



Regional Municipality of Waterloo

Community Services Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

12:35 p.m.

Regional Council Chamber

150 Frederick Street, Kitchener

Present were: Chair G. Lorentz, L. Armstrong, D. Craig*, S. Foxtan, T. Galloway, D. Jaworsky, H. Jowett, J. Mitchell, J. Nowak, K. Redman, K. Seiling, S. Shantz, B. Vrbanovic and W. Wettlaufer

Members Absent: K. Kiefer and S. Strickland

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest under “The Municipal Conflict of Interest Act”

K. Redman declared a pecuniary of interest with respect to item 5b) CSD-EIS-15-06, The New Funding Year for Employment Ontario Programs April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 due to her daughter’s employment as a career counsellor at Conestoga College.

Delegations

a) [Oz Cole-Arnal re: Living Wage](#)

O. Cole-Arnal appeared before the Committee on behalf of the Alliance Against Poverty to request the Committee’s support for living wages for individuals throughout the Region. A copy of the presentation is appended to the original minutes. He noted that a living wage in the Region has been calculated to be approximately \$66,000. He requested that Committee members donate any salary earned over \$100,000 per year to reduce poverty.

b) [Birgit Lingenberg re: Affordable Housing](#)

B. Lingenberg appeared before the Committee to request that more action be taken to increase the availability of affordable housing. A copy of the presentation is appended to the original minutes. She thanked the Committee for making the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI) funding permanent. She explained that homeless individuals and those with low incomes struggle to make ends meet and are being pushed out of areas by unaffordable housing. B. Lingenberg noted that she has been on the waiting list for subsidized housing since September 2013 and has been told that she could be waiting for another four years.

c) [Martin Suter re: Affordable Transit and Guelph Street Bus Stop](#)

M. Suter appeared before the Committee to bring attention to transit issues affecting individuals with low incomes. A copy of the presentation is appended to the original minutes. He noted that changes to bus routes means that there is no longer a stop in front of the House of Friendship. This makes it difficult for individuals without a car to access the food bank. He recommended that the Region consider adding an additional stop on the number six bus in front of the House of Friendship. M. Suter also noted that public transit costs are quite high for low income individuals and that there is a one year wait for the subsidized bus pass.

In response to a question from the Committee, Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders, Commissioner, Community Services, explained that there is an annual budget for affordable bus passes and once it is has been allocated additional requests are placed on a waiting list. The Committee requested a report be brought back outlining the number of affordable passes issued; the length of the waitlist; and the actual cost to the transit system, including lost revenue, for additional passes.

Regional Chair K. Seiling informed the Committee that when the bus stop was moved from the House of Friendship they had stated that they would be able to assist individuals with getting to the bus stop. He also noted that they have not notified him of any difficulties with the change. D. Bartholomew-Saunders stated that he would contact the House of Friendship regarding the issue and possibly looking at the overall accessibility of locations.

Request to Remove Items From Consent Agenda

K. Redman requested that item 5b) CSD-EIS-15-06, The New Funding Year for Employment Ontario Programs April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 be removed from the consent agenda due to her pecuniary interest.

b) CSD-EIS-15-06, The New Funding Year for Employment Ontario Programs April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016

Moved by T. Galloway

1850670

Seconded by S. Foxton

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo increase the 2015 operating budget for Employment and Income Support 2015 by \$108,508 gross and \$0 net Regional Levy as outlined in report CSD-EIS-15-06, dated April 14, 2015.

Carried

Motion to Approve Items or Receive for Information

Moved by H. Jowett

Seconded by D. Jaworsky

That the following items be approved:

- That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Employment & Income Support Community Advisory Committee (EISCAC) as outlined in report CSD-EIS-15-08, dated April 14, 2015.

And that the following items be received for information:

- PHE-HPI-15-03, Quarterly Charged/Closed Food Premises Report (Information)
- CSD-EIS-15-07, Employment and Income Support Community Advisory Committee Annual Report
- CSD-CHS-15-07, Quality Initiatives Community Plan for Early Learning and Child Care
- PDL-CUL-15-09, Volunteer Programs at the Region of Waterloo Museums – 2014

Carried

In response to a question from the Committee, D. Bartholomew-Saunders, stated that child care subsidies are specific to the center. He stated that staff could follow up with more specific information on the subsidy requirements.

*D. Craig left the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Regular Agenda Resumes

Public Health and Emergency Services

a) PHE-IDS-15-05, Dental Health Program Report: 2011-2014 (Presentation)

1850670

Dr. Robert Hawkins, Dental Consultant, provided a [presentation on the dental health](#) program. A copy of the presentation is appended to the original minutes. He gave an overview of the existing programs including Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT), Healthy Smiles Ontario, and Public Health Dental Clinics that provide access to dental care for individuals with low incomes.

In response to a question from the Committee, Dr. R. Hawkins stated that in the past there had been concerns with the fee schedules for the CINOT program and that the new schedule does not appear to address those issues.

Received for information.

b) PHE-15-03, Public Health 2014 Year-End Accountability Agreement Indicator Results

Anne Schlorff, Director, Central Resources, provided an overview of the report. She noted that of the eleven indicators that Public Health was required to report results on eight met the required targets and three were deemed to be within an acceptable range. She anticipates increased reporting requirements and additional transparency in the future.

Received for information.

Reports – Interdepartmental

c) PHE-CFH-15-01/CSD-CHS-15-08, The “Big Bang”: The First 2000 Days (Video)

Dr. Liana Nolan, Commissioner/Medical Officer of Health, explained that Harvard University has prepared a video titled “Brian Busters” that summarizes the importance of brain development in the first five years of life. The video was shown to the Committee. Dr. L. Nolan stated that staff will provide a link to the video from the Public Health website.

Received for information.

Information/Correspondence

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

Other Business

Next Meeting – May 5, 2015

Motion to Go Into Closed Session

Moved by S. Foxton

Seconded by L. Armstrong

That a closed meeting of Planning and Works and Administration and Finance Committees be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 immediately following the Community Services Committee meeting in the Waterloo County Room in accordance with Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, for the purposes of considering the following subject matters:

- a) proposed or pending acquisition of land in the City of Cambridge
- b) potential litigation and receiving of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege related to an agreement
- c) receiving of advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege related to agreements
- d) labour relations related to contract negotiations
- e) labour relations related to contract negotiations
- f) personal matters about identifiable individuals related to committee appointments

Carried

Adjourn

Moved by K. Redman

Seconded by W. Wettlaufer

That the meeting adjourn at 1:42 p.m.

Carried

Committee Chair, G. Lorentz

Committee Clerk, T. Brubacher

Time for M& M's

Oscar (Oz) Cole-Arnal

I bring you all a small gift of "M & M's" because, I believe that chocolate stands, not only as one of the basic food groups (along with coffee), but also because it is fundamental to my appeal to you today. I challenge all of you, including myself, to embody "M & Ms"--- that is "**MONEY & MORALS!**" While you're hopefully enjoying those chocolate treats let me add a story about another "yummy" treat to get us right smack dab in the middle of my topic--- Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream. When these two guys found their company in 1978 and, indeed for the next 17 years the wage policy ensured that the highest paid executive could make no more than five times an entry-level employee (which they defined as minimum wage with full benefits). Knowing I had very little chance to unseat Mr. Sieling from his august throne I ran anyway---not just to make a point---but rather to highlight if you will--- my M&M concerns. Hence the very fundamentals of that campaign were money & morality. I argued then & indeed **RIGHT NOW** that the obscene wealth gap was & is a global, national, provincial & municipal disaster, and unless we specifically address & rectify this inhuman and anti-human reality we act over against the moral values we claim by our words without corresponding deeds---**AND** that contradiction is counter to every moral value espoused within our society. Callousness and inaction on this subject starting yesterday is frankly **IMMORAL!** Excess in the face of grinding poverty may not be a legal crime, but it is a **MORAL** high crime against heaven itself!

So what does this have to do with a living wage? Or let me move beyond that to the idea of a **GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOME**, because a "living" wage presumes that human decency involves more than mere survival; it involves living with dignity (that's the Ms part **MORALS**). But to do so, one needs a minimum of income (that's the money part), indeed whether one is working **OFFICIALLY** or not.

O.K.---let's get very local & very personal here! As our AAP indicated to you earlier I am here to appeal for a Living Wage for all municipal employees in our Region. Some local researchers, Leona Bruijns & Lindsey Butcher, produced a study of a living wage for Waterloo Region just a while back, which was published by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) entitled "Calculating a Living Wage for Waterloo Region," a fine & thorough piece of work I might add & worth consulting. Its bottom line: in \$\$\$= 65,868.75 (full-time with benefits). As well, just shy of noon last Jan. 2nd. @ \$47,35 the top 100 CEOs brought home the equivalent of the average annual wage of all Canadians, namely \$47, 358.00. As of last Saturday (Apr.11th.) @ c. 11:30 A.M. that same worker had pocketed only \$12,996.20 of that annual 47, 358.00 in sharp contrast to the 100 CEO's average take of \$2,542,425.++ at that same moment.

How do you react to this? Boredom? What can I do? Heard it before? So what? It's the price of doing business? Feign interest while wishing that this bloody Cole-Arnal would quit bugging us so we can really get down to what really matters? Do you shrug inwardly, fight back a yawn & think, it may be sad, but it is "the new normal?" **NO**, it is **NOT** "the new normal." **IT IS THE OLD "IMMORAL" GREED!**---that immoral detached sense of accepting poverty & adding to it while blithely using words of compassion & care. Without a "living income"---that roughly \$66,000.00 one becomes, by *de facto* definition---abused, scorned, patronized &

HOUSING OR HOMELESSNESS – WHICH WAY ARE THE POOR HEADED?

Hello. My name is Birgit Lingenberg and I am a member of EISCAC (Employment and Income Support Community Advisory Committee) and AAP (Alliance Against Poverty) and also ALIVE (Awareness of Low Income Voices.) I am also a member of PFKW (Poverty Free K-W). Could the people attending today which belong to one or more of these four groups please stand. I live in a two bedroom apartment in downtown Kitchener with my disabled daughter. We pay market rent at \$1,400.00 and we pay about \$100.00 per month for the hydro. We then pay about \$50.00 per month for the telephone which is a necessity. Yes, we have a washer and a dryer and a central air conditioner in our unit but these are necessities for our disabilities. We have a dishwasher in our unit but due to the ever increasing cost of hydro I do the dishes by hand even though I have arthritis and degenerative disc disease which is progressing.

We have approximately \$350.00 left for food, transportation, and any unexpected expenses.

Our companion dog Lucky is a medical necessity for both myself and my daughter due to our autism Asperger's, yet, we are not allotted any funds through ODSP to help pay for Lucky's food and vet expenses. We use some of our \$350.00 to pay for Lucky's needs.

We are on a waiting list for a two bedroom subsidized apartment since September 2013 and have been told that we could easily wait another four years until we get contacted to look at one.

Have you ever seen some homeless people sleeping outside? Where do they sleep? I have seen them sleep under bridges and even on the grass in several areas of downtown Kitchener. I have seen them sleep in cardboard boxes behind garbage bins. I have seen them sleep in and under large garbage bins. They sleep with their few belongings in a bag or two. They sleep during daylight hours because they are afraid of being hurt or killed if they sleep in the dark of the night. How would it feel if you were homeless and slept during the day on the grass or in a large garbage bin? Would you miss your comfortable bed? I have been homeless once in my life. I was married at that time and I lived outside for one month with my husband during the summer. This was in 1984 in Brampton. I do not wish homelessness on anyone because it is absolutely terrible. So why do we have so many homeless people in Waterloo Region? If my daughter and I do not get a subsidized apt. soon, we will become homeless.

Why do the builders continue to build high price condos in the downtown when there is such a long waiting list for subsidized housing? Why are there so many subsidized units away from the downtown? We need many more subsidized units in the downtown in order to make life a bit easier for poor people. Many poor people have to walk to the free meals which are located in downtown Kitchener. This is very difficult when a poor person (especially one who is disabled) lives in the Stanley Park area or the Fairview Park area and does not even have money to take the bus.

Why are so many high rises being built in downtown Waterloo that are for the University students? Why do the poor people have to live in high-priced substandard housing? Why do we have so many slumlords? Why are bachelor and one bedroom apartments about \$800.00? Why is a small room about \$500.00? When you live in these low-priced rooms, people often get their food and belongings stolen. Often these places have people engaging in illegal activities. Often these small rooms and slumlords cause poor people to be afraid of being hurt and/or killed.

PLEASE DO SOMETHING TO CREATE MUCH NEEDED SUBSIDIZED HOUSING IN THE DOWNTOWN OF KITCHENER AND WATERLOO.



Regional council address

1 message

Martmns . <martmns@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 13, 2015 at 9:37 PM

To: Oz Cole-Arnal <ocolearnal@gmail.com>, mart unknown <martmns@gmail.com>

My name is Martin Suter. I'm a member the Alliance Against Poverty. I would like to speak and bring attention to two transit issues that particularly impact on low, poverty-level - and as all people on social assistance in the Region are actually, far below poverty-level income - residents

Those transit two issues particularly, being first, a change to the bus route that now puts the House of Friendship Foodbank on Guelph street virtually out of reach and and unuasbtle by most people using public transit and secondly, the both the still too far high high price and the virtual unavailability of Grand River Transit's so-called "low-income" bus passes..

To put things into further oerspective, it's important that the council realize the income -levels that I'm talking about. Due to a medical disability, I'm on ODSP and recieve just over a thousand dollars a month to live on. People on OW recieve even less..only about 600 dollars a month to live on. Obviously at our abusmal income level, public transit is our only means of accessing the services that we need and depend on. Unlike yourselves, owning and driving a car is not an option.

One of the services that low and particularly those far below poverty-level income people living on social assistance in Kitchener and Waterloo need and depend on, is access to the House of Friendship food bank on Guelph St.

There used to be a number 18 bus that, as part of it's rather convoluted route, had a stop right at the food bank. Last year, the number 18 bus route was cancelled in it's entirety. The only other way to access the food bank now, is via the number 6 bus, which runs along Lancaster St. Getting to the food bank by the number 6 bus is not a real problem for most people. The real problem is getting back to the number 6 bus, from the food bank. From the number 6 bus stop at the corner of Lancaster and Guelph Sts, it's only about 300 metre downhill walk to the food bank....but coming back, carrying a 50 or 60 lb, often overflowing and sometime breakin apart cardboard box 'food hamper', uphill is virtually impossible, even for a normal, reasonably healthy adult., but completely impossible for any one with any health, age or physical disability issues . Last year in response to this, the region did put a sidewalk in on that section of Guelph St., but walking 300 meters uphill carrying a 50 or 60 lb food hamper is safer on sidewalk but no easier and for many people, no more possible than it was walking on the paved road surface. In response to this, last year, AAP proposed a slight route change to the number 6 bus route that wold solve this and restore access to the food bank. Our proposal was, instead passing by Guelph St. have the number 6 bus turn on Guelph St, stop where the number 18 bus previously did, in front of the food bank and then turn on Clifton St which then connects back on to Lancaster. This would only require adding one stop - in front of the food bank - to the number 6 bus route and so as to not the miss next stop on Lancaster- move that existing stop across to the other side of the intersection. At the time, in a meeting with the Regional Chair, Mr. Seeling, our proposal was rejected out of hand, on the grounds that "the decision has already been made", I urge council to look at our proposal again and give it serious consideration.

The other issue I want to raise is both the still too high cost and the virtual unavailability of the the so-called "low income" bus passes. The "low-income pass currently costs 42 dollars, This is still far too much for those living on only a thousand or six hundred doilars a month and who absolutely depend on public transit as their sole means of transportation.

And more than just the actual cost, too, is the fact the the passes are virtually unavailable to most people who need and are entitled to them due to their abysmally low income level. I depend on the bus to get to the services I need - to get to medical appointments, to do grocery shopping and at least two or three times a week to go St. Johns kitchen - aka "the soup kitchen" in order supplement my diet and have some decent food to eat. Despite my ODSP income of only about a thousand dollars a month and the supposed availability of the 42 dollar "low income" bus passes, I currently pay the full 76 dollar monthly fee for a regular adult bus pass. The reason? I can't get a low income pass because the waiting list for them - which I am on - is currently more than a year long. This is ridiculous and I think, shows a real lack of concern on the part of council for the those forced to live on social assistance. Affordable and accessible public transit for all - regardless of income - is not just a need, but a right.



Region of Waterloo

DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM REPORT 2011-2014



Region of Waterloo

Dental Health Program

| | Ontario Public Health Standards | Healthy Smiles Ontario | Social Services | Public Health Dental Clinics |
|-------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Funding | Cost-shared | 100% provincial | Cost-shared | 100% local |
| Client Age | Children 0-17 yrs. | Children 0-17 yrs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children 0-17 yrs. • Adults | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children 0-17 yrs. • Adults |
| Services | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Screening • Preventive Care • Health Promotion • Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Dental Care • Preventive Care • Screening • Community Outreach at Community Health Centres | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Dental Care – Ontario Works Children • Emergency Dental Care – Ontario Works Adults • Denture Coverage – OW Adults, ODSP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Dental Care - Children • Preventive Care - Children • Emergency Dental Care - Adults |



Region of Waterloo

Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS)

- Dental Screening
 - To identify children in need of urgent dental care
 - At elementary schools, over 20,000 children each year
- Preventive Oral Health Services
 - from 2012-14, between 837-907 children received care
- Health Promotion
 - Child Health and Prenatal Health Fairs
 - Oral Health Educator Resource Kits
- Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) program



Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT)

- CINOT provides financial assistance for dental care for children aged 0-17 from low income families
- OPHS requirement which is funded in two parts:
 - CINOT for children aged 0-13 years
 - CINOT Expansion for children aged 14-17 years
- Eligibility includes dental and financial criteria:
 - Identified with urgent dental need by Public Health staff
 - No dental insurance and cost is a financial hardship
- Treatment provided at dental offices
- Eligible for one course of treatment; not ongoing care
- Number assisted has ranged from 722 to 770 from 2011-14



Social Services – Dental Programs

- Dental benefits provided to social assistance recipients and their dependents
- Administration by Public Health since 2003
- Number of clients assisted each year is between 6,000-7,000
- Ontario Works Children – basic, ongoing dental treatment
- Ontario Works Adults – emergency dental treatment
- Denture coverage
 - Ontario Works Adults
 - Ontario Disability and Support Program (ODSP)



Region of Waterloo

Healthy Smiles Ontario

- Provincial program for children aged 0-17, started in 2010
 - 100% provincially funded
- Over 1,800 children enrolled in Waterloo Region
- Components in Waterloo Region include:
 - Financial assistance for basic, ongoing dental care
 - Preventive care services
 - Oral health screening at community sites
 - Community outreach services at Community Health Centres
 - Oral Health Peer Workers provide client navigation and support to facilitate access to dental care



Public Health Dental Clinics

- For families who do not qualify for provincial programs
- Dental care provided at Public Health Clinics located at:
 - 99 Regina Street South, Waterloo
 - 150 Main Street, Cambridge
- Funded 100% by Region of Waterloo
- Eligibility is based on low-income cut-off (LICO) threshold
- Between 2,444 and 2,753 appointments from 2012-2014
- Dental care provided:
 - Children: basic dental treatment
 - Adults: emergency dental treatment



Provincial Dental Program Integration

- Announced by provincial government in December 2013
- Six provincial dental financial assistance programs for children and youth will be integrated into one program
- Goal is to streamline program management of publicly funded dental programs for children and youth
 - Centralized enrolment and claims administration
 - 100% funded by province
- New integrated model is currently under development by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care



Region of Waterloo

Conclusions

- Dental Health Program meets the requirements of the Ontario Public Health Standards
- Healthy Smiles Ontario has improved access to ongoing dental care for children from families from low incomes
- Oral Health Peer Workers at Community Health Centre's have contributed to success of HSO in Waterloo Region
- Dental benefits for OW recipients are administered by Public Health
- Public Health Dental Clinics provide access to dental care for children and adults who are not eligible for other provincial programs
- Regional Council will be updated on Provincial Dental Integration when more information is known



Region of Waterloo

Questions?

DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM REPORT 2011-2014