



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF WATERLOO

BUDGET COMMITTEE

PUBLIC INPUT MINUTES

Wednesday, February 2, 2011
6:10 p.m.
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor
150 Frederick Street, Kitchener

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

Members absent: C. Millar

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST UNDER THE MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

None declared.

DELEGATIONS

a) Mary MacKeigan, Steve Sachs & Brice Balmer, Opportunities Waterloo Region

M. MacKeigan, Executive Director, Opportunities Waterloo Region (OWR), appeared with Steve Sachs and Brice Balmer, Chair of OWR, in support of a funding request submitted to the Region. They provided a presentation to the Committee with an accompanying handout, both of which are attached to the original minutes.

*J. Haalboom entered the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

The presentation provided by M. MacKeigan to the Committee included:

- Priorities of OWR;
- OWR activities and programs;
- Potential benefits of Regional funding for OWR;
- Past initiatives funded by OWR; and
- Past Regional funding, and total revenues.

S. Sachs elaborated on the activities of OWR, and presented a video to the Committee.

B. Balmer clarified that OWR is requesting \$110,000 per year from the Region for the next five years. Chair T. Galloway clarified for the Committee that the request from OWR is not included in the base budget, nor is there an issue paper on the subject of the request.

The Committee requested a breakdown of grants made to foundations by OWR. B. Balmer observed the wide breadth of the recreation projects of OWR.

M. MacKeigan explained that OWR received \$50,000 from the Region in 2010. B. Balmer observed that the funding received in 2010 was exceptionally lower compared to previous years. The Committee requested a five year history of funding by the Region to OWR. It was clarified that any funding for OWR would be at the initiative of Council.

b) Tim Mollison, Tri-Cities Transport Action Group (TRITAG)

T. Mollison spoke to the Regional Transportation Master Plan (RTMP), indicating his group's satisfaction with the implementation of the RTMP and relating a number of queries and concerns on a variety of transit- and transport-related issues, including:

- What are the additional costs of providing iXpress stops at Victoria Street and at the Farmers Market;
- Is it possible to implement night service on any corridor that has an express route;
- Cost to supply open data for transit schedules to allow developers to create applications using schedule data;
- Concern at realignment of Route 12 along Westmount Road, due to portions of the road lacking sidewalks, and cost of adding sidewalks;
- Dollar impact to Grand River Transit (GRT) brand image of bus-washing frequency;
- Concern with funding for marketing and communication for transit;
- Express service on Coronation Boulevard in Cambridge, and cost to implement service immediately;
- Proximity of stops can be expanded for transit budget savings, particularly on frequently served corridors;
- Potential for redesign of Route 7, with suggested realignment, which could be realized by eliminating certain runs on the route;
- Request for cost recovery per ride of the UPass; and
- TRITAG is in favour of a regular fare increase plan, necessary for improvement of system; would support a fare increase of 25 cents on the cash fare every two years.

Rob Horne, Commissioner, Planning, Housing and Community Services, indicated that a response to T. Mollison's queries could be combined into a briefing note for Budget Committee.

*S. Strickland left the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

The Committee asked T. Mollison if GRT should be on Twitter, and he responded in the affirmative. He emphasized the importance of proactively dealing with customer service issues such as system delays, and suggested monitoring the hashtag "#GRTfail", which has spontaneously become a standard Twitter communication for users experiencing issues with GRT services.

ADJOURN

MOVED by J. Brewer

SECONDED by T. Cowan

THAT the meeting adjourn at 6:46 p.m.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE CHAIR, *T. Galloway*

COMMITTEE CLERK, *M. Grivicic*