Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – November 19, 2014

REPORTS

Item No. 1 Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee 2014 Second Quarter Report

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On September 18, 2014, the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that the 2014 Second Quarter Report, be received as information.

Housing and Strategic Initiatives Division
Activity Report to the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee
2014 Quarter 2 (April 1 to June 30)

Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve

- Thirteen projects were approved by the Director for a total of $452,000.
- Thirteen Payment Claims for progress on existing approved projects were processed for a total of $166,181.

Activities and Accomplishments

- Division staff presented the Draft Winnipeg Housing Policy Implementation Plan to the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee.
- Division staff attended six meetings of Housing Stakeholders (monthly or bi-monthly meetings) in Housing Improvement Zone neighbourhoods where funds are allocated from the City's Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve. These meetings serve as a means of regular communication with community stakeholders, and also included one meeting with the Housing Committee of the Point Douglas Residents Committee and one meeting with Aboriginal housing providers in Winnipeg.
- In addition to Neighbourhood Housing Stakeholder Meetings, Division staff met with nine proponents and community groups regarding individual projects being proposed or considered for funding through the Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve.
- Division staff attended four meetings of the Visitability Task Force project undertaken by the Canadian Centre on Disability Studies, as part of its commitment to increase the supply of visitable housing in Winnipeg. The task force is planning a fall Webinar in partnership with the Canada Housing and Renewal Association, and is preparing to provide information on visitability in several upcoming housing conferences.
- Division staff attended several community events, including the Grand Opening of the MacDonald Youth Services facility, the launch of the Poverty Reduction Council's Plan to End Homelessness, community Arson Forums co-sponsored by the City's Fire Paramedic Service (Fire Prevention) and Community Services (By-law Enforcement Service), the CentreVenture AGM, two Housing First workshops, the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) Community Planning Session, and the Rooming House Community Forum.
- Division staff attended three meetings hosted by Community Services By-law Enforcement Services to discuss issues surrounding Rooming Houses in Winnipeg. These meetings, which included representation from various divisions of the Community Services Department and the Planning, Property and Development Department, represent a collaborative internal effort to better understand and address issues regarding Rooming Houses in Winnipeg.
- Division staff gave two presentations to 311 trainees regarding funding and other supports provided through the Housing and Strategic Initiatives Division.

- Division staff met with other staff in the Planning, Property and Development Division regarding establishing criteria for Reinvestment Areas, and agreed to take the lead in coordinating this effort internally. Two meetings were then held with representatives of Urban Planning, Neighbourhood Economic Development, Community Development and Recreation Services, and By-law Enforcement Services to undertake this work.
- Division staff discussed projects with three separate for-profit developers to determine how they could collaborate with the City in meeting housing objectives under the Winnipeg Housing Policy. These discussions are on-going and may result in proposals for funding if projects are appropriate and endorsed by respective communities in which they are proposed.