred expenses for emergency shelters. Mr. Daher indicates that signatures and authority are required in order to receive that same funding again this year. IRCC has already extended agreements with the hotels until June 30th and a further extension to September 30th is expected.

Councillor Ed Sleiman inquires whether the government has provided asylum seekers with employment. Mr. Daher responds that since July of 2023, they were able to get about 75 claimants into training with a large majority gaining employment. Mr. Daher adds that not all claimants are able to work due to a language barrier. The City is working with newcomer service providers to ensure they are providing support that they need in order to get acclimated into our environment. The City has deployed it's Ontario Works team, have received provincial funding to have a specialized team to help with applications that are forwarded to the employment team.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino inquires whether the City is receiving enough government funding in order to support the current services being offered. Mr. Daher responds that it is adequate. The IRCC is providing the funding for the housing as well as meals throughout the day. There are some ancillary services still needed, such as Legal Assistance Windsor-Essex (LAW) who are advocating for funding. Mr. Daher indicates that the biggest concern is what happens if the hotels are no longer being funded. The Peel region is looking at a reception centre where they will be triaged and provided with immediate supports.

Renaldo Agostino inquires as to how many rooms are occupied downtown. Mr. Daher responds that there are about 436 between two hotels.

Councillor Mark McKenzie inquires as to how many of these individuals are staying in Windsor-Essex and how many are leaving. Stephen Lynn, Manager Social Policy & Planning, appears before the Community Services Standing Committee regarding the Administrative report "Asylum Claimants Transferred to Windsor Hotels by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Update – City Wide" and indicates that they found that there was a lot of movement to other communities across Ontario to where other friends or family members were located. Once they leave the hotels, they are not able to return.

Councillor Mark McKenzie inquires whether the goal is to get these individuals on Ontario Works so that they can be free to find alternative housing or leave the municipality. Mr. Lynn indicates that they are staying in the hotels because they are seeking asylum and are awaiting their applications to be reviewed by the Immigration Refugee Board. Some of these individuals have had their applications approved and they move into a Permanent Resident status. They are no longer

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eligible to receive supports at the hotel at that time. The real goal is that individuals leverage their work permit to be able to sustain themselves by obtaining a job and not relying on Ontario Works.

Councillor Mark McKenzie inquires whether these individuals are moving out of the hotels, if there are new people coming in to take their spot. Mr. Lynn indicates that the number of rooms hasn't changed. When people left, the rooms were filled by IRCC as they became available.

Councillor Mark McKenzie inquires whether the City had set a limit on the number of claimants. Mr. Lynn indicates that there was a limit on the number of rooms, but not on the number of claimants.

Councillor Mark McKenzie inquires whether the funding for hotels is likely to continue past June. Mr. Lynn indicates that the hotels have a contract for an additional 3 months. The Federal counterparts are aware that this is not a sustainable model for long-term. The City needs to be included in any plans to change course from the Federal government so as to mitigate any risk to our shelter system. The City is working together with several network partners that support these individuals as they continue on the pathway to permanent residence. The Interim Housing Assistance Program (IHAP) funding of \$1.1 Billion is directly to support municipalities with respect to housing and shelter for claimants.

Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac inquires whether the Federal government is funding the Peel model. Mr. Daher indicates that that it is in concept and hasn't yet been approved, the proposal is being brought forward to the Federal and Provincial government and Ministry of Health for funding.

Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac inquires whether refugees from the west coast and Quebec are being directed to similar hubs elsewhere. Mr. Daher indicates that the majority are coming through Toronto at Pearson Airport and are from within Ontario.

Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac inquires whether municipalities have a choice in the types of skills that are needed for the area. Mr. Daher indicates that there was a formula that a certain percentage would be directed to our area, but not based on skills needs. The overall impact was the biggest concern in terms of permanent housing.

Councillor Ed Sleiman inquires whether asylum seekers are coming from all over the world or a specific region. Mr. Daher responds that they are coming from war-torn countries and countries of civil unrest.

Councillor Mark McKenzie inquires whether the City of Windsor has a choice of which hotels these claimants go to. Mr. Lynn indicates that the Federal government through the IRCC and submits requests for proposals for the hotels to bid on.

Councillor Mark McKenzie inquires whether the municipality has an opportunity to speak up and request that hotels that wouldn't have a direct effect on tourism be chosen instead. Mr. Daher responds that the government is looking at hotels that have a large number of rooms in one location so that they can operate more efficiently. Mr. Daher adds that they can bring that request back to the Federal government if that is the direction of council.

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Moved by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac
Seconded by: Councillor Mark McKenzie

Decision Number: **CSSC 244**

THAT the report of the Manager, Social Policy & Planning dated March 18, 2024 entitled “Asylum Claimants Transferred to Windsor Hotels by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Update – City Wide” **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,

THAT the Commissioner of Human and Health Services **BE AUTHORIZED** to approve and submit applications and related submissions and sign Ministry funding letters or agreements and amendments to Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (the “IRCC”), or any other Ministry as required, to secure funding related to asylum claimants and other newcomer populations, provided they are in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, satisfactory in content to the City Treasurer, and technical content to the Executive Director of Housing and Children’s Services; and,

THAT the Commissioner of Human and Health Services **BE AUTHORIZED** to allocate funding approved by the IRCC, or any other Ministry as required, and execute, sign, amend and terminate agreements with Purchase of Service agencies to support asylum claimants and other newcomer populations provided the agreement does not exceed the funding provided by the agreement or as allocated in the approved City budget in each respective year, and provided they are in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, satisfactory in content to the City Treasurer, and technical content to the Executive Director of Housing and Children’s Services; and,

THAT City Council **AUTHORIZE** the Executive Director of Housing & Children’s Services to sign financial reports in consultation with the Manager of Intergovernmental Funding, and to sign administrative reports or other documents to remain in compliance as required under the funding agreement, and where the funding agreement(s) requires City Treasurer to attest to financial reports, that the City Treasurer, or designate, **BE AUTHORIZED** to sign; and,

THAT administration **BE DIRECTED** to contact the federal government to determine whether they would consider selecting hotels that wouldn’t have such a direct impact on City of Windsor tourism and whether they would consider splitting up the number of rooms into 3 or 4 smaller hotels instead of a large number in one hotel.

Carried.

Report Number: S 39/2024
Clerk’s File: GF/14750

9. QUESTION PERIOD

None registered.

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10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting of the Community Services Standing Committee is adjourned at 9:42 o'clock a.m. The next meeting of the Community Services Standing Committee will take place on Wednesday, June 5, 2024

Carried.

Councillor Sleiman (Chairperson)

Deputy City Clerk / Supervisor of Council Services