Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – February 8, 2017

REPORTS

Item No. 4 Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee – 2016 Fourth Quarter Report (October 1 to December 31)

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On January 19, 2017, the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that the Fourth Quarter Report dated October 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016, be received as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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Urban Planning Division
Activity Report to the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee
2016 Quarter 4 (October 1 to December 31)

Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve

- Two new projects were approved by the Director for a total of $72,000.
- Fourteen Payment Claims for progress on existing approved projects were processed for a total of $215,141.

Activities and Accomplishments

- Division staff attended five 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 the Annual General Meeting of the William Whyte Residents Association.
- Division and departmental staff attended four meetings with provincial staff to discuss Tax Increment Financing in context of a downtown strategy. It is hoped that evaluation of results will yield a better understanding of the effectiveness of this tool and how it might be considered in future programming.
- Division staff continued to meet with representatives of the Seven Oaks School Division to discuss a potential housing development concept in the North End. Meetings also included representatives of the North End Community Renewal Association, the William Whyte Residents Association and other stakeholders.
- Division staff met with members of the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee (WHSC) to discuss Councillor Gerbasi's motion to Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development (SPCPDHDD) regarding development of an affordable housing program targeting non-profit and cooperative housing providers. It was agreed that more data are needed on the existing housing market to maximize effectiveness of a new program, and the WHSC recommended in a motion that the Public Service explore and make recommendations on undertaking a housing needs assessment. Results of the housing needs assessment would then be used to address Councillor Gerbasi's original motion regarding development of an affordable housing program. The recommendation on a housing needs assessment received concurrence from SPCPDHDD in December, and the Public Service was directed to prepare a report for the March meeting of SPCPDHDD. Division staff have begun exploration of data availability and have met with or contacted representatives of the provincial Residential Tenancies Branch, the City's Assessment and Taxation Department, Canada Mortgage and Housing, and Winnipeg Realtors. Staff also scheduled a meeting with community researchers and housing experts for early January to discuss the scope and research approach to the study.

- Division staff began preparing for two public information events on secondary suites. The first, which is the second in a *Planners Ed* series scheduled for January 14, 2017, is a presentation from a planning perspective on attached and detached secondary suites. It will include definitions, information on regulation, advantages, application processes and discussion of how secondary suites can benefit communities as well as homeowners while providing affordable units in the rental market. The second event, scheduled for February 25, will include similar information and will include a panel discussion with representatives from the City and from the Province, as well as from the private sector. The second event will provide more specific information to people considering adding a secondary suite to their existing single-family home. Both events will be held at the Millennium Library.
- Division Staff worked with PPD Communications Staff to provide information about secondary suites on the City website, as well as update existing brochures on the topic. Staff are also working on creating articles for media publication to increase awareness of the opportunities created by this housing development option.
- Division staff continued to partner with the Real Estate Division on a potential pilot project for strategic disposition of City-owned land in the William Whyte neighbourhood, and are in the process of finalizing a report for SPCPDHDD on this topic.