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

Members absent: R. Deutschmann

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST UNDER THE MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT

None declared.

DELEGATIONS

a) Julia Witmer and Robel Berhane, Impact, Re: PH-13-046, Youth Engagement Update

Ms. Witmer and Mr. Berhane informed the Committee that they are members of Impact, a youth engagement group that has been working on smoke free programs. They noted that they have recently partnered with the City of Kitchener to plan an outdoor movie night to raise awareness about the health affects of smoking and to advocate against the depiction of smoking in movies directed toward youth.

* B. Halloran, J. Wideman and C. Zehr joined the meeting at 9:05 a.m.

Ms. Witmer and Mr. Berhane played a video for the Committee that showed members of Impact and a number of the activities that they have been involved in.

The Committee thanked the delegation for their ongoing work and asked if they have seen an increase in smoking in movies recently. Ms. Witmer explained that in movies that are directed at children and youth she has seen an increase in unnecessary smoking. She also noted that more information could be found about the initiative at www.smokefreemovies.ca.

REPORTS – PUBLIC HEALTH

c) PH-13-046, Youth Engagement Update

Received for information.

b) PH-13-045, EMS Actions to Further Support “Excellence in Patient Care” Based on Consultant’s Review and Recommendations

Dr. Liana Nolan, Commissioner/Medical Officer of Health, informed the Committee that as a part of the Excellence in Patient Care strategy, Public Health engaged Pomax to review Emergency
Medical Services (EMS) and provide recommendations. She noted that one of the recommendations will require additional resources and it is recommended that that issue be directed to the budget discussion. She introduced Stephen VanValkenburg, Director/Chief EMS, to further outline the report. He explained that EMS is currently responding to the other recommendations from Pomax. EMS is already undertaking some next steps including reformating the terms of reference and membership of the Executive Oversight Committee to expand it and change it to an Oversight Advisory Committee. EMS will also be looking at making improvements to the organizational structure, resource allocations, organizational culture, and data management in a manner that treats them as interwoven issues. The Oversight Advisory Committee will be responsible for monitoring and managing the various changes in EMS while ensuring that it is in line with the Region’s mission, values, and vision.

MOVED by G. Lorentz
SECONDED by T. Galloway

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo refer the action item for an additional management position in the area of logistics, analysis and planning to the 2014 budget process for deliberation, as outlined in PH-13-045, in response to the Pomax recommendations presented to EMS on October 22, 2013.

CARRIED

d) PH-13-048, Spark Advocacy Grant and Extension of Municipal Liability Insurance to the Waterloo Region Food System Roundtable

Dr. L. Nolan explained that the Waterloo Region Food System Roundtable wishes to pursue a grant but needs an organization to serve as a trustee for purposes of receiving the funds. The Food System Roundtable has asked the Region to serve as the trustee. The grant is time limited and relates to advocacy related local food issues. The grant requires that the Region extend its liability coverage to the Food System Roundtable.

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by J. Mitchell

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, as the Board of Health, extend the Region’s Municipal Liability Insurance policy to the Waterloo Region Food System Roundtable to enable the Roundtable to meet the eligibility requirements of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario’s Spark Advocacy Grant program. [PH-13-048]

CARRIED

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

REQUEST TO REMOVE ITEMS FROM CONSENT AGENDA

There were no requests to remove items from the consent agenda.

MOTION TO APPROVE ITEMS OR RECEIVE FOR INFORMATION

MOVED by G. Lorentz
SECONDED by B. Halloran

THAT the following items be received for information:
PH-13-047, West Nile Virus Activity - 2013 Season End Update
CPC-13-006, National Municipal Network Funding
Memo: Upcoming 2013 National Housing Day Celebration
Memo: Transportation Surveys of Persons With Low Income

CARRIED

REGULAR AGENDA RESUMES

REPORTS – PLANNING, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

a) P-13-111, Region Of Waterloo Affordable Housing Strategy Progress Update

Deb Schlichter, Director of Housing, explained that the affordable housing strategy is due to expire at the end of 2013 and introduced Jeffrey Schumacher, Supervisor, Housing Supply Initiatives, to provide a presentation on the progress made in relation to the strategy. A copy of the presentation is appended to the original minutes.

J. Schumacher explained that the total goal since the strategy was created in 2001 was the creation of 2,000 new affordable homes. This goal has been met with the creation of 2,064 units including 515 new homes since 2008. He also noted that the strategy had identified two priority areas which were that 40% of all units created were for lower income households and the creation of 100 affordable supportive housing units. Both priorities will be met when the projects currently underway are completed. He informed the Committee that this work has created employment across the area municipalities and the Region has been able to leverage $10 for every $1 that the Region has invested.

*T. Cowan joined the meeting at 9:20 a.m.
*J. Brewer joined the meeting at 9:21 a.m.

J. Schumacher explained that while the update is largely good news there remains long waiting lists and vacancy rate of rental units is quite low. The next steps are to update the community action plan for housing and the affordable housing strategy.

The Committee thanked staff and the community partners for all of their hard work and another good news housing story. In response to a question from the Committee, J. Schumacher explained that the provincial funding requirement requires that rent be set at 80% of average market rent. This can still be too high for those on Ontario Works or Ontario Disability Support Program and the benchmark of 40% of units geared toward lower income households is designed for those individuals and families.

The Committee asked if it was possible to provide a breakdown of the numbers based on municipality. Staff stated that this information could be provided with future reports.

C. Zehr noted that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the Big City Mayors Caucus had agreed to make advocating the federal government on affordable housing a priority. He offered to bring the resolution passed by the Big City Mayors Caucus to the next Planning and Works Committee meeting so that the Region could be could consider supporting it.

In response to a question from the Committee, J. Schumacher explained that the affordable housing providers are required to offer the units as affordable housing for 25 years in
accordance with the forgivable loan agreements they have made with the Region. Beyond the 25 years there is no obligation for them to continue to offer the units as affordable housing.

Received for information.

**REPORTS – SOCIAL SERVICES**

e) SS-13-039, Discretionary Benefits Update

D. Bartholomew-Saunders, Commissioner, Social Services, introduced the report and explained that due to provincial funding cuts, the budget for this program was reduced in 2013 from $6 million to 4.5 million. $1 million of the budget was one time funding provided by the Region for 2013. The report outlines how staff intend to continue the program within an annualized budget of $3.5 million. He introduced David Dirks, Director, Employment and Income Support to answer any questions on the report.

D. Dirks explained that staff have taken a cautious approach to using the funding and in light of the one time funding they did not want to build up community expectations. As a result he estimated that only $4.1 million will be spent this year. In response to a question from the Committee D. Dirks noted that the Capital Levy Reserve Fund will not be required in 2014 but that funds from the Tax Stabilization Reserve Fund will be required.

The Committee asked if it was possible to measure the affect of the reduced funding on the community. D. Dirks stated that he expects that there will be delegations during budget meetings that will be able to provide a better picture of the impact on individuals. However, during the check-in survey staff talked with organizations and individuals to discuss whether the five priorities that were selected were the right ones and to gage the general feeling about the reduced funding. Staff heard that it was having a significant impact on individuals in the long term.

The Committee asked what amount of money would be required to meet the need. D. Dirks stated that there is a gap of several million dollars between the current funding level and the historical level. Chair S. Strickland noted that this would be revisited during the budget discussions.

Chair S. Strickland thanked Mr. Dirks and his staff for their hard work with dealing with the significant funding changes and challenges.

Received for information.

**INFORMATION/CORRESPONDENCE**

a) There were no items on the Council Enquiries and Requests for Information Tracking List

**NEXT MEETING – December 3, 2013**

**ADJOURN**

MOVED by J. Brewer
SECONDED by T. Cowan

THAT the meeting adjourn at 9:52 a.m.
CARRIED

COMMITTEE CHAIR, S. Strickland

COMMITTEE CLERK, T. Brubacher
Region of Waterloo

Affordable Housing Strategy

Progress Update

Community Services Committee
November 12, 2013
Affordable Housing Strategy (AHS) – Progress Update

Overview

- Attaining the Goal
- Project Highlights
- Next Steps
AHS- Progress Update
Our Collective Success

AHS 2001 – 2013

Rental and Supportive units 1,411
Affordable Home Ownership 310
Rent supplement units 343
Total 2,064
# AHS- Progress Update
## Our Collective Success 2008-2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives:</th>
<th>Progress to date:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>To create at least 500 new units of sustainable affordable housing by the end of 2013</strong>&lt;br&gt; 400 new affordable rental units&lt;br&gt; 25 Home Ownership units&lt;br&gt; 75 Rent Supplement units</td>
<td><strong>515 total</strong>&lt;br&gt; 314 rental units completed&lt;br&gt; 61 rental units under development&lt;br&gt; 140 Home Ownership units&lt;br&gt; 0 Rent Supplement units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority Area #1:</strong>&lt;br&gt; 40% of all units for lower income households</td>
<td>44% (166 units) for lower income households (133 completed and 33 under development)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority Area #2:</strong>&lt;br&gt; 100 affordable supportive housing units</td>
<td>107 affordable supportive housing units (85 completed and 22 under development)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
AHS- Progress Update
Our Collective Success 2008-2013

Return on Investment

- Units created in all Area Municipalities
- Every $1 invested by Region has leveraged $10 from other sources
- More than 765 person years of construction employment
- Facilitated over $22 million in home purchases
- Since 2009, housed 3,727 households for waiting list
AHS – Progress Update

Project Highlights

Kitchener Housing Inc.
David Street, Kitchener

Hunke Homes
Nafziger Road, Wellesley
AHS – Progress Update
Project Highlights

MennoHomes Inc.
Ratz Street, Elmira

Cambridge Kiwanis Non-Profit
Linden Drive, Cambridge
AHS – Progress Update
Attained our Goal ...

...but still more to do

- Still have over 3,100 households on the waiting list
- Wait times of up to six years to access Community Housing
- Rental market vacancy rates remain low
- Region continues to be a major growth centre
AHS – Progress Update
Attained our Goal ...

...but still more to do

- Update long-term Community Action Plan for Housing
- Develop and implement new AHS
- Use partnerships and strategic investment to address growing community needs
- Continue to advocate for tools and sustainable funding from senior levels of government