Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – May 10, 2017

REPORTS

Item No. 6 Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee – 2017 First Quarter Report (January 1 to March 31)

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On April 27, 2017, the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that the First Quarter Report dated January 1, 2017 to March 31, 2017, be received as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

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Urban Planning Division
Activity Report to the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee
2017 Quarter 1 (January 1 to March 31)

Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve

- Eleven Payment Claims for progress on existing approved projects were processed for a total of $237,772.

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 managed two public information events on secondary suites:
    - The first event, which was the second in a *Planners Ed* series, occurred on January 14 at the Millennium Library and consisted of a presentation from a planning perspective on attached and detached secondary suites. Approximately 35 people attended the session (maximum capacity for the session was reached). The presentation included 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 presentation is available on the City website at http://www.winnipeg.ca/ppd/planning/PlanningEd/PDF/Secondary-Suites-Information-Session-Jan-2017.pdf
    - The second event, which was the first in the *Housing Speaker Series*, was held on February 25 at the Millennium Library, and consisted of a panel discussion followed by a question and answer session. The panel included representatives of the City and the Province, and three builders with experience in building secondary suites. Fifty-three people attended the session, which met capacity of the facility (approximately 30 more were on a waiting list). This event provided more specific information to people considering adding a secondary suite to their existing single-family home. Links to presentations are provided on the City website at http://winnipeg.ca/ppd/PublicEngagement/HousingSpeakerSeries/default.stm
- Division and departmental staff attended 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 conducted background research in preparation of a draft report with recommendations pertaining to a Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment, as per motions at Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee (WHSC) and the Standing Policy Committee on Property and Development, Heritage and Downtown Development (SPC PDHDD). Meetings included:
    - Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, to ascertain data quality and structure on the Winnipeg market;
    - Advocate/Stakeholder Consultation, to gather input from community organizations and researchers; and
    - Representatives of Institute of Urban Studies, University of Winnipeg, to discuss process and logistics of conducting the study.
- Division staff prepared a draft report regarding strategic sales of City-owned lands in the William Whyte neighbourhood. This report has since undergone revision based on review of senior management, and will be submitted for consideration at SPC PDHDD.
- Division staff have begun research for development of a new Affordable Housing Program, as directed by motion at the January 19 meeting of WHSC. Consideration has been given to policy support, eligible areas, and financial tools to consider.
- The WHSC met informally with division staff to discuss current activities and progress on reports in progress. The committee also discussed with staff considerations for an affordable housing program, including potential eligibility criteria for support and intended program outcomes that will benefit the city as a whole.