

Community Services and Parks Standing Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, January 5, 2022

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

Members Present:

Councillors

Ward 3 - Councillor Bortolin

Ward 5 - Councillor Sleiman (Chairperson)

Ward 6 - Councillor Gignac

Ward 9 - Councillor McKenzie

Ward 10 - Councillor Morrison

Clerk's Note: Members participated via video conference, in accordance with Procedure By-law 98-2011 as amended, which allows for electronic participation during a declared emergency.

Also participating via video conference are the following from administration:

Ray Mensour, Commissioner of Community Services

Jelena Payne, Commissioner of Human & Health Services

Debbie Cercone, Executive Director of Housing & Children Services

Kirk Whittal, Executive Director of Housing & Children Services

Andrew Daher, Executive Director of Employment & Social Services

Jen Knights, Executive Director of Recreation & Culture

Alina Sirbu, Executive Director of Long Term Care / Administrator

James Chacko, Senior Manager of Parks

Tina Moore, Coordinator of Housing Administration & Development

Jolayne Susko, Coordinator of Housing Administration & Policy

Mike Deimling, Social Housing Analyst

Andrea Sayers, Financial Planning Administrator

Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant

Anna Ciacelli, Deputy City Clerk / Supervisor of Council Services

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair calls the meeting of the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee to order at 9:01 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 and Parks Standing Committee minutes of its meeting held December 1, 2021

Moved by: Councillor Gignac

Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

THAT the minutes of the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee meeting held December 1, 2021 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 387/2021

4. REQUEST FOR DEFERRALS, REFERRALS OR WITHDRAWALS

None requested.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None presented.

6. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

None.

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7. COMMITTEE MATTERS

7.1. Minutes of the Committee of Management for Huron Lodge of its meeting held October 21, 2021

Moved by: Councillor Bortolin
Seconded by: Councillor Gignac

Decision Number: **CSPS 170**

THAT the minutes of the Committee of Management for Huron Lodge of its meeting held October 21, 2021 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 379/2021

Clerk's File: MB2021

7.2. Minutes of the Diversity Committee of its meeting held October 27, 2021

Councillor McKenzie requests information related to the Diversity Committee minutes listed on the agenda, specifically the anti-racism initiative, and the process that is being undertaken to move the initiative forward, and whether there was any progress being made. Administration indicates that the Human Resources department will provide an update to the committee via e-mail.

Moved by: Councillor McKenzie
Seconded by: Councillor Morrison

Decision Number: **CSPS 171**

THAT the minutes of the Diversity Committee of its meeting held October 27, 2021 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 402/2021

Clerk's File: MB2021

7.3. Minutes of the Community Public Art Advisory Committee of its meeting held October 12, 2021

Moved by: Councillor Gignac
Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

Decision Number: **CSPS 172**

THAT the minutes of the Community Public Art Advisory Committee of its meeting held October 12, 2021 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 403/2021

Clerk's File: MB2021

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7.4. Minutes of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee of its meeting held November 18, 2021

Moved by: Councillor Bortolin

Seconded by: Councillor McKenzie

Decision Number: **CSPS 173**

THAT the minutes of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee of its meeting held November 18, 2021 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 405/2021

Clerk's File: MB2021

8. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

8.1. Increased Ministry of Long-Term Care Funding to support Resident Direct Care at Huron Lodge - City Wide

Moved by: Councillor Gignac

Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

Decision Number: **CSPS 174**

THAT the report from the Commissioner, Human and Health Services and the Administrator/Executive Director of Huron Lodge Long-Term Care Home regarding the funding announcements from the Ministry of Long-Term Care ("the Ministry") for increasing resident care at Huron Lodge Long-Term Care Home **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,

THAT the Executive Director of Huron Lodge **BE AUTHORIZED** to acquire any additional staffing resources required to meet the direction and mandate of the Ministry of Long-term Care related to increased resident care, subject to alignment with all corporate policies for the approval and hiring of temporary and/or permanent staff, and the costs of such resources being accommodated within the funding allocated by the Ministry of Long-term Care; and,

THAT the City Treasurer or designate **BE AUTHORIZED** to sign, on behalf of Huron Lodge, any attestation, report, or any such documentation required to be submitted to the Ministry of Long-term Care for Direct Care funding, subject to such documentation being satisfactory in form to the City Solicitor, satisfactory in financial content to the City Treasurer, and satisfactory in technical content to the ED/Administrator of Huron Lodge; and further,

THAT the City Treasurer or designate **BE AUTHORIZED** to sign, on behalf of Huron Lodge, any attestation, report, or any such documentation required to be submitted to the Ministry of Long-term Care for Professional Growth funding, subject to such documentation being satisfactory in form to the City Solicitor, satisfactory in financial content to the City Treasurer, and satisfactory in technical content to the ED/Administrator of Huron Lodge.

Carried.

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Report Number: S 172/2021

Clerk's File: AH2022

8.2. Rent Supplement Program Expiries and Mitigation Strategy - City Wide

Councillor Gignac inquires as to what other organizations have reached out to us regarding this information related to the expiration of the rent supplement funding. Jolayne Susko, Coordinator of Housing Administration & Policy, appears via video conference before the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee Meeting regarding the administrative report "Rent Supplement Program Expiries and Mitigation Strategy – City Wide" and indicates that administration has been meeting with the administrators from local agencies that provide assistance with rent supplements and various community partners are detailed.

Councillor Gignac expresses concern related to the funding and what will happen if the funding is not extended. Ms. Susko indicates that the action plan for 2022 is to use the funding that the Ministry has provided with a rollover into the funding from the Windsor Essex Housing Benefit (WEHB). Ms. Susko provides some priorities and details related to the centralized wait list.

Councillor Gignac indicates that assisted living currently provides extensive support to people in need, and there will be no way they will be able to go into an apartment without this assistance; if there is no funding in March, the City will not be able to support these organizations. Debbie Cercone, Executive Director of Housing & Children Services, appears via video conference before the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee Meeting regarding the administrative report "Rent Supplement Program Expiries and Mitigation Strategy – City Wide" and indicates that only the rent supplement portion of funding is expiring, although supports to individuals in that program are continuing. Ms. Cercone adds that this will impact other systems. Ms. Cercone indicates that administration does recognize the seriousness and that the government funding needs to be extended beyond 2023; otherwise, they will end 185 rent supplements to 185 vulnerable households.

Councillor Gignac expresses concern related to current times and COVID and if the funding is not renewed, the burden will fall on the municipality, can the City do more than send a letter. Administration provides details of the information they have submitted as well as requests to maintain funding.

Councillor Bortolin refers to several programs that in past if they were expired whether they were for the most part renewed yearly. Mike Deimling, Social Housing Analyst, appears via video conference before the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee Meeting regarding the administrative report "Rent Supplement Program Expiries and Mitigation Strategy – City Wide" and indicates that programs vary in rules and timeframes. Mr. Deimling adds that there are some housing programs that have been in place for some time, and for this program there is no new funding stream identified so far. Mr. Deimling provides details related to various programs and funding.

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Councillor Bortolin inquires as to where the City stands and whether there is an opportunity for extension of funding. Jelena Payne, Commissioner of Human & Health Services, appears via video conference before the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee Meeting regarding the administrative report "Rent Supplement Program Expiries and Mitigation Strategy – City Wide" and indicates that every Ministry and program works differently. Ms. Payne indicates that sometimes funding is extended at the last minute and provides examples. Ms. Cercone indicates that the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing struck a working group related to this program, and the group is going on an assumption that the Ministry will do the right thing and continue the funding for the program. Ms. Cercone indicates that the Province has announced new programs that will be implemented in April, but the amount of funding for these programs would not be enough to fund all the rent supplement programs.

Councillor Bortolin inquires about a transition program and whether risks can be mitigated by funding other programs. Ms. Susko indicates that if that is the case the City would not be able to help anyone new.

Councillor Bortolin inquires as to what can be done. Ms. Susko indicates the City has raised it to AMO through the delegation in August.

Councillor Bortolin asks about transitioning/holdback of WEHB funding from last year and what will happen with that funding, if it is not needed. Ms. Cercone indicates that they would continue to address the wait list need with that fund. Ms. Cercone provides details of the information that was provided to AMO and indicates that a number of municipalities are advocating as well.

Councillor Gignac inquires related to continuation of this funding, what is being done, whether there will be flexibility of where the money is spent going forward, and whether the opportunity to push harder for flexibility of this pool of funding to address all of these issues is available. Ms. Payne indicates that long term flexibility in funding is being advocated through federal funding moving forward.

Councillor McKenzie expresses concern with the ending of this funding and whether the impacts of losing this funding has been quantified, making it clear that if these funding envelopes end, these are the impacts, in hospitals and to social services and whether this has happened across the province. Ms. Payne indicates that she is not aware whether other agencies have done this and if the information has been shared with the AMO and FCM. Ms. Payne indicates that if people cannot afford their rent, they will become homeless, and administration would have to reach out to quantify hospital impacts, or long term care, and other programs. Ms. Payne reiterates that the Province knows that losing this funding has detrimental consequences to the community. Ms. Cercone indicates that information is provided to these respective expert subject matter tables and everyone understands the impacts.

Councillor Morrison thanks administration for a very detailed report which outlines a complex issue. Councillor Morrison correlates this issue to a discussion related to people with supports funding and provincial jurisdiction, which was held some time ago, and inquires as to when administration will bring this request back to Council. Ms. Payne indicates that administration would never

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Propose rendering anyone homeless at any time. Ms. Payne adds that this report would more than likely move forward to the January 31, 2022 City Council Meeting and administration can provide an update if there is one at that time. Ms. Cercone anticipates that they will work through the province this year and work with resources within the existing budget to manage. Ms. Cercone adds that if all of that does not work administration would be putting through a request to the 2023 budget to mitigate any differences.

Councillor Gignac expresses concern with municipalities bearing the burden of these extra program costs which is unsustainable. Administration indicates that the AMO and the FCM know that these programs have to come with sustainable funding. Ms. Cercone provides details related to predictability and sustainability of funding specifically long-term funding as well as government priorities.

Councillor McKenzie requests clarification related to the recommendation. Administration provides that clarification.

Councillor McKenzie inquires about the quantification of the impacts and that it be included in the correspondence that is forwarded related to the programs being sunsetted. Administration indicates that internally they can provide the information that they currently have costs of shelter systems and impacts that they have readily available. Ms. Payne indicates there are some challenges as they are stretched thin due to all of the COVID issues; a comprehensive evaluation would not be possible. Ms. Payne indicates that a collective voice would have more impact than just the City.

Councillor Morrison inquires about the funding. Ms. Cercone suggests to advocate for the entire envelope of \$3.4 million.

Councillor Bortolin inquires about immediate needs and whether this would be reported to Council, including status and funding shortfalls to advise Council prior to the deadline. Ms. Cercone indicates that a report can be brought to Council to provide an update and the status.

Moved by: Councillor McKenzie

Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

Decision Number: **CSPS 175**

THAT the report of the Coordinator of Housing Administration & Policy dated October 28, 2021 entitled "Rent Supplement Program Expiries and Mitigation Strategy – City Wide" **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,

THAT the Corporation of the City of Windsor **REQUEST** the Province of Ontario and Government of Canada to provide further financial support to extend funding for rent supplement/housing allowance programs and include reference to impacts of the sunseting of rent supplement and housing allowance programs including specific data points; and,

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THAT the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) **BE REQUESTED** to quantify these impacts province-wide; and,

THAT the resolution **BE FORWARDED** to Windsor and Essex County Members of Parliament (MPs), Windsor and Essex County Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs), the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the Premier of Ontario; and further,

THAT, should the sunsetting of the rent supplement and housing allowance programs proceed, the impacts **BE REPORTED** to Council prior to the March 31, 2022 deadline along with options to mitigate those impacts.

Carried.

Report Number: S 144/2021

Clerk's File: GH/14271

9. QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Morrison inquires as to the current COVID restrictions relating to recreation facilities. Jen Knights, Executive Director of Recreation and Culture, appears via video conference before the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee Meeting and indicates the City is responding responsibly to the current COVID-19 situation and following current government guidelines related to closing arenas. Ms. Knights adds they are following the direction provided by the Province earlier this week in accordance with the legislation that was provided recently. Ms. Knights indicates that the virtual after school programming is being launched and that administration will continually monitor the situation and re-open the facilities when they are able to do that.

Councillor Morrison inquires whether this approach is consistent with other municipalities in Essex County. Ms. Knights indicates that it is yes, and surrounding municipalities have also closed their arenas. Ms. Knights adds that the museums are also required to be shut down.

Councillor Morrison inquires about the elite athletes and whether they will be exempt. Ms. Knights indicates that the regulation does provide some guidance related to this and administration is working in conjunction with the national and provincial sport organizations to provide a list of athletes as well as what is required from the City.

Councillor McKenzie inquires about the service levels related to snow removal from trails. Ray Mensour, Commissioner of Community Services, appears via video conference before the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee Meeting and indicates that staff have been re-deployed to start clearing the trails and they will be cleared as soon as possible.

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10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting of the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee is adjourned at 10:36 o'clock a.m. The next meeting of the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee will take place on Wednesday, February 2, 2022.
Carried.

Councillor Sleiman (Chairperson)

Deputy City Clerk / Supervisor of Council
Services