



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday, October 16, 2012
10:10 a.m.
Regional Council Chamber
150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario

Present were: Chair T. Galloway, L. Armstrong, J. Brewer, *T. Cowan, D. Craig, R. Deutschmann, J. Haalboom, B. Halloran, R. Kelterborn, G. Lorentz, C. Millar, J. Mitchell, K. Seiling, J. Wideman and C. Zehr

Members absent: S. Strickland

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST UNDER THE MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

None declared.

DELEGATIONS

a) Anthony Cashin and Gordon Cummer, Co-Chairs, Grand River Accessibility Advisory Committee (GRAAC) re: update and priorities

G. Cummer and A. Cashin provided an update to the Committee on the activities and priorities of GRAAC, including:

- History of GRAAC;
- Composition of GRAAC board, with representation from various disabled communities;
- Recent changes to legislation and regulatory standards regarding accessibility, and impacts on Regional business particularly Grand River Transit; and
- Involvement/input into numerous Regional planning initiatives and policy development.

*T. Cowan entered the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

The Committee clarified with A. Cashin that GRAAC maintains an advocacy role in working with the Region to address safer pedestrian access to roundabouts, expressing significant concerns for pedestrians both with and without disabilities. G. Cummer provided detail as to GRAAC involvement in that issue, and affirmed that GRAAC would be able to directly provide the Committee with their suggestions on that subject.

Chair T. Galloway and J. Haalboom noted the importance of the work of GRAAC, and thanked the co-chairs for their efforts in fulfilling the GRAAC mandate.

b) Cambridge Cultural Society re: request for deferral of development charges

Harminder Mali provided a presentation to the Committee on behalf of the Society, including:

- Background information on the Society and its activities;

- Details on the community centre project;
- Sources of funding for the community centre project, and total funds raised to date;
- Total development charges for the community centre calculated at approximately \$230,000, which would pose a financial difficulty with respect to the centre's completion;
- Floor area in basement excluded from development charge calculations for City of Cambridge and for school boards;
- Cambridge Cultural Society requests that the Region:
 - Reconsider the inclusion of basement floor space in development charge calculations; and
 - Allow deferral of Regional development charges to allow for payment over 10 years from the time occupancy permits are granted, to allow the community to generate the sums required for payment.

The [presentation is attached](#) to the original minutes.

The Committee clarified the location of the community centre project, the details of the development charges calculated, and that approximately 10,000 people would annually be served by the centre through its various activities.

MOVED by K. Seiling
SECONDED by D. Craig

THAT the request of the Cambridge Cultural Society be referred to staff for a report at a future meeting of the Administration and Finance Committee.

CARRIED

The Committee directed that the staff report include detail on the differences between the Region's development charge calculations and that of the City and school boards, as well as the history of similar requests brought from non-profit groups in the community. Craig Dyer, Chief Financial Officer, anticipated that a report would be brought to the meeting on November 6th.

REPORTS - Finance

- a) F-12-083, Quarterly Summary of Tenders, Request for Proposals and Consultant Proposals
Approved by the Chief Administrative Officer

Received for Information.

The Committee observed a significant disparity between the high and low bidders in the request for proposals for courier services, and Charles Whitlock, Director, Procurement and Supply Services, explained that the difference could be attributed to the low bidder's relative familiarity with the Region's operational requirements.

- b) F-12-084, Periodic Financial Report - Eight Months Ended August 31, 2012 and Year End 2012 Projection

Received for Information.

C. Dyer provided an overview of the report and the Region's financial position through August 31, 2012. He elaborated on positive and negative budget variances which are described in the report, highlighted specific items including rapid transit expenditures and development charges

collections, and noted that the overall net positive projection at year end depends upon a transfer from the Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund.

The Committee confirmed the amount of the reserves available to the Waterloo Regional Police Service, and that with a portion of those reserves already committed that any transfer to cover the projected 2012 police budget shortfall would leave the police reserves nearly depleted. Chair T. Galloway discussed the potential implications to the police budget which would result from a prospective arbitration award.

Chair T. Galloway expressed concern at tipping fees charged by the Region which can bring about conditions where waste management companies can elect to cost-effectively export local refuse outside the Region. He suggested that Council should examine the long-term implications of this issue, particularly in deliberations for the 2013 Budget.

REPORTS – Corporate Resources

c) CR-FM-12-018, Update on Community Climate Collaborative

Received for Information.

Gary Sosnoski, Commissioner, Corporate Resources, provided an overview of the report and highlighted an array of positive actions taken to date in the course of the Region's participation in the community initiative.

OTHER BUSINESS

a) Council Enquiries and Requests for Information Tracking List was received for information.

b) Chair T. Galloway acknowledged that this is the final meeting for Mike Grivicic, Council/Committee Support Specialist, and wished him well in his future endeavours.

NEXT MEETING – November 6, 2012

ADJOURN

MOVED by T. Cowan

SECONDED by L. Armstrong

THAT the meeting adjourn at 10:51 a.m.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE CHAIR, *T. Galloway*

COMMITTEE CLERK, *M. Grivicic*

Cambridge Cultural Society

Request for Deferral of Development Charges

October 16th, 2012

Cambridge Cultural Society (CCS)

- Not-For-Profit Charitable Organization
- 150 member strong active volunteer CCS team.
- Aiding various sections of the community especially visible minorities.
- Involved in organizing Food Bank Drives, Multicultural Festivals, Youth Camps, Sports Tournaments. Dedicated to promoting Harmony among all cultures.
- Partnered with the Waterloo District School Board, Cambridge Neighborhood Associations, Multi-Faith Group, Cambridge Food Bank, Cambridge Library, City of Cambridge, Waterloo Regional Police Service, The Bridges Homeless Shelter in various programs aimed at community welfare.

The CCS Building Project

- A publically funded sustainable community center geared towards sustaining the needs of multicultural groups in Cambridge.
- Will equip a 150 member volunteer CCS team with materials, resources, and partnerships required to connect the rapidly-growing, multicultural community of Cambridge.
- Facilitate, host, provide and organize Community Conversation Circles, Canada Day Celebrations, ESL programs, Community Town Hall meetings, Polling Stations, and much more.
- Will provide a more organized and effective source for organizing Food Bank Drives, Multicultural Festivals, Youth Camps, Sports Tournaments.
- Will aid CCS be an active participant in local Cambridge Community Welfare programs as well as the Region as a whole.

Financial Budget for the building

- Overall cost of the project is estimated to be \$2 million.
- \$500K from our savings primarily from donations from over the past several years.
- \$500k From the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the Community Capital Fund.
- \$250k from community fund raising drive.
- \$750k from financial institution as mortgage secured by assets.

Development Charges for the Building

- Overall development charges as estimated by The Region of Waterloo, The City of Cambridge, The Catholic School Board and Public School Board are \$230,000.
- Request the region to please reconsider the gross floor area used for calculating these development charges.
- The City of Cambridge, The Catholic School Board and Public School Board have exempted the basement area from the calculations used in order to access their development charges.
- We request the region to reconsider the calculations for the development charges based on the City of Cambridge evaluations or any other suitable assessment method such as calculating the actual used area of the basement.

Request for deference of Development Charges

- Our community has stretched its financial resources to start the construction of this vital community space and continues to meet the exacting conditions associated with the Community Capital Fund from the publically funded Ontario Trillium Foundation.
- Overall building budget has been scaled down (originally slated at 2.7 million) (from 28,000Sqft to 20,000Sqft approx.) in order to be able to meet the financial limitations of the project.
- Looking into various ways to reduce the overall material and labor.
- The development charges put forth on this building has had huge impact on it's development budget and may jeopardize the project as a whole.
- We urge the Region to provide us its support and financial assistance in deferring and spreading the Development charges over a 10 year period.
- We are confident that by spreading the payment of the Development Charges over a 10 year period, it will be more manageable and sustainable for the community at large.

Closing comments

Members Questions and Answers

Thank You