Regional Council Minutes

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

The following are the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held at 7:00 p.m. in the Regional Council Chamber, 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario, with the following members present: Chair K. Seiling, L. Armstrong, E. Clarke, D. Craig, S. Foxton, T. Galloway, D. Jaworsky, H. Jowett, K. Kiefer, G. Lorentz, J. Mitchell, J. Nowak, K. Redman, S. Shantz, S. Strickland, B. Vrbanovic.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest Under The “Municipal Conflict Of Interest Act”

E. Clarke disclosed a pecuniary interest with respect to Items # 3 and 4 from the Community Services Summary of Recommendations due to her employment with the YWCA.

T. Galloway gave remarks that on December 4th, Chair Seiling was presented with one of only four awards given annually by the Canadian Urban Institute for Urban Leadership. Chair Seiling is the 2015 recipient of the David Crombie Award, recognizing an individual who has demonstrated the ability to engage the community, government and the private sector to regenerate and enhance the public realm in the Greater Golden Horseshoe. In particular, this award recognizes Chair Seiling’s leadership in helping to make the ION rapid transit system a reality. The formal presentation was held earlier with David Crombie, and it was thought it would be appropriate to recognize Chair Seiling this evening in Regional Council Chambers. T. Galloway introduced Peter Halsall, Executive Director of the Canadian Urban Institute to make the presentation. P. Halsall provided background information on the award and presented it to Chair Seiling. Chair Seiling stated this was a huge group effort and no one person should take credit for the ION rapid transit project. He stated this award is for all of Regional Council and staff.
Delegations

a) Creative Enterprise Initiative (CEI) Funding (Item 5 on CS Summary)

i. Terre Chartrand appeared before Council in opposition to the funding for CEI. A copy of her presentation is appended to the original minutes. She provided background information on her work as an artist and the ongoing need for funding. She requested Council to reconsider approving the funding for CEI. T. Chartrand expressed concern for the talented artists that may leave Waterloo Region.

ii. Robert Linsley appeared before Council regarding the funding for CEI. He stated he is a professional artist and former professor of Fine Arts at the University of Waterloo. A copy of his presentation is attached to the original minutes. He expressed concern with the majority of the CEI budget being spent on administrative salaries and stated the model is not sustainable. He encouraged Council to support and build a sustainable art ecosystem.

iii. Duncan Finnigan appeared before Council regarding the funding for CEI. He advised he has made applications through the Region of Waterloo Arts Fund and they have one goal – make art happen. He stated the focus of CEI needs to be changed and there need to be conditions put in place for any funding.

iv. Martin De Groot appeared before Council with respect to the funding for CEI. He stated he appeared before the City of Kitchener Council and urged CEI to withdraw their application for funding. He urged Regional Council to not fund the proposal as it stands. A copy of his presentation is appended to the original minutes. He suggested another proposal which he stated he will write up and submit to Regional Council. He encouraged everyone to learn from past mistakes and build on the positive developments.

v. Cheryl Ewing appeared before Council in support of the funding for CEI. A copy of her presentation is appended to the original minutes. She highlighted those that have benefitted from having CEI in the community. She supported the proposal that CEI is advocating and continue the work it has started to allow the creative sector in Waterloo Region to flourish.
vi. Roger Farwell appeared before Council in support of the funding for CEI. He stated this is a difficult discussion filled with anger and frustration on behalf of some people. He referenced the images presented at the recent All Council meeting, noting they were to show artistic infrastructure. He stated the intent of CEI was as an enabling organization, operating as an investor, not a granting organization. He provided background information and the research that was done when CEI was established. He advised the Board has taken responsibility and they are not another stand alone non for profit organization.

Councillors had questions regarding the lack of funding from the business sector and R. Farwell advised this is an area they had no control over. Concern was expressed over the breakdown in communication and it was noted this will be a transition year to align the synergies within the community.

It was noted that Kitchener and Waterloo Councils have approved the funding for CEI for 2016.

Councillors expressed their opinions and it was agreed there needs to be more cooperation and working together in this transition time to build and promote the creative sector in the community.

G. Lorentz brought forward item #5 from the Community Services Committee Summary of Recommendations.

G. Lorentz requested a recorded vote.

Moved by G. Lorentz

Seconded by K. Redman

That the Summary of Recommendations of the Community Services Committee dated December 8, 2015, Item 5, be adopted as follows:

5. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo take the following actions with respect to the Creative Enterprise Initiative, as described in Report PDL-CUL-15-19, dated December 8, 2015:

   a) Grant $141,000 to the Creative Enterprise Initiative in 2016, subject to 2016 budget approval, for a final year of operation which would result in development of the two priorities identified by CEI, and transition of these initiatives to one or more existing organizations with similar goals;

   b) Request that CEI enter into a memorandum of understanding with municipal partners for this transition year, and continue to collaborate during the year; and

   c) Direct staff to report on progress in mid-2016.
Carried


Nays: S. Foxton, J. Mitchell

K. Redman requested a compilation of all of the ways that the Region supports the arts.

**Minutes Of Previous Meetings**

Moved by D. Jaworsky

Seconded by D. Craig

That the following Minutes be approved:

a) Closed Council – November 25, 2015
b) Regional Council – November 25, 2015
c) Community Services Committee – December 8, 2015
d) Administration & Finance Committee – December 8, 2015
e) Closed Committee – December 8, 2015
f) Planning and Works Committee – December 8, 2015
g) Licensing & Hearings Committee – December 8, 2015

Carried

**Communications**

a) The following items were received for information regarding the Creative Enterprise Initiative Funding (Item 5 on CS Summary).

i. Ian McLean, President & CEO, Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce

ii. Cheryl Ewing, Audience Development Specialist

iii. Bruce Gordon, Chair, Board of Directors, Centre In The Square
iv. Carol Leaman, CEO of Axonify,

v. Richard Burrows, Chair, Open Ears Festival Board of Directors

vi. John Doherty, Chair of Waterloo Region Prosperity Council

vii. Rosemary Smith, CEO of The Kitchener Waterloo Community Foundation

viii. Murray Gamble, President, The C3 Group of Companies

ix. Tim Jackson

**Motion To Go Into Committee Of The Whole To Consider Reports**

Moved by K. Redman

Seconded by S. Strickland

That Council go into Committee of the Whole to consider reports.

Carried

**Reports**

**Finance Reports**

a) **COR-TRY-15-112**, Sole Source Purchase of Ceiling Lifts for Sunnyside Home

Moved by S. Strickland

Seconded by S. Foxton

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the sole source purchase of Ceiling Lifts for Sunnyside Home from Shoppers Home Health Care, in the amount of $130,500.00 including all applicable taxes.

Carried


Moved by S. Strickland

Seconded by S. Foxton

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo accept the tender of Dawson Contract Services Inc. for T2015-188 Bulk Transfer of Waste and Other Materials from the 2030435
Cambridge and Waterloo Waste Management Facilities in the estimated annual amount of $1,183,065.00 plus all applicable taxes for a seven (7) year term commencing January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2023 with options to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year terms

Carried

c) **COR-TRY-15-114**, T2015-103 Hespeler Wastewater Treatment Plant SCADA Upgrades

Moved by S. Strickland

Seconded by S. Foxton

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo accept the tender of Plan Group Inc. for T2015-103 Hespeler Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Upgrades in the City of Cambridge, in the amount of $1,118,650.00 plus all applicable taxes.

Carried


Moved by S. Strickland

Seconded by S. Foxton

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo accept the proposal of Toromont Power Systems for P2015-30 Water Supply System, Standby Power Maintenance Program for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2017 at a total two (2) year cost of $322,410.00 plus all applicable taxes with the option to renew for two (2) additional one (1) year periods.

Carried


Moved by S. Strickland

Seconded by S. Foxton

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo name Demers Ambulance Inc. as the Vendor of Record (VOR) for all Type III Ambulance acquisitions for a three (3) year period ending December 31, 2018;

And that the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the sole source procurement in 2016 for Two (2) Type III Demers Ambulance units in the amount of $278,730.00 plus 2030435
all applicable taxes, to be funded from the Paramedic Services Vehicle Replacement Reserve.

Carried


Moved by s. Strickland

Seconded by S. Foxton

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo accept the Proposal of Traffipax LLC for the Supply, Installation, Operation and Maintenance of Red Light Camera Systems in the amount of $2,119,547.76 plus all applicable taxes for a five (5) year period effective January 1, 2017, with the option to renew for an additional five (5) year period;

And that the Regional Municipality of Waterloo authorize the Commissioner of Transportation and Environmental Services to execute any necessary agreements with the City of Toronto for centralized processing and with the Ministry of Transportation for plate registrant information, all in a form satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor.

Carried

**Committee Reports**

**Community Services**

The Summary of Recommendations of the Community Services Committee was presented by Geoff Lorentz, Chair of the Committee. Item #5 was dealt with under delegations. Items #3 and 4 were taken separately due to the pecuniary interest.

Moved by G. Lorentz

Seconded by K. Kiefer

That the Summary of Recommendations of the Community Services Committee dated December 8, 2015, Items 1 and 2, be adopted as follows:

1. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo enter into an agreement with St. Joseph’s Health System operating as St. Joseph’s Health Centre Guelph for the Nurse-Led Outreach Team (NLOT) Program with such agreement to be to the satisfaction of the Regional Solicitor; and,
That the Commissioner, Community Services be authorized to execute such agreements and documentation in a form satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor, as may be required as outline in report CSD-SEN-15-09, dated December 8, 2015.

2. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo forward Report PDL-CUL-15-21, dated December 8, 2015, as its comments regarding the development of an Ontario Culture Strategy to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

Carried

Moved by G. Lorentz
Seconded by K. Kiefer

That the Summary of Recommendations of the Community Services Committee dated December 8, 2015, Items 3 and 4, be adopted as follows:

3. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo amend the current purchase of service agreement with Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) – Kitchener Waterloo, 161 Roger Street, Kitchener, ON N2J 1B1, for the purpose of adding a youth development program at Sandowne Public School as outlined in report CSD-CHS-15-17, dated December 8, 2015.

4. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo take the following actions with regard Housing Program Request for Proposals, as outlined in report CSD-HOU-15-25, dated December 8, 2015:

   a) Approve the supportive housing programs recommended through the CHPI Supportive Housing Program Request for Proposals 2015-01 as detailed in Appendix A;
   b) Approve up to $852,311 in funding towards the STEP Home program and Tenant Transition Worker program in Cambridge over 2016-2018;
   c) Authorize the Director, Housing Services, to finalize the funding and conditions with the successful proponents recommended for award as shown in Appendix A; and
   d) Authorize the Commissioner, Community Services, to execute such agreements and documentation in a form satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor, as may be required to process the funding to the successful proponents recommended for award.

Carried

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Administration and Finance

The Summary of Recommendations of the Administration and Finance Committee was presented by Sean Strickland, Chair of the Committee.

Moved by S. Strickland

Seconded by K. Redman

That the Summary of Recommendations of the Administration and Finance Committee dated December 8, 2015, Items 1 and 2, and 2 reports from closed session, Items 3 and 4, be adopted as follows:

1. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo uphold the existing policy and take no action on the request for the deferral of Regional Development Charges by GSP Group on behalf of Prica Group for the proposed development at Columbia St. and Albert St. in the City of Waterloo, as outlined in report COR-FSD-15-22, dated December 8, 2015.

2. That the minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held November 25, 2015 be approved.

3. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo re-appoint Ms. Jennifer Vasic and Mr. Glenn Scheels, and appoint Ms. Betty Anne Keller and Ms. Michelle Purchase to the Public Art Advisory Committee for three-year terms ending December 31, 2018.

4. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo re-appoint Mrs. Margaret Rowell and appoint Mrs. Mary-Jean Page and Ms. Andrea Carswell to the Heritage Planning Advisory Committee for a three-year term ending December 31, 2018.

Carried

Planning and Works

The Summary of Recommendations of the Planning and Works Committee was presented by Tom Galloway, Chair of the Committee. Item # 2 was taken separately.

Moved by T. Galloway

Seconded by K. Kiefer

That the Summary of Recommendations of the Planning and Works Committee, dated December 8, 2015, Items 1 and 3 to 7, and 3 reports from closed session, Items 8 to 10, be adopted as follows:

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3. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo enter into a Consulting Services Agreement with Stantec Consulting Ltd. to provide consulting engineering services for the detailed design, construction contract administration and inspection services associated with Erb Street Roundabouts at Waterloo Waste Management Centre Gates 1 and 2, in the City of Waterloo, at an upset fee limit of $90,000.00 plus applicable taxes to complete the detailed design, and with construction contract administration and inspection services to be paid on a time basis, at an estimated amount of $295,000 as outlined in report TES-DCS-15-28, dated December 8, 2015.

4. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the implementation of a raised centre median thereby restricting traffic movements to right-in, right-out only from Westhill Drive onto Ira Needles Boulevard (Regional Road #70) in the City of Waterloo as described in Report No. TES-DCS-15-33, dated December 8, 2015.

5. That the Region of Waterloo distributes subsidized rain barrels to residents at a cost of $40 each during spring of 2016, as detailed in Report TES-WAS-15-38.1 dated December 8, 2015.


7. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo:
   
a) Enter into a Consulting Services Agreement with R.J. Burnside & Associates Limited to provide consulting geoscience services for the Region of Waterloo Groundwater Monitoring Program for the period January 1, 2016 to June 30, 2018 (Phase 1) at an upset limit of $842,800 plus applicable taxes; as presented in this report; and

b) Authorize staff to renew this contract for the period from January 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020 (Phase 2) at an upset limit of $912,831 plus applicable taxes, subject to acceptable performance of the consultant in meeting project outcomes and deliverables.
8. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo appoint the following persons to serve for a period of two years as members of the Specialized Transit Services Advisory Committee (STSAC) commencing January 1, 2016 expiring December 31, 2017:
   
a) Karen Ferguson  Major Interest Group Representative
b) Sharon Giles    Mobility PLUS User
c) Tom Livingstone Mobility PLUS User
d) Sue Morgan      Mobility PLUS User


10. That The Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve, enter into a Settlement Agreement for, and execute all documentation related to the expropriation of lands for Stage 1 of the Rapid Transit Project described as Part Lots 20, 21 and 22, South Side of King Street, Plan 365, being Part 5 on WR768754, PIN 22502-0256 (LT) and Part Lot 20, South Side of King Street, Plan 365, being Part 2 on WR838566, PIN 22502-0269 (LT), being Part of 471 King Street East, City of Kitchener, Regional Municipality of Waterloo, and Part Lots 23 and 24, South Side of King Street, Plan 365, being Part 6 on WR768754, PIN 22502-0258 (LT) being part of 481 King Street East (also Known as 24 Cameron St. South), City of Kitchener, Regional Municipality of Waterloo from 2263223 Ontario Inc. for the sum of $364,800.00 as compensation for the market value of the partial taking of land, as well as, in relation to all damages suffered by the property owner representing a full and final settlement with the property owner in relation to all issues of compensation plus associated reasonable costs, with all documentation to the satisfaction of the Regional Solicitor.

   Carried

Moved by T. Galloway
Seconded by K. Kiefer

That the Summary of Recommendations of the Planning and Works Committee, dated December 8, 2015, Item 2, be adopted as follows:

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2. That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve to continue operating the Woolwich Transfer Station on the current schedule until the end of May 2016;

And that this be the final financial contribution and will be funded from the existing Waste Management budget.

Carried

(S. Strickland opposed)

Budget

The Summary of Recommendations of the Budget Committee was presented by Sean Strickland, Chair of the Committee.

Moved by S. Strickland

Seconded by J. Nowak

That the Summary of Recommendations of the Budget Committee, dated December 16, 2015, Items 1 to 4, be adopted as follows:

1. **Water Supply**

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the 2016 Water Supply Operating Budget inclusive of the two user rate related Budget Issue Papers found in the Budget Issue Paper package on pages 21 and 25, the 2016 Water Supply Capital Budget and the 2017-2025 Water Supply Capital Forecast.

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve a Regional Wholesale Water Rate of $1.0060 per cubic metre effective March 1, 2016 and that the necessary by-law be introduced.

2. **Wastewater Treatment**

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the 2016 Wastewater Treatment Operating Budget inclusive of the two user rate related Budget Issue Papers found in the Budget Issue Paper package on pages 21 and 25, the 2016 Wastewater Treatment Capital Budget as amended and the 2017-2025 Wastewater Treatment Capital Forecast as amended.

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve a Regional Wholesale Wastewater Rate of $1.0092 per cubic metre effective March 1, 2016 and that the necessary by-law be introduced.
3. **Water Distribution**

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the 2016 Water Distribution Operating Budget inclusive of the user rate related Budget Issue Paper found in the Budget Issue Package on page 25, the 2016 Water Distribution Capital Budget and the 2017-2025 Water Distribution Capital Forecast.

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve a Retail Water Rate of $2.37 per cubic metre effective March 1, 2016 and that the necessary by-law be introduced.

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve a monthly maintenance fee of $8.00 per account (unchanged from 2015) for the customers connected to the Retail Water Distribution System effective March 1, 2016 and that the necessary by-law be introduced.

4. **Wastewater Collection**

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the 2016 Wastewater Collection Operating Budget, the 2016 Wastewater Collection Capital Budget and the 2017-2025 Wastewater Collection Capital Forecast.

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve a Retail Wastewater Rate of $1.90 per cubic metre effective March 1, 2016 and that the necessary by-law be introduced.

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve a monthly maintenance fee of $6.00 per account (unchanged from 2015) for the customers connected to the Retail Wastewater Collection System effective March 1, 2016 and that the necessary by-law be introduced.

That the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve an increase of 9.9% effective March 1, 2016 to the flat annual rate upon every owner of a property in the Township of Wellesley and the Township of North Dumfries that is connected to the Regional Municipality of Waterloo’s wastewater collection system but is not connected to the Regional Municipality of Waterloo’s water distribution system, and that the necessary by-law be introduced.

Carried

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**Economic Development and Promotion**

The Summary of Recommendations of the Economic Development and Promotion Committee was presented by Helen Jowett, Chair of the Committee.
Moved by H. Jowett
Seconded by K. Kiefer

That the Summary of Recommendations of the Economic Development and Promotion Committee, dated December 16, 2015, Items 1 and 2, be adopted as follows:

1. That the Economic Development and Promotion Committee recommend to Regional Council that it be renamed the Economic Development Committee (EDC);
   And That the Economic Development Committee assume the prescribed roles, as described in Report No. PDL-15-06, dated December 16, 2015.

2. That the Economic Development 2016 budget for grants be set at $154,000;
   And that the five core organizations receiving annual ongoing grants be funded for 2016;
   And that no new grant applications be received for this program;
   And that the Economic Development and Promotion Committee refer the review of the five organizations that currently receive an on-going grant to the Ad Hoc Working Group on Community Grants.

Carried

**Other Matters Under Committee Of The Whole**

Moved by K. Redman
Seconded by L. Armstrong

That Committee of the Whole rise and Council resume.

Carried

Moved by S. Foxton
Seconded by D. Jaworsky

That Council adopt the proceeding of the Committee of the Whole.

Carried

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Notice of Motion

S. Strickland introduced his notice of motion stating it is clear that the Province of Ontario needs to provide regulations for the entire Province. He stated the Region can continue to develop its own by-law but he noted each municipality is dealing with it in its own way. A request was made to amend the motion to include that it be addressed to the Premier of Ontario and also circulated to AMO and all municipalities in the Province of Ontario and to change “ride hailing” to “vehicle for hire”. These amendments were agreed to by the mover and seconder.

Moved by S. Strickland
Seconded by E. Clarke

That Regional Municipality of Waterloo request the Premier of Ontario and the Ministry of Transportation for the Province of Ontario pass legislation and/or regulations to provide a standardized approach for the Province to address taxi-cab mobile applications, such as Uber;

And that this legislation would consider the appropriate vehicle insurance and driver provisions for all operators in the vehicle for hire industry;

And further that the legislation and/or regulations would ensure public safety;

And further that this resolution be circulated to AMO and Ontario municipalities.

Carried

Enactment of By-Laws – (First, Second & Third Readings)

Moved by L. Armstrong
Seconded by S. Foxton

a) That a By-law to A By-law to Amend the Wholesale Rates By-law 33-90 and to Repeal By-law 15-013 be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 15-063 signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.

b) That a By-law to A By-law to Impose the Regional Sewage Rate and to Repeal By-law 15-014 be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 16-064 signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.

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c) That a By-law to A By-law to Impose a Water Service Rate in The Townships of Wellesley and North Dumfries and to Repeal By-law 15-015 be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 15-065 signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.

d) That a By-law to A By-law to Impose a Sewage Service Rate in the Township of Wellesley and North Dumfries and to Repeal By-law 15-016 be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 15-066 signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.

e) That a By-law to Confirm the Actions of Council of December 16, 2015 be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 15-067 signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.

Carried

Adjourn

Moved by K. Kiefer
Seconded by S. Foxton

That the meeting adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Carried

Regional Chair, K. Seiling

Regional Clerk, K. Fletcher
First, I would like to draw attention to the presentation on the screen. During the last CEI presentation, the arts community were dismayed that they showcased art from outside of the region as an example of what could exist here. I asked artists for the use of images and received over 300 photographs of events, art, and packed out crowds gathered to partake in art in Waterloo Region.

Thank you, Councilors for allowing me to come and speak with you tonight.

For those of you who don’t know me, I have lived in Waterloo Region for the better part of 20 years – I owned a house in Waterloo, I rented in Cambridge, I lived in Doon, I spent 7 years downtown Kitchener, and now live in beautiful New Dundee. I moved here recruited from Toronto as a tech worker, worked as a teacher, and have now been a professional artist for going on 10 years.

In my time here, I have seen the arts go from vibrant and thrumming, to something of a difficult battle field of closed door meetings discussing what we need to do to end the single most difficult problem we have had to tackle in our careers. This question of the CEI has plagued us for years. Many of my colleagues approached it with hope. We are, after all, artists.
You don’t go into the arts to make money. You don’t go into the arts thinking that anything will be easy. But you only stay in the arts because you are an unquenchable optimist, truly believing that things will get better. You rapidly learn to budget tight funds and you build something out of nothing. You stretch countless dimes and make pennies bleed. You continue to apply for grants, and work endlessly to keep building your practice.

Art has this remarkable knock on effect for making money for everyone but those who are closest to it. The artists struggle, and they struggle here enormously. The organizations who present and support most directly have to stringently build and defend budgets that always present shortfalls. Restaurants, cafes, and small business around art thrive and are well supported by the artists and their excited crowds.

In this case, most embarrassingly, and perhaps very unique to Waterloo Region, over 1 million in funding over a few years has been poured into an initiative built when the Region recognized that the arts, from individual practitioner to large institution was critically underfunded. 1 million dollars, a few years later, and we all still are struggling, now more than ever.
We have dire infrastructure issues with a lack of galleries, studios, jam halls, theatres, rehearsal space and then also seeing these diminish monthly. We are lacking money from private sector after most of it was siphoned into this new venture built to “help the arts”. We have seen almost no growth in sustainability and innovation for small to medium organizations – those that animate the buildings who are also struggling to place programming and fix their roofs, maintain their HVAC, and keep a staff for the audiences that pack in to see what we build.

The CEI is not, nor has ever been an arts organization. It has built a few, desperately transient bandaids that we rallied together to build before, but now are left with less. I maintained a studio for over 6 years through artist run initiatives. The CEI maintained studios for 3 years, and then never managed to build sustainable infrastructure, sustainable funding for practicing artists, sustainable resources in any way at all whatsoever.

I no longer have a studio. I can't afford one even though my career is stronger than ever.

A 3-5 million dollar funding gap was identified, and we are all, from individual artist to large institution, more stressed than ever.
The CEI is barely an arts supporting initiative, and certainly needs to no longer be viewed, or called an arts organization. Nor should it take part in being funded as one, whether that money comes from a dedicated arts budget or otherwise.

I am taking this platform right now as an artist in Waterloo Region to state that the CEI is not an arts organization. I am calling on my colleagues to do the same. I am calling on my colleagues to turn their backs to this thorn-in-the-side failed project and recognize that they are not among us and their failure was not ours. We were not the CEI and they were not us. They don’t represent us. I ask that the CEI is no longer referred to as an arts organization.

I am taking this platform right now as an artist in Waterloo Region to make it clear that we are not culture industries, big film or music. Under the CEI, we were in a muddle with these blockbuster industries. We animate your region daily. We would perhaps benefit by their presence, but we are not them. You can’t treat us the same.
I am taking this platform right now as an artist in Waterloo Region to declare that we are not content creators. We do not function to fill space, and organizations who place-make understand this. We are not glorified advertisers or marketing initiatives. We make works of art.

I am taking this platform right now as an artist in Waterloo Region with a brand new non-profit in the arts to say that I speak because I have nothing left to lose.

There is no capacity for me, or my other emerging colleagues to make things here. There is barely capacity for those who have had long careers to do the same. I have watched countless talented colleagues leave, and I am on the verge of doing the same. One of our greatest exports must be artists. This bleed will not end with me when I go.
Delegation to Waterloo Regional Council re: CEI
Robert Linsley
- professional artist with exhibitions in Europe, Canada and the USA
- former professor of Fine Arts at UW
- currently working on a start up located in Communitech

1) CEI has plans to spend over $300,000 to wind down. There is a broad based feeling in the arts community that this is a waste.
- the Grand Social web site is not needed or wanted. It has 1.7 users a day.
- most of the CEI budget is for administrative salaries at a time when artists in the region are struggling.
- during it’s existence CEI has been raising money and distributing it to arts organizations. In a word, CEI has been another unnecessary layer of bureaucracy between artists and funders. Yet in its last year budget sets aside only $5000 for unspecified “projects.”

2) All the tech companies receive subsidies, grants, help from incubators and other business development agencies etc. but there is the expectation that they won’t need help forever. The arts depend on constant subsidy. This model no longer works.

3) We can borrow the forms and structures of the tech world - incubators, on the job training, investment capital, mentoring - and use them to make a sustainable art ecosystem that will bring money and jobs into the region as well as meet the goals CEI was striving for, namely to balance out the technology and business successes of KW with a more dynamic cultural sector.

4) KW is working with a consumption model - that the arts only bring value through festivals, events and concerts as an enhancement of quality of life. More ambitious is a production model, where the region gains a reputation as a source of creativity. That means we have to bring in the best people to make art here and export internationally, which is what our tech companies do.
5) The performing arts have a revenue model based on ticket sales, where success is measured in attendance figures. Ticket revenue can never meet costs. The visual arts make products for sale and success is measured in prices achieved. There is no upper limit to prices, and in the international art world those products are often manufactured using the most advanced tools, which fits with KW's traditions and skills. To get high prices one has to have ambitious, professional art and sell internationally.

6) Money earmarked for CEI wind down could be put towards research of different and more effective approaches to arts funding. The idea described above is only one - others in the community could propose other ideas. I suggest 5 tranches of 15,000, of which I would apply for one to develop the concept of a sustainable, production based system for art in the region. Since the region is funding CEI you can direct them to make these amounts available for such initiatives.

7) When I left UW in 2007 I had this idea fully worked out, and there was a window of opportunity to do something that would be unique in the world. But at that time I was also thinking about current problems in art education and the plan met those needs. Now eight years have passed, the world is different and the plan needs to be rethought. I will do research - including travel to investigate other relevant initiatives, such as the ZKM in Karlsruhe - update or alter my idea, prepare a business plan, investigate funding sources and present a new model for sustainable arts in the region. This is what CEI should have done, and it can be done for substantially less than the projected costs of CEI wind down.
Chair Seiling, regional councilors -- thanks for opportunity to speak

When I spoke at the Kitchener council meeting on this subject on Monday, I urged the CEI Board to withdraw the application for funding to cover their final months of operation.

If it is not withdrawn, my recommendation to Regional Council is: do not fund this proposal as it stands, at this time.

I have worked to support what eventually became the Creative Enterprise Initiative as long as anyone else, and harder than most. We sacrificed our organization, the Waterloo Regional Arts Council, so that this new initiative could begin work unencumbered.

So I am speaking, not from an opposing camp, but as an ally and a stakeholder. And what I’m speaking out against is a strategy that proposes abandoning every stream of activity, and every need and possibility identified through the work of the Prosperity Council Task Force on Creative Enterprise – except for one: an online what’s on list -- and then going off on a whole new adventure before shutting down, before the year is out, burning up another $300,000 in the process.

It’s hard to understand how outrageous this proposed course of action is.

Let’s stop this now, and allow ourselves time to consider other possibilities.

For instance, imagine this: We go back to September 2008, when, "following the Creative Dimensions in Prosperity Forum, three work groups were formed as part of the planning process Vision, Resources, Structure."

Seven years later, a new task force is set up -- a "Greater Waterloo Citizen’s Task Force on Arts, Culture and Heritage," or something along those lines.
A structure can be put in place that mirrors what existed then: three chairs, a steering committee, and a set of work groups, each with co-chair.

Seek engagement from beyond the Prosperity Council .... maybe introduce some symbolic variations. In 2008, the 9 chairs were men; now let’s make it all women. Seven years ago the steering committee meetings were mostly in Waterloo north of the universities; let’s shift the centre of gravity to Cambridge or South Kitchener this time around.

In addition to the three original work groups, two more: Communication/ Information; and an omnibus Engagement/Belonging/Placemaking work group, including Youth Arts / Arts in Education.

I’m suggesting 5, because I’m proposing that each of these work groups be embedded in the economic development department of one of the 3 cities, the region, or the townships, individually or as a group.

The role of city staff would be support services only -- scheduling, booking space, taking minutes, documentation, and maybe covering minor expenses. Beyond that, the process will require ZERO public funding.

The task will be:

1. re-examine all the work done 2006-2010, especially the 3 work group reports.

2. evaluate the work done by CEI 2011-2015, with emphasis on what can be learned from the experience, NOT to ascribe blame to any one

3. make new proposals and recommendations for 2017-2024, with emphasis on doable action items, and identifying who will do them.

The work should take about a year.

Which will be timely, because that’s when the new Waterloo Region Economic Development Corporation is scheduled to begin working towards reaching its Objective 4.1: To become recognized as a major location for art and culture.

The plan is to work to “Encourage, support and promote the arts and culture sector in Waterloo region from 2017 to 2019.

When they do, let’s make sure they’re not burdened with the kind of anger, frustration and fragmentation that has emerged in the Waterloo region arts community of late, and not all because of CEI.

Let’s make an effort to learn from the mistakes that have been made over the last 5 or 6 years so that we don’t them, and think about how to build on some of the positive developments as well.

--

Martin de Groot
Chair Seiling and Members of Council

Thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening. I am speaking to you today as an artist who decided I would be a disaster as a waiter, a common job for performing artists. I decided instead on a career as an arts administrator where I could put my love and knowledge of the arts into creating supportive structures.

It is great to see so many from the arts community here as well but I want to point out that they do not represent the entire arts community. I am not wearing a t-shirt identifying which group I am with because I work and volunteer with so many. The ones with which I have the closest association have definitely benefited from having CEI in the community and they include theatre, music, dance, the visual arts and a museum. Each of them approached CEI with a plan and a request for assistance and in each instance, CEI came up with support. Support that allowed for organizational change.

Do you remember the day that CEI was ‘born’? I do. Many of those in this room who were there. There was such a positive buzz in the air. I was so excited because politicians, business leaders, artists and arts organizations were in a room together, listening to each other and dreaming about a bold new approach that would change their relationships in this community. I thought that it might actually happen.

Well, big, bold dreams take time. We knew intellectually that it would be at least 10 years before we would really see a change but in our hearts, we were impatient and rather than buckling down together and doing what we promised to do, we began to splinter and we found a perfect focus for our frustration. CEI

It was so easy. Even though artists and arts administrators complain about not being paid appropriately for the work we do,
when CEI decided that it was fundamental to recognizing the value of the creative sector to pay staff appropriately, we did not like that. When CEI determined that change would be best supported by providing tools and knowledge rather than dollars, we did not like that either. When they insisted that we have a plan for the change we anticipated, we balked. No one is going to tell us what to do. Guess that is why we are all so financially successful.

There is a lot of talk about throwing good money after bad, but I suggest that if our Councils continue to support organizations allowing them to continue to do what they have always done, then shame on them! Our current approaches are no longer working. We have to be bold.

True change is hard work. It takes time. And sometimes, we must adapt to changes in our environment. The proposal that CEI is advocating is a reflection of this approach. In fact, CEI is demonstrating the kind of thinking that we should be considering as individual arts organizations and artists. Do we have too many not for profit arts organizations? Yes. Have we done anything to truly collaborate so that we can support our artistic visions with an effective and well paid administrative support structure? No. So, now we want to punish CEI because this organization has determined that since its inception the environment has shifted and there are other organizations that can accomplish key elements of its mandate and they may be able to do so more effectively? We should be celebrating this approach. We should be saying to other not for profits - go, see who you can work with and take some time to figure it out so you can protect your artistic vision and then do so!

How much more effective it would have been had the arts sector shown the same initiative and pulled together to assist CEI in accomplishing even one of its goals, such as developing GrandSocial.ca so it would help the arts draw an audience resulting
in generated revenue and the ability to attract more private sponsorship. Yes, we are creating great art in Waterloo Region, but making art is not the same as making place. Great art may be happening here but without audience development, new ways for our artists to earn an income at home and outside this region, and models to increase self-sufficiency for the arts, we will not go forward.

But we don’t seem to want to change. We continue to beg for more money without committing to working differently. We ignore that there are other artists and arts organizations emerging who also deserve support. Our community is teaching the arts sector that they will be rewarded for being loud. This is not the kind of community in which I wish to live and work and it is not the kind of arts organization I wish to support. Allow CEI to continue the work that it has started and to make the best choices necessary to allow the creative sector to flourish in Waterloo Region.

Respectfully

Cheryl Ewing