Agenda – Executive Policy Committee – November 8, 2017

REPORTS

Item No. 3 Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee – 2017 Second and Third Quarter Reports

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 19, 2017, the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that the 2017 Second and Third Quarter Reports, be received as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On October 19, 2017, the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that the 2017 Second and Third Quarter Reports, be received as information.

Urban Planning and Design Division
Housing Activity Report to the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee
2017 Quarter 2 (April 1 to June 30)

Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve

- Eight new projects were approved by the Director of the Planning, Property and Development Department for a total of $324,305.
- Two Payment Claims for progress on existing approved projects were processed for a total of $237,500.

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 met with Indigenous Housing Providers to discuss allocation of funds under the Indigenous Housing Program ($200,000 from annual allocation of funds to the Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve).
- Councillor Jenny Gerbasi attended the National Conference of the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA) in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where she participated on an Affordable Housing Panel representing the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.
- Members of the WHSC met with division staff to discuss current activities and progress on reports in progress. The committee and staff continued to discuss considerations for an affordable housing program, including potential eligibility criteria for support and intended program outcomes that will benefit the city as a whole.
- Division staff met with Councillor Allard to discuss emerging housing issues and needs in the St. Boniface Ward. Immigration is creating a growing need for affordable housing in the Francophone community.
- Division staff attended Annual General Meetings of the Centennial Community Improvement Association, the North End Community Renewal Corporation and the Winnipeg Housing Renewal Corporation.
- Division staff organized and hosted the second event in the Housing Speaker Series, which was a 2-hour panel discussion on Refugee Housing held at the Millennium Library. Five panellists spoke on the topic from different perspectives, and 25 people attended the event. The discussion was covered by three media outlets.
- The Housing Policy Coordinator participated as a panellist in an event organized by MP Robert Falcon-Ouellette to discuss affordable and social housing. The event was held at the Forks with approximately 40 people in attendance.
- Division staff attended a federally hosted Regional Stakeholder Budget Review, in which CMHC staff discussed new funding and potential upcoming programs stemming from

housing funds announced in the 2017 federal budget. Funding is budgeted for housing rehabilitation and development, and organizers solicited feedback from participants on various program options.

- Staff from Urban Planning and Design met with Community Development and Recreation Services (Community Services Department) staff to share information regarding core neighbourhoods, emerging housing and social issues. Staff from these two divisions will continue to meet on an occasional basis to share information and coordinate activities.

Urban Planning and Design Division
Housing Activity Report to the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee
2017 Quarter 3 (July 1 to September 30)

Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve

- Eight new projects were approved by the Director of the Planning, Property and Development Department for a total of $285,400.
- Thirteen Payment Claims for progress on existing approved projects were processed for a total of $233,305.

Activities and Accomplishments

- Division staff attended three 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. Groups typically do not meet in July or August due to holiday schedules.
- Members of the WHSC met with division staff to discuss current activities and progress on reports in progress. The committee and staff continued to discuss considerations for an affordable housing program, including potential eligibility criteria for support and intended program outcomes that will benefit the city as a whole.
- Division staff participated in a telephone interview with CMHC to discuss affordable housing practices in Winnipeg, program needs and considerations for using federal surplus lands for development of affordable housing. The interview was part of a national survey being conducted by CMHC with municipalities to explore and address commitments made in the 2017 federal budget.
- Division staff met with provincial staff to discuss opportunities to cooperate in developing an affordable housing program in Winnipeg. The Province is unlikely to have funding in the coming year, but is able to advise on design components that may be useful in future co-funding considerations.
- Division staff met with the Manager of Development and Inspections to discuss potential for an expedited application process. It was determined that a process already exists that allows for an expedited approval, and that adding this option would duplicate the existing process.
- Division staff met with representatives of the Institute of Urban Studies (University of Winnipeg) to discuss in greater detail the project to conduct a Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment for Winnipeg. Negotiations are currently underway to finalize an agreement to begin the project.
- Division staff attended the Annual General Meetings of the Chalmers Community Renewal Corporation.
- Division staff met with several graduate university students on separate occasions to discuss housing issues relevant to their academic studies.

- Division staff began planning the third event for the Housing Speaker Series, which will be a panel discussion on Infill Housing to held at the Millennium Library. The event is planned for Saturday, November 18 at 1:00 in the Carol Shields Auditorium.
- The Housing Policy Coordinator participated in a discussion on affordable housing with community members at the offices of MP Daniel Blaikie (Elmwood-Transcona), and later at the offices of the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation.
- Urban Planning and Design staff continue to meet with Community Development and Recreation Services staff (Community Services Department) to share information regarding core neighbourhoods, emerging housing and social issues. Staff from these two divisions have agreed to meet on an occasional basis to share information and coordinate activities.