Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – September 12, 2018

REPORTS

Item No. 6 Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee – Housing Activity Reports – 2017 Fourth Quarter (October 1 to December 31), 2018 First Quarter (January 1 to March 31) and 2018 Second Quarter (April 1 to June 30)

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE DECISION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee, and received as information the 2017 Fourth Quarter (October 1 to December 31), 2018 First Quarter (January 1 to March 31) and 2018 Second Quarter (April 1 to June 30) Housing Activity Reports.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Pagtakhan,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee be concurred in.

Carried

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On July 12, 2018, the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee recommended to the Executive Policy Committee that the 2017 Fourth Quarter (October 1 to December 31), 2018 First Quarter (January 1 to March 31) and 2018 Second Quarter (April 1 to June 30) Housing Activity Reports be received as information.

Urban Planning and Design Division
Housing Activity Report to the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee
2017 Quarter 4 (October 1 to December 31)

Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve

- Two new projects were approved by the Director of the Planning, Property and Development Department for a total of $103,920.
- Eight Payment Claims for progress on existing approved projects were processed for a total of $179,760.

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. Groups typically do not meet in July or August due to holiday schedules.
- Members of the WHSC met twice with division staff to discuss current activities and progress on activities. 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. The WHSC also met formally on October 19, and received presentations on the Eastern Corridor Study and on potential components of an affordable housing program.
- 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. IUS submitted a workplan/proposal to describe the project, methodology and intended outcomes. Division staff met with Legal Services to draft an agreement between the City and the University of Winnipeg to undertake the study, and the University is reviewing the draft.
- Division staff corresponded with staff in Manitoba Housing to determine whether the Province is willing to add funding to the study so it can include areas in Winnipeg's Capital Region. The Province is considering the request.
- Division staff attended the Annual General Meeting of the William Whyte Neighbourhood Association.
- Division staff hosted the third event for the Housing Speaker Series, which was a panel discussion on Infill Housing at the Millennium Library. The event was held on Saturday, November 18 at the Millennium Library, and was attended by 46 registrants. The event was also broadcast on the City's Facebook page using Facebook Live, and online viewers interacted with questions and comments that were answered in real time. This event represented the first time that the City hosted a live event with opportunity for online participants to engage in a question and answer period for a live event.

Urban Planning and Design Division
Housing Activity Report to the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee
2018 Quarter 1 (January 1 to March 31)

Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve

- 2 new projects were approved by the Director of the Planning, Property and Development Department for a total of $38,000.
- Seven Payment Claims for progress on existing approved projects were processed for a total of $131,850.

Activities and Accomplishments

- Division staff attended eight 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 and Legal Services continued negotiating an agreement with the Institute of Urban Studies (University of Winnipeg) regarding the project to conduct a Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment for Winnipeg. IUS has begun some preliminary work in anticipation of signing an agreement for the work.
- 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.
- The Housing Policy Coordinator spoke with several developers exploring options to build affordable multiple-family housing in Winnipeg. Two proposed sites were in the downtown area, and one location is yet to be determined. These developments may take advantage of new federal programs, and they are pursuing provincial assistance as well. One or more of these proposed developments would request assistance from the Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve in addition to other potential incentives from the City.

Urban Planning and Design Division
Housing Activity Report to the Winnipeg Housing Steering Committee
2018 Quarter 2 (April 1 to June 30)

Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve

- Five new projects were approved by the Director of the Planning, Property and Development Department for a total of $155,000.
- Ten Payment Claims for progress on existing approved projects were processed for a total of $168,385.

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
- The Housing Policy Coordinator met with Indigenous Housing Providers to discuss use of funds under the Indigenous Housing Program. Several projects were proposed to address declining housing conditions in housing units that are no longer supported under federal or provincial agreements.
- Members of the WHSC met twice 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.
- The City finalized an agreement with the Institute of Urban Studies (University of Winnipeg) to conduct a Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment for Winnipeg. IUS is conducting preliminary work for the study as the agreement is circulating for signatures. The estimated completion date for the study is May 2019.
- Urban Planning and Design staff met with William Whyte stakeholders to discuss evaluation criteria for proposals from non-profit organizations to purchase and develop housing in the William Whyte neighbourhood. Criteria and weighting have been identified, and a Request for Proposals is being developed for release in the near future.
- Urban Planning and Design staff met with several developers to discuss potential affordable multiple-family projects in Winnipeg. Developers are interested in assistance through the Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve and from other incentives that might be available from the City.
- Division staff attended the Annual General Meetings of the North End Community Renewal Corporation and the Winnipeg Housing Rehabilitation Corporation.
- Division staff met with a graduate university student to discuss housing issues relevant to her graduate-level academic studies.

- 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.