



CITY OF WINDSOR MINUTES 07/08/2026

Community Services Standing Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, July 8, 2026

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

Location: Council Chambers, 1st Floor, Windsor City Hall

Members Present:

Councillors

Ward 2 - Councillor Frazier Fathers

Ward 3 - Councillor Renaldo Agostino

Ward 5 - Councillor Ed Sleiman (Chairperson)

Ward 6 - Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

Councillor Regrets

Ward 4 - Councillor Mark McKenzie

PARTICIPATING VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE ARE THE FOLLOWING FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant

ALSO PARTICIPATING IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ARE THE FOLLOWING FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Michael Chantler, Commissioner, Community Services

Kirk Whittal, Executive Director, Housing & Children Services

Alina Sirbu, Executive Director, Long Term Care / Administration

Jamie Scott, Executive Director, Parks, Recreation & Facilities

Jen Knights, Executive Director, Recreation & Culture

Craig Robertson, Manager, Licensing & Enforcement / Deputy Licence Commissioner

Emilie Dunnigan, Manager Development Revenue & Financial Administrator

Carrie McCrindle, Manager, Intergovernmental Funding- Housing & Children Services

Samantha Magalas, Manager, Parks, Recreation & Facilities

Alicea Fleming, Manager, Housing & Children Services

Mark Keeler, Diversity/Accessibility Officer

Doran Anzolin, 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 June 3, 2026

Moved by: Councillor Frazier Fathers
Seconded by: Councillor Renaldo Agostino

THAT the minutes of the Community Services Standing Committee of its meeting held June 3, 2026 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

Report Number: SCM 194/2026

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 Age Friendly Windsor Working Group of its meeting held May 7, 2026

Moved by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

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Seconded by: Councillor Frazier Fathers

Decision Number: **CSSC 325**

THAT the minutes of the Age Friendly Windsor Working Group of its meeting held May 7, 2026 **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 165/2026

7.2. Report No. 135 of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee

Moved by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

Seconded by: Councillor Frazier Fathers

Decision Number: **CSSC 326**

THAT Report No. 135 of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee indicating:

That \$40,000 BE APPROVED as a pre-commitment of the Capital Funds for the deployment of acoustic panel enhancements in the auditorium at Huron Lodge from Project 7086008 Accessibility-ODA Requirements.

BE APPROVED.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 119/2026

7.3. Report No. 136 of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee

Moved by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

Seconded by: Councillor Frazier Fathers

Decision Number: **CSSC 327**

THAT Report No.136 of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee indicating:

That an upset amount OF \$100,000 (plus HST) BE APPROVED as a pre-commitment of funds for accessibility improvements to the west and south entrances and the ground floor washrooms at All Saints Church from project 7086008 Accessibility Requirements.

BE APPROVED.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 211/2026

7.4. Report No. 137 of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee

Moved by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

Seconded by: Councillor Frazier Fathers

Decision Number: **CSSC 328**

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THAT Report No. 137 of the Windsor Accessibility Advisory Committee indicating:

That an upset amount OF \$80,000 (plus HST) BE APPROVED as a pre-commitment of funds for the renovations to the stairs, upstairs washrooms, and downstairs washrooms at the Riverside Branch of Windsor Public Library from project 7086008 Accessibility-ODA Requirements.

BE APPROVED.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 212/2026

8. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

8.1. 2026-2030 Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan

Councillor Frazier Fathers inquires about the geographic distribution of the 1500 added childcare spaces within the Windsor-Essex region. Alicea Fleming, Senior Manager of Children's Services, appears before the Community Services Standing Committee regarding the administrative report dated June 19, 2026, entitled "2026-2030 Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan" and indicates that 55-60% of the new spaces are primarily located in Essex and Amherstburg. Growth efforts in the City of Windsor were mostly focused on West Windsor, Downtown, and the Forest Glade/Riverside area, however expansion into Downtown and West Windsor was more challenging due to lack of available real estate.

Councillor Frazier Fathers inquires about the geographic distribution of cost per space over the region. Ms. Fleming indicates that the costs range from \$9 to \$22, with no space in Windsor-Essex costing more than \$22 per day. She states the costs are evenly distributed across city and county, with not-for-profit operator's prices slightly lower than for-profit operators.

Councillor Frazier Fathers inquires whether there is varying demand for for-profit or not-for-profit spots depending on the area. Ms. Fleming replies that regulations state that 70% of the spaces in the community must be maintained as not-for-profit. She adds that no clear difference in quality is seen between for-profit and not-for-profit operators, however capacity and willingness to expand are higher with for-profit operators. Grants for infrastructure and start-up costs are being utilized by not-for-profit operators.

Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac requests more information regarding the numbers of spaces available in the city versus the county. Ms. Fleming replies that there is an even distribution of spaces between both depending on the age group. Councillor Gignac then asks about the size of the waiting lists for city and county. Ms. Fleming replies that waiting lists are high everywhere. Councillor Gignac would like to see the waiting list numbers included on future reports.

Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac asks if the cost of transportation is included in the expenditures recognized by the province. Ms. Fleming replies that transportation is not an eligible expense. She states most operators provide transportation in partnership with the school boards for before- and after-school care, and most new school board capital projects include childcare spaces in their

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planning phases. Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac would like to ensure that the program is being equitably distributed between city and county, and between socio-economic status, and hopes that more detailed numbers will be included in future reports.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino inquires whether waiting lists are limited by region or neighbourhood. Ms. Fleming replies that wait lists are determined by demand, and that parents are allowed to be on three waiting lists simultaneously, often taking the first spot available regardless of location.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino inquires whether there is data available on the length of wait times. Ms. Fleming replies that the average wait time is 11 weeks.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino then asks if wait times vary depending on geographic location. Ms. Fleming replies that this data is not currently being tracked, but plans are underway to be able to track this information via postal code.

Councillor Frazier Fathers remarks that the region is scoring above the provincial average on the Early Development Instrument (EDI) vulnerabilities. Ms. Fleming replies that is the first time Windsor-Essex has seen this occur, and it is concerning. The effects of Covid and children born during that time entering childcare is seen to be part of this increase. Family circumstances are also more complex, and early years and childcare support is more important now than ever.

Councillor Frazier Fathers asks if there are any partnership opportunities being considered or additional provincial funding available to help overcome some of the challenges faced in finding spaces in area where demand is high. Ms. Fleming replies that more innovative partnerships could be explored. Currently she is awaiting word on whether the provincial and federal governments will be extending the Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) agreement, set to expire December 31, 2026. She is hopeful that the CWELCC will be continued and include expansion.

Councillor Ed Sleiman asks if the growing population of Windsor-Essex will result in increased funding. Kirk Whittall, Executive Director, Housing & Children's Services, appears before the Community Services Standing Committee regarding the administrative report dated June 19, 2026, entitled "2026-2030 Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan" and indicates that the program is cost-shared on a municipal level with the county, and provincial and federal governments provide the bulk of the funding. Ms. Fleming adds that the governments have not requested more municipal funds as the region's population has grown, and factor in growth in expansion targets.

Moved by: Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac

Seconded by: Councillor Renaldo Agostino

Decision Number: **CSSC 329**

WHEREAS the City is the designated Service System Manager for childcare and early years services in Windsor-Essex County, and,

THAT City Council **APPROVE** the 2026-2030 Child Care and Early Years Service System Plan for Windsor-Essex County, as required by the Ontario Ministry of Education.

Carried.

Report Number: S 75/2026
Clerk's File: SS/13629

8.2. Over Street Banner Policy – City Wide

Councillor Renaldo Agostino inquires if the cost of the banners has been established. Michael Chantler, Commissioner, Community Services, appears before the Community Services Standing Committee regarding the administrative report dated June 22, 2026, entitled “Over Street Banners Suspended Across Roadways Policy – City Wide” and indicates that the cost will be added to the user fee schedule in the fall for budget consideration and is estimated to be \$745. This fee is cost recovery, and no profit is made.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino asks if the fee includes install and removal, and Mr. Chantler replies that it does.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino asks if a location further down Ouellette Avenue could be considered as a banner location. Mr. Chantler replies that the policy is being updated to expand beyond the downtown. He states that so long as the infrastructure allows for the installation of a banner, the location would be considered.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino inquires whether other locations have been identified. Mr. Chantler replies there are no specific locations identified at this time, and applications will be considered as they come in. If a desired location requires hardware to be installed for the banner, that cost would be covered by the applicant.

Councillor Frazier Fathers inquires about the estimated cost of hardware required to install banners. Mr. Chantler replies this would be determined based on location and size of banner, so this part of the cost may vary.

Councillor Ed Sleiman asks if applicants who wish to fly a banner longer than the standard display period could do so, or if they would have to pay an additional fee. Samatha Magalas, Manager, Parks, Recreation & Facilities Programming, appears before the Community Services Standing Committee regarding the administrative report dated June 22, 2026, entitled “Over Street Banners Suspended Across Roadways Policy – City Wide” and indicates that it could be considered on an ad hoc basis, but the standard display period would ideally be no more than three weeks.

Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac agrees that these banners should be installed for limited periods and not be considered permanent installations. Mr. Chantler adds that the intended use of these banners is to promote specific community events and areas, and discretion will be used if extensions are requested.

Moved by: Councillor Renaldo Agostino
Seconded by: Councillor Frazier Fathers

Decision Number: **CSSC 330**

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I. THAT Council **APPROVE** the updated Over Street Banner Policy attached as Appendix "A"; and further,

II. THAT Council **REPEAL** the Policy for Display of Over Street Banners in the City Centre dated July 18, 1997.

Carried.

Report Number: S 76/2026

Clerk's File: SE/15187

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 9:30 o'clock a.m. The next meeting of the Community Services Standing Committee will take place on September 2, 2026

Carried.

Councillor Ed Sleiman (Chairperson)

Deputy City Clerk / Supervisor of Council
Services