CITY OF WINDSOR MINUTES 10/02/2024

Community Services Standing Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 2, 2024
Time: 9:00 o'clock a.m.

Members Present:

Councillors
Ward 3 - Councillor Renaldo Agostino
Ward 2 - Councillor Fabio Costante
Ward 4 - Councillor Mark McKenzie
Ward 5 - Councillor Ed Sleiman (Chairperson)

Councillor Regrets
Ward 6 – Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

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 & Corporate Services
James Chacko, Executive Director, Parks & Facilities
Tyson Cragg, Executive Director, Transit Windsor
Jen Knights, Executive Director, Recreation & Culture
Alina Sirbu, Executive Director, Long Term Care / Administration
Kirk Whittal – Executive Director, Housing & Children's Services
Michael Chantler – Chief Executive Officer, Windsor Public Library
Kelly Goz, Manager, Homelessness & Housing Support
Jennifer Tanner, Manager, Homelessness & Housing Support
Stephen Lynn, Manager, Social Policy & Housing
Doran Anzolin, Executive Initiatives Coordinator
Sumar Jasey, Emergency Planning Officer
Anna Ciacelli, Deputy City Clerk

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 September 4, 2024.

Moved by: Councillor Mark McKenzie
Seconded by: Councillor Fabio Costante

THAT the minutes of the Community Services Standing Committee meeting held September 4, 2024 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

Report Number: SCM 257/2024

4. REQUEST FOR DEFERRALS, REFERRALS OR WITHDRAWALS

8.1. Homelessness Outreach Updates - City Wide

Councillor Fabio Costante inquires whether the request for a deferral will hamper operations. Andrew Daher, Commissioner, Human & Health Services, appears before the Community Services Standing Committee regarding the Administrative report dated September 11, 2024, entitled “Homelessness Outreach Updates - City Wide” and responds that there will not be any impact. It will remain status quo. The changes will not relate to dollars, it is more about timing and staffing around the routes.

Councillor Fabio Costante inquires whether the routes will be changing or staying the same while waiting for the report back. Mr. Daher responds that the routes and times will not change until the report comes back to allow for further consultation.

Councillor Ed Sleiman inquires whether the report back will be to include additional input with no changes to the report otherwise. Mr. Daher indicates that they have identified a number of partners that they would like to confer with.

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

THAT the report of the Manager of Homelessness and Housing Supports dated September 11, 2024 entitled "Homelessness Outreach Updates - City Wide" **BE DEFERRED** to the November 6, 2024 Community Services Standing Committee meeting to allow for further discussion between community partners and administration.
Carried.

Report Number: S 122/2024
Clerk's File: MD/14771

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None presented.

6. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

None presented.

7. COMMITTEE MATTERS

7.1. Minutes of the Community Public Art Working Group of its meeting held July 24, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Fabio Costante
Seconded by: Councillor Renaldo Agostino

Decision Number: **CSSC 258**
THAT the minutes of the Community Public Art Working Group meeting held July 24, 2024 **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried.

Report Number: SCM 254/2024
Clerk's File:MB2024

8. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

8.2. Response to CQ 19-2024 - Reaching Home Funding & Warming Bus - City Wide

Councillor Renaldo Agostino inquires whether any additional funding has been investigated. Kelly Goz, Manager Homelessness & Housing Support appears before the Community Services Standing Committee regarding the Administrative report dated September 12, 2024, entitled "Response to CQ 19-2024 - Reaching Home Funding & Warming Bus - City Wide" and indicates that they are awaiting announcements from the federal government. They are unaware of any potential provincial funding at this time. Administration would have to review capacity challenges to identify the best use of current available funding.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino comments that feedback from shelters indicated that the warming bus was effective last year for the lowest barrier persons and inquires whether administration has any data that correlates to those comments. Ms. Goz responds that that direct feedback was received from participants for a number of reasons. It provided an alternative for persons, the bus staff was well-trained, and was responsive to the needs of the persons it serviced.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino inquires whether any other municipality has embraced this idea and gone a step further to purchase its own bus in order to save costs. Ms. Goz responds that Hamilton worked with their transit department. Windsor's initiative was more successful. Windsor saw increased ridership compared to Hamilton. Ms. Goz adds that other communities in warmer climates in the United States have considered alternate modes of transportation, including mini RVs, capacity is limited with that type of structure.

Councillor Fabio Costante comments that with increasing numbers at local shelters, where does the City stand in relation to capacity limits and what is the causal connection between strengthen the core and these numbers. Jennifer Tanner, Manager Homelessness & Housing Support appears before the Community Services Standing Committee regarding the Administrative report dated September 12, 2024, entitled "Response to CQ 19-2024 - Reaching Home Funding & Warming Bus - City Wide" and responds that the City is hovering between 96 – 98% capacity on any given night. Ms. Tanner adds that they don't typically see this type of capacity until the climate is not conducive to sleeping outdoors. The shelter trend usage over the past 12 months is provided. There was an increase that happened in May-June when strengthening the core came into effect. They believe that it was the result of increased communication and dialogue between staff and individuals. Expanded hours at H4, moving from H4 to the emergency shelter has also changed. There are increases in homelessness due to not having available rent subsidies, rising rental costs and insufficient funds.

Councillor Fabio Costante inquires whether the shelters have a plan in place to accommodate these rising numbers. Ms. Goz responds that the shelters have crash beds to accommodate

overflow. The Downtown Mission has also provided additional warming/cooling spaces overnight to help with behaviour management for those who have been banned from shelters. Administration is accessing overflow motel rooms to accommodate families. Every year administration reviews winter planning to identify if they need to expand capacities and if funding will be required for that.

Councillor Fabio Costante inquires whether they will be hearing an announcement in the next few months from the provincial or federal government. Ms. Goz responds that engagement officers at HICC have indicated that there is stabilization funding coming, which was the future loss of those temporary covid dollars that they were receiving, and they are also expecting to hear about encampment response funding and that there is a potential cost-sharing initiative between the provincial and federal governments.

Councillor Mark McKenzie inquires about the feedback from drivers and staff at Transit Windsor. Tyson Cragg, Executive Director Transit Windsor appears before the Community Services Standing Committee regarding the Administrative report dated September 12, 2024, entitled “Response to CQ 19-2024 - Reaching Home Funding & Warming Bus - City Wide” and responds that the feedback was universally positive from staff and riders alike. From an operational perspective, it was a positive collaboration between Transit Windsor and Administration.

Councillor Mark McKenzie inquires whether there were any issues that needed to be addressed. Mr. Cragg responds that next level support was available from Windsor Police, although there were very few issues noted.

Councillor Mark McKenzie inquires whether there have been any ongoing discussions regarding funding for hotels or motels if the funding for the warming bus is not available. Ms. Tanner responds that the IRCC hotels and motels are nearly always close to capacity. There is not much opportunity to use those hotels and motels. We have a close relationship with IRCC that has allowed us to establish a pathway for asylum claimants to be diverted from our shelters to these hotels and motels through IRCC.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino inquires whether there is a process in place for providing passes for people to get on a bus if this program doesn’t exist. Mr. Cragg responds that they don’t have a formal program in place, but drivers are trained to know their regular patrons and understand the environment that they are operating in. Transit has a safe haven program that if someone indicates that they are in danger, they are provided transportation on a case-by-case basis.

Councillor Ed Sleiman inquires whether this is a temporary program and how to keep the number from increasing. Ms. Goz responds that administration is constantly bringing forward these types of initiatives to Council. There are few options for people to seek refuge during the daytime. Funding for the H4 is extremely important to provide a response for these persons to meet with an Ontario Works case worker, a physician or nurse, a probation officer, an Indigenous worker, or housing worker to provide wraparound supports. Temporary solutions help to identify barriers for those who may not be comfortable going into the emergency shelter system. Attainable and sustainable

housing is the only solution to ending homelessness. Income assistance, basic income or rent supplement is needed for persons to be able to make ends meet.

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

Decision Number: **CSSC 259**
THAT the report of the Manager - Homlessness & Housing Support dated September 12, 2024 entitled "Response to CQ 19-2024 - Reaching Home Funding & Warming Bus - City Wide" **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,

THAT Administration **BE DIRECTED** to lobby the Provincial and Federal governments for any available funding opportunities; and,

THAT Administration **BE DIRECTED** to approach local philanthropy groups to determine whether any potential funding partnerships can be explored.
Carried.

Report Number: S 127/2024
Clerk's File: MD/14771

8.3. Response to CQ 34-2024 – The Naming/Dedicating of Storm Water Ponds near Little River Corridor in Recognition of Teachers and Mentors – Ward 7

Moved by: Councillor Fabio Costante
Seconded by: Councillor Mark McKenzie

Decision Number: **CSSC 260**
THAT the report of the Executive Initiatives Coordinator - Community Services dated September 16, 2024 entitled "Response to CQ 34-2024 – The Naming/Dedicating of Storm Water Ponds near Little River Corridor in Recognition of Teachers and Mentors – Ward 7" **BE RECEIVED**.
Carried

Report Number S 128/2024
Clerk's File: SR2024

9. QUESTION PERIOD

None registered.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting of the Community Services Standing Committee is adjourned at 9:28 o'clock a.m. The next meeting of the Community Services Standing Committee will take place on November 6, 2024.
Carried.

Councillor Sleiman (Chairperson)	Deputy City Clerk / Supervisor of Council Services