Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – February 10, 2016

REPORTS

Item No. 1 Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee - Second, Third and Fourth Quarter Reports for the period of April 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Executive Policy Committee received as information the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee's Second, Third and Fourth Quarter Reports for the period of April 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Mayes,

That the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee's Second, Third and Fourth Quarter Reports for the period of April 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015, be received as information.

Carried

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 21, 2016, the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that the Second, Third and Fourth Quarter Reports for the period of April 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015, be received as information.

Housing and Strategic Initiatives Division
Activity Report to the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee
2015 Quarter 2 (April 1 to June 30)

Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve

- Nine projects were approved by the Director for a total of $511,030.
- Sixteen Payment Claims for progress on existing approved projects were processed for a total of $209,734.

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. These meetings serve as a means to facilitate regular communication with community stakeholders regarding housing concerns and opportunities in targeted neighbourhoods.
- Division staff attended one meeting 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 three 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 attended Annual General Meetings of the North End Community Renewal Corporation (NECRC) and the Winnipeg Housing Rehabilitation Corporation (WHRC).
- Division staff attended the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA) conference held in Winnipeg, and met with housing advocates and specialists from across Canada to share information.
- Division staff attended the Final Evaluation meeting of the Intergovernmental Strategic Aboriginal Alignment (ISAA) and provided feedback on strengths and weaknesses of the process.
- Division staff hosted meetings with staff from the Departments of Planning, Property and Development regarding establishing criteria for Reinvestment Areas.
- Division staff met with non-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.

Housing and Strategic Initiatives Division
Activity Report to the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee
2015 Quarter 3 (July 1 to September 30)

Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve

- Three projects were approved by the Director for a total of $87,920.
- Five Payment Claims for progress on existing approved projects were processed for a total of $107,500.

Activities and Accomplishments

- Division staff attended two 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 to facilitate regular communication with community stakeholders regarding housing concerns and opportunities in targeted neighbourhoods. Meetings are generally not held in July or August due to summer holidays.
- Division staff attended two meeting regarding development of a new neighbourhood housing plan for the Chalmers neighbourhood. The City is funding the project through the HRIR.
- Division staff attended three 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 a meeting 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.
- Division staff attended the Annual General Meeting of the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (CNRC).
- The Planning, Property and Development Department began a restructuring of staffing in housing development. The manager of the division accepted a position within the Community Services Department, and it was decided to shift delivery of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy funds to Community Services as well. Remaining staff were redeployed to Urban Planning and to Economic Development divisions within PPD, and are working with these divisions to coordinate and incorporate activities into those areas.

Urban Planning Division
(formerly provided by the Housing and Strategic Initiatives Division)
Activity Report to the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee
2015 Quarter 4 (October 1 to December 31)

Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve

- Four projects were approved by the Director for a total of $367,920.
- Fifteen Payment Claims for progress on existing approved projects were processed for a total of $273,261.

Activities and Accomplishments

- Division staff attended seven 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 to facilitate regular communication with community stakeholders regarding housing concerns and opportunities in targeted neighbourhoods.
- Division staff attended three 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. In addition to meetings, staff participated in the Realtors Trade Show to staff a booth promoting visitability in housing, and participated on a panel presentation to Realtors in a training seminar.
- Division staff co-presented at a Rooming House Community Update Forum held at the University of Winnipeg. The event was attended by community groups, landlords, academics, advocates and other levels of government.
- Division staff attended the Annual General Meetings of the William Whyte Residents Association (WWRA), the Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association (MNPHA), and the North End Housing Project (NEHP). As per their request, staff provided a brief presentation at the NEHP AGM.
- Staff began coordinating more closely with Urban Planning on development of Reinvestment Area indicators.
- Staff began evaluation of a potential program for a tax-based incentive program outside of the downtown, and met with Provincial representatives to solicit input and possible interest in their participation.
- Staff met with several non-profit and for-profit proponents regarding potential development of multiple-family developments, both in the downtown and outside of downtown but in adjacent neighbourhoods. Staff continue to meet with these proponents to evaluate the need for support and to explore possible incentives that can be recommended.