

Community Services Standing Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2024

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

Members Present:

Councillors

Ward 2 - Councillor Fabio Costante

Ward 3 - Councillor Renaldo Agostino

Ward 4 - Councillor Mark McKenzie

Ward 5 - Councillor Ed Sleiman (Chairperson)

Ward 6 - Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

PARTICIPATING VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE ARE THE FOLLOWING FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Rob Martini, Council Assistant

ALSO PARTICIPATING IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ARE THE FOLLOWING FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Andrew Daher, Commissioner, Human & Health Services

Kirk Whittal, Executive Director, Housing & Children's Services

Jen Knights, Executive Director, Recreation & Culture

Karen Alexander, Naturalist & Outreach Coordinator

James Chacko, Executive Director, Parks & Facilities

Alina Sirbu, Executive Director, Long Term Care / Administration

Michael Chantler, Chief Executive Officer – Windsor Public Library

Kelly Goz, Manager, Homelessness & Housing Support

Jennifer Tanner, Manager, Homelessness & Housing Support

Michelle Oake, Project Manager

Samantha Magalas, Executive Initiatives Coordinator

Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant

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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 December 6, 2023.

Moved by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

Seconded by: Councillor Mark McKenzie

THAT the minutes of the Community Services Standing Committee meeting held December 6, 2023 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.

Report Number: SCM 355/2023

4. REQUEST FOR DEFERRALS, REFERRALS OR WITHDRAWALS

None presented.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None presented.

6. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

None presented.

7. COMMITTEE MATTERS

7.1. Minutes of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee of its meeting held December 5, 2023

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Moved by: Councillor Mark McKenzie

Seconded by: Councillor Renaldo Agostino

Decision Number: **CSSC 225**

THAT the minutes of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee (WAAC) of its meeting held December 5, 2023 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 15/2024

7.2. Minutes of the Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Systems Leadership Table of their meeting held September 13, 2023 - City Wide

Councillor Fabio Costante asks Administration whether funding will be required now that the committee enters the execution part of the process. Andrew Daher, Commissioner, Health & Human Services appears before the Community Services Standing Committee regarding the minutes of the Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Systems Leadership Table, of their meeting held September 13, 2023, and indicates that \$100,000 has been set aside as part of the budget and will be used to develop different programs, priorities and commitments. Mr. Daher adds that periodic updates will be provided to Council.

Councillor Fabio Costante asks whether any additional funding will be provided by upper levels of government. Mr. Daher indicates that he is not aware of any additional funding at this time.

Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac inquires about flow-through dollars to meet the needs of the department in the community and asks whether any of these funds will be directed to this organization. Mr. Daher indicates that there will not be any additional funding other than the \$100,000 that has been already set aside.

Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac inquires whether any discretionary power will be lost as it relates to our boards, committees and other organizations for which we develop the terms of reference. Mr. Daher indicates that discretionary power will not be lost and if there are other opportunities to work with organizations, and expression of interests can be undertaken.

Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac asks for clarification about the role of the group and the reason that it was mandated by the province. Michelle Oake, Project Manager, Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-Being (WERCSWB) Plan, City of Windsor appears before the Community Services Standing Committee regarding the minutes of the Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Systems Leadership Table, of their meeting held September 13, 2023, and explains that the provincial government mandated that a community safety and well-being plan be established, developed and implemented in every community, but did not provide funding for the implementation. Ms. Oake indicates that the minutes presented are a quarterly update.

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Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac asks where additional funding for the various initiatives is going to come from. Ms. Oake indicates that the initiatives are listed within the grant applications and a partnership with the grant holder is made to implement and achieve the results of the initiatives. Mr. Daher suggests that a more fulsome report be brought back to Council.

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

Decision Number: **CSSC 226**

THAT the minutes of the Windsor Essex Regional Community Safety and Well-Being Systems Leadership Table meeting held September 13, 2023 **BE RECEIVED**; and,

THAT administration **BE REQUESTED** to prepare a report outlining the City of Windsor's responsibility within this mandated group as well as funding sources, possible impacts, priorities and implementation plan.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 365/2023

7.3. Minutes of the Meetings of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors, Willistead Manor Inc., held November 9, 2023

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

Decision Number: **CSSC 227**

THAT the minutes of the Executive Committee and Board Directors, Willistead Manor Inc. of its meeting held November 9, 2023 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 320/2023

7.4. Report No. 132 of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee - Accessible purchases from the Capital Fund for Huron Lodge

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

Decision Number: **CSSC 228**

THAT Report No. 132 of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee indicating:

THAT **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$25,000 of invoiced costs from the Capital Fund 7086008 tied to the purchase of a Wheelchair Accessible Bike,

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Height adjustable tab, Accessible Picnic Tab, Genie Messaging Platform and Abby Engagement model for Huron Lodge.

BE APPROVED.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 12/2024

7.5. Report No. 133 of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee - Accessible purchases from the Capital Fund for the Windsor Public Library

Moved by: Councillor Mark McKenzie

Seconded by: Councillor Renaldo Agostino

Decision Number: **CSSC 229**

THAT Report 133 of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee indicating:

THAT **APPROVAL BE GIVEN** to an expenditure in the upset amount of \$15,000 of invoiced costs from the Capital Fund 7086008 for the Riverside Library Branch tied to the purchase of a LyriQ reader, Desktop Magnifier, two (2) Large print keyboards, Audio books, and accessibility software and programming for persons with disabilities.

BE APPROVED.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 13/2024

8. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

8.1. Response to CQ 12-2022 & CQ 22-2022 - Solar Lights on City Trails – City Wide

Councillor Mark McKenzie asks administration whether solar lights are currently being installed on all new trails in the city. James Chacko, Executive Director, Parks & Facilities, appears before the Community Services Standing Committee regarding the administrative report entitled “Response to CQ 12-2022 & CQ 22-2022 - Solar Lights on City Trails – City Wide” and indicates that currently the City does not have the funds within the Capital Budget to support this but if grant funding becomes available solar lighting will be installed.

Councillor Mark McKenzie inquires if lighting is a deterrent for vandalism. Mr. Chacko indicates that lighting is a deterrent and explains that ongoing work with Windsor Police Service and the CEPTED assessments in the parks indicate that increased lighting helps to better activate the parks to allow for increased positive activity and deters bad actors from vandalism.

Councillor Mark McKenzie asks whether administration would be open to exploring other solar lighting options. Mr. Chacko indicates that the Department is certainly open to exploring other cost-effective alternatives as long as they meet standards requirements.

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Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac asks administration if there is an opportunity to utilize ward funds to address areas of major concern. Mr. Chacko responds that the majority of lighting installed have been paid through ward fund initiatives and through grant or sponsorship opportunities.

Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac asks if the areas of focus are those identified as areas of significant damage or vandalism or security. Mr. Chacko indicates that the areas of focus are those where there are incidents of concern where lighting acts as a deterrent to drive out the bad actors causing the damage, and also where there is an opportunity to allow increased community usage of a parks trail within each ward.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino asks administration if the City utilizes any portable solar trailer units. Mr. Chacko indicates that the Parks Department uses them only as temporary installations for special events, indicating that the units are borrowed from the traffic department. The solar light heads currently available are easily installed and easy to relocate.

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

Decision Number: **CSSC 230**

THAT the report of the Executive Initiatives Coordinator, Community Services dated January 21, 2024 entitled Response to CQ 12-2022 & 22-2022 – Solar Lights on City Trails – City Wide” **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,

THAT Council **APPROVE** option #2 being that City Council could direct Administration to accelerate the timeline and install lighting on 10 kms of trail per year so that all trails are fully lit by 2035 at an annual capital cost of \$420,000 (plus applicable HST) plus maintenance operating budget. Any new trails that are created would need to have adequate solar lighting worked into the proposed capital and operating budgets; and,

That administration **BE DIRECTED** to forward this to the 2025 Budget to determine a funding source; and,

THAT administration **BE REQUESTED** to investigate more cost effective solar lighting options.
Carried.

Report Number: S 11/2024
Clerk's File: SR2024

8.2. Response to CR 655/2020 – Invasive Plant Management Strategy - City Wide

Moved by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac
Seconded by: Councillor Fabio Costante

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Decision Number: **CSSC 231**

THAT the report of the City Naturalist and Outreach Coordinator dated January 21, 2024 entitled "Response to CR 655/2020 Invasive Plant Management Strategy – City Wide" **BE RECEIVED** for information. Carried.

Report Number: S 10/2024

Clerk's File: SR2024

8.3. Update on Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy (2019 - 2028)

Councillor Fabio Costante asks administration for a breakdown of where the federal funds were going and what services could potentially be lost as a result of reduced funding. Andrew Daher, Commissioner, Health & Human Services appears before the Community Services Standing Committee regarding the administrative report entitled "Update on Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy (2019 - 2028)" and indicates that the majority of the budget of about \$3.5 Million prior to the cuts, has been directed towards the operation of the H4. The funding cuts over the next couple of years, of about \$230,000, can be absorbed within the existing budget however, the 2026-2027 budget cuts cannot be absorbed and there will be concerns if there are no increases in future years to that budget.

Councillor Fabio Costante inquires as to what can be done to secure additional funding. Mr. Daher indicates that they will have to be innovative with their funding, adding that they have already reached out to OMSSA and FCM and the Canadian Alliance for Ending Homelessness to increase advocacy efforts. Mr. Daher indicates that the Canadian government needs to be aware that decreasing funding will have the opposite effect of ending homelessness. If funding is not increased, the programming will need to be evaluated and the cost may come back on the municipal tax base in order to continue to maintain the current levels of service.

Councillor Ed Sleiman asks about the current state of homelessness. Kelly Goz, Manager, Homelessness & Housing Support appears before the Community Services Standing Committee regarding the administrative report entitled "Update on Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy (2019 - 2028)" indicates that approximately 700 households are experiencing some form of homelessness in Windsor-Essex, which is consistent to what they have seen year over year. The community partners are doing the best that they can with the allotted funding and resources available in order to secure safe and affordable housing.

Councillor Ed Sleiman asks about advocacy efforts. Mr. Daher indicates that they are always working with community partners and organizations to ensure there is ongoing funding for their efforts and indicates that advocacy to the provincial and federal governments to secure as much funding as possible is an ongoing effort.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino asks administration if they have lobbied the provincial government for mental health funding. Mr. Daher indicates that they have advocated and secured \$20 Million

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dollars, which was a 34% increase last year, because of advocacy efforts but indicates that more funding is needed. Mr. Daher indicates that they are trying to be as innovative as possible in order to provide health support within the community, adding that by securing more health support, they can look to expand those services that would positively affect our community.

Moved by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

Seconded by: Councillor Renaldo Agostino

Decision Number: **CSSC 232**

THAT the report from the Acting Manager, Homelessness & Housing Support dated January 22, 2024 entitled "Update on Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy (2019 - 2028)" **BE RECEIVED**; and,

THAT the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and City Clerk or their designates **BE AUTHORIZED** to:

- i. Execute and submit applications and related submissions and amendments to secure funding related to Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy and any subsequent programs or program extensions, provided they are in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, satisfactory in financial content to the City Treasurer, and technical content to the Commissioner, Human and Health Services and Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services; and,
- ii. Execute the Funding Agreements and any related amendments and extensions between the City of Windsor as the Community Entity for Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy including any current or subsequent programs and program extensions, and Infrastructure Canada or successor ministries, provided that the Funding Agreements and any related amendments and extensions are in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, satisfactory in financial content to the City Treasurer, and technical content to the Commissioner, Human and Health Services and Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services; and,
- iii. Execute the Mid-Year dialogue, annual work plan, signing officers form and any other documents where required by Infrastructure Canada or successor ministries, to remain in compliance with mandatory reporting requirements under Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy provided they are in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, satisfactory in financial content to the City Treasurer, and in technical content to the Commissioner, Human and Health Services and Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services; and,

THAT the Commissioner, Human and Health Services or their designate **BE AUTHORIZED** to enter into agreements to participate in initiatives related to the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness Built for Zero – Canada Campaign; and,

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THAT the Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services or their designate **BE AUTHORIZED** to issue a Request for Proposal, as required, consistent with the municipal purchasing by-law and requirements established by Infrastructure Canada or successor ministries, under Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy to identify and select sub-projects to deliver program components to address local community needs at a cost not to exceed the funding allocation provided by the Federal government or as allocated in the approved City budget in each respective year; and,

THAT the Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services or their designate **BE AUTHORIZED**, throughout the duration of Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, to approve projects, allocate funds, withdraw, negotiate and re-allocate program funds, including re-allocation between the different program components and program recipients, agencies and organizations to maintain and ensure compliance with program rules and criteria, and/or to enable full take-up of program funds, and/or to address local community housing needs; and,

THAT as the Community Entity for Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, the Commissioner, Human and Health Services or their designate **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute, sign, amend, and terminate agreements with Purchase of Service agencies on behalf of the City, provided such agreements and documents comply with the governing program requirements and are in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor; satisfactory in financial content to the City Treasurer and satisfactory in technical content to the Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services; and,

THAT for any agreements above \$1 million dollars, that in addition to the Commissioner, Human and Health Services or their designate, the Chief Administrative Officer or their designate **BE REQUIRED** to sign as a secondary authority; and,

THAT the Executive Director of Housing & Children's Services and City Treasurer or their designates **BE AUTHORIZED** to sign and submit financial claims and any amendments as required by Infrastructure Canada; and,

THAT the Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services or their designate **BE AUTHORIZED** to execute and submit to Infrastructure Canada any required Forecast of Project Expenditure (FPE), Activity Reports and any other such forms or reports as required by Infrastructure Canada; and further,

THAT the Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services or designate **BE AUTHORIZED** to acquire resources and partner to deliver Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy and any affiliated programs, at a cost not to exceed the federal funds provided by Infrastructure Canada or successor ministry under Reaching Home: Canada's Homelessness Strategy, or any amounts allocated to the programs in the approved City budget in each respective year.

Carried.

Report Number: S 13/2024

Clerk's File: SS/4274

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9. QUESTION PERIOD

None registered.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting of the Community Services Standing Committee is adjourned at 9:38 o'clock a.m. The next meeting of the Community Services Standing Committee will take place on March 6, 2024

Carried.

Councillor Sleiman (Chairperson)

Deputy City Clerk / Supervisor of Council
Services