Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – May 6, 2015

REPORTS

Item No. 1 Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee – 2015 First Quarter Report – January 1 to March 31, 2015

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 20, 2015, the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that the First Quarter Report dated January 1, 2015 to March 31, 2015, be received as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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Housing and Strategic Initiatives Division
Activity Report to the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee
2015 Quarter 1 (January 1 to March 31)

Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve

- One project was approved by the Director for a total of $30,000 (new funds become available to the Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve on April 1, so very few proposals are typically submitted at the end of the previous funding cycle).
- Fourteen Payment Claims for progress on existing approved projects were processed for a total of $329,870.

Activities and Accomplishments

- 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. In addition, staff attended two meetings of Aboriginal housing stakeholders to discuss projects supporting Aboriginal housing projects. These meetings serve as a means to facilitate regular communication with community stakeholders regarding housing concerns and opportunities in targeted neighbourhoods.
- Division staff attended two meetings and one Community Consultation regarding development of a new neighbourhood housing plan for the St. Johns neighbourhood. The City is funding the project through the HRIR.
- 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.
- Division staff participated in two meetings of the Rooming Housing Task Force, created as a result of the Rooming House Forum held in the spring of 2014. The Task Force is co-chaired by the Province (Rob Altemeyer) and the City (Councillor Gerbasi), and includes representation from the City, the Province, community advocates and rooming house landlords. In addition, staff attended a meeting of a subcommittee struck to create a common definition of "rooming house" to be used by all participants. A recommendation was put forward to the Task Force in March.
- Division staff made several public presentations on request regarding housing and housing policy:
    - A presentation on the Aboriginal Housing Program was given at the Winnipeg Aboriginal Relations Leadership Team.
    - A presentation on Housing and Healthy Communities was given to participants of the Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association Conference in partnership with a Liveability By-law presentation on proactive efforts in the North End. The City also provided funds as a sponsor of the conference.

- Division staff attended several community events, including the Centennial Community Improvement Association (CCIA) AGM, the grand opening of Marie Rose Place, the grand opening of West End Commons, and the Age Friendly Winnipeg consultation.
- Division staff met with non-profit and for-profit proponents to discuss potential housing projects in Winnipeg. These meetings were preliminary meetings to provide information on potential assistance from the City and discuss how projects would fit within the City's Housing Policy.