

## Community Services and Parks Standing Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, December 2, 2020

Time: 9:00 o'clock a.m.

### **Members Present:**

#### **Councillors**

Ward 3 - Councillor Bortolin

Ward 5 - Councillor Sleiman (Chairperson)

Ward 6 - Councillor Gignac

Ward 9 - Councillor McKenzie

Ward 10 - Councillor Morrison

Clerk's Note: Members participated via video conference, in accordance with Procedure By-law 98-2011 as amended, which allows for electronic participation during a declared emergency.

#### ***Also present are the following from administration:***

Jelena Payne, Community Development and Health Commissioner / Corporate Leader Social Development & Health

Jan Wilson, Parks, Recreation, Culture & Corporate Facilities Commissioner / Corporate Leader Parks, Recreation, Culture & Facilities

Debbie Cercone, Executive Director of Housing & Children's Services

Andrew Daher, Executive Director of Employment & Social Services

Ray Mensour, Executive Director of Recreation & Culture

Alina Sirbu, Executive Director of Long Term Care / Administrator

James Chacko, Senior Manager of Parks

Paul Giroux, City Forester / Manager of Forests and Natural Areas

Kelly Goz, Manager of Homelessness & Housing Support

Diane Wilson, Supervisor of Ontario Works Bilingual

Sandra Bradt, Executive Initiatives Coordinator

Jolayne Susko, Coordinator of Housing Administration & Policy

Sonia Bajaj, Coordinator of Housing Administration & Development

Karen Cedar, Naturalist & Outreach Coordinator

Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant

Anna Ciacelli, Supervisor of Council Services

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair calls the meeting of the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee to order at 9:02 o'clock a.m.

### 2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None disclosed.

### 3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

#### 3.1. Adoption of the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee minutes of its meeting held October 7, 2020

Moved by: Councillor Gignac  
Seconded by: Councillor McKenzie

THAT the minutes of the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee meeting held October 7, 2020 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

Report Number: SCM 297/2020  
Clerk's File: MB2020

### 4. REQUEST FOR DEFERRALS, REFERRALS OR WITHDRAWALS

None requested.

### 5. COMMUNICATIONS

None presented.

### 6. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

None presented.

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### 7. COMMITTEE MATTERS

#### 7.1. Minutes of the Committee of Management for Huron Lodge of its meeting held September 17, 2020

Moved by: Councillor Gignac  
Seconded by: Councillor McKenzie

Decision Number: **CSPS 123**

THAT the minutes of the Committee of Management for Huron Lodge of its meeting held September 17, 2020 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 276/2020

Clerk's File: MB2020

#### 7.2. Minutes of the Diversity Committee of its meeting held September 29, 2020

Moved by: Councillor Gignac  
Seconded by: Councillor McKenzie

Decision Number: **CSPS 124**

THAT the minutes of the Diversity Committee of its meeting held September 29, 2020 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 303/2020

Clerk's File: MB2020

#### 7.3. Minutes of the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee of its meeting held September 23, 2020

Moved by: Councillor Gignac  
Seconded by: Councillor McKenzie

Decision Number: **CSPS 125**

THAT the minutes of the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee of its meeting held September 23, 2020 **BE RECEIVED**.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 304/2020

Clerk's File: MB2020



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	Robert Gauthier Douglas Sanborn Kathie Renaud (FOW)
Fundraising	David Langstone (Chairperson) James Evans Douglas Sanborn
Historical	Mary Jane Dettinger Jean Douglas Willms Colleen Gaudette Robert Gauthier Art Jahns (Chairperson) Robert Jasey David Langstone Douglas Sanborn

### **BE APPROVED.**

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 124/2020  
Clerk's File: MB2020

### **7.6. Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors, Willistead Manor Inc., held on October 8, 2020**

Moved by: Councillor Gignac  
Seconded by: Councillor McKenzie

Decision Number: **CSPS 128**

THAT the minutes of the Board of Directors, Willistead Manor Inc., of its meeting held October 8, 2020 **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 326/2020  
Clerk's File: MB2020

### **7.7. Report No. 111 of the Board of Directors, Willistead Manor Inc. - Re-appointment of Board Members**

Moved by: Councillor Gignac  
Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

Decision Number: **CSPS 129**

THAT Report No. 111 of the Board of Directors, Willistead Manor Inc., indicating:

That the following persons BE RE-APPOINTED to the Board of Directors, Willistead Manor Inc., for a two year term expiring August 17, 2022.

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A. Abu-Zahra  
J. Evans  
R. Gauthier  
D. Sanborn

**BE APPROVED.**

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 327/2020  
Clerk's File: MB2020

### **7.8. Report No. 112 of the Board of Directors, Willistead Manor Inc. - 2019 Annual Report**

Moved by: Councillor Gignac  
Seconded by: Councillor Bortolin

Decision Number: **CSPS 130**

THAT Report No. 112 of the Board of Directors, Willistead Manor Inc., indicating:

That the Annual Report and Financial Statements on the affairs and operations of Willistead Manor Inc. for the year 2019, attached as Appendix A, BE ACCEPTED as presented.

That upon acceptance of the 2019 Annual Report by City Council, copies BE FORWARDED to a list of appropriate parties as approved by the Board.

That in accordance with Sections 6 (c) of the *City of Windsor Act, 1981*, an amount of \$8,361. BE PAID OVER to the City of Windsor Willistead Capital Restoration Reserve Fund.

**BE APPROVED.**

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 328/2020  
Clerk's File: MB2020

## **8. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

### **8.1. CQ 16-2019 - Options for Invasive Species Management - East Bank of Little River**

Councillor McKenzie comments on the report and refers to the continuation of a targeted approach to consider an invasive species management strategy and to engage a consultant. Karen Cedar, Naturalist and Outreach Coordinator, appears before the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee via video conference regarding the administrative report CQ 16-2019 – Options for Invasive Species Management – East Bank of Little River and indicates that the current targeted management strategy is within natural areas or areas of high use by the public. Ms. Cedar adds that the citywide invasive strategy would be removing invasive species and to determine how it should be done which would assist the Planning and Public Works Departments to review their

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management techniques and planning strategies to ensure the City is not causing more invasive species in the future.

Councillor McKenzie indicates there is currently an ongoing invasive species study in relation to phragmites, and he inquires whether a broader study could be conducted that includes this particular species. Ms. Cedar indicates that the phragmites parcel will be completed and included with the work that was done on the invasive species in the Black Oaks Heritage Park.

Councillor McKenzie inquires as to how the study would assist the City in being more efficient with respect to the deployment of those resources on an ongoing basis. Ms. Cedar replies that the strategy would allow all of the departments that are involved to have a part in helping to ensure that invasive species are controlled and managed in a smart and effective way across the city. Ms. Cedar adds that several species are problematic, which can affect people, wildlife, and local ecosystems. Ms. Cedar indicates that as invasive species are becoming more prevalent, it would be helpful for the city departments to have this strategy in place to be better able to deal with these problems.

Councillor McKenzie suggests asking for a report back to Council on what an invasive species management strategy would contain including cost estimates. Ms. Cedar indicates that there are two agencies in Ontario that could assist with this type of work and we could reach out to them for an outline and an estimate.

Councillor Sleiman inquires whether the issue refers specifically to the Little River area or if it is citywide. Ms. Cedar indicates that it is a citywide issue.

Councillor Gignac indicates that, regarding Little River specifically, part of the issue was to dialogue with ERCA to determine what kind of help they could provide along the waterways and inquires whether there is anything that ERCA offers partners in terms of this issue specifically. Ms. Cedar indicates that in the city, we take care of any invasive species concerns.

Councillor Gignac inquires whether, concerning the shoreline protection and the damage caused by phragmites along the waterways, we could request assistance from ERCA. Ms. Cedar indicates that the city could request assistance.

Councillor Gignac indicates that the residents living on the west side are concerned with wind carriage of seeds and the seeds getting into the water and washing up onto their properties.

Moved by: Councillor Gignac  
Seconded by: Councillor McKenzie

Decision Number: **CSPS 131**

That Administration **BE REQUESTED** to report back to Council outlining the costs associated with undertaking an invasive species management strategy citywide.

Carried.

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Report Number: S 164/2020

Clerk's File: SR2020

### **8.2. Update: *Housing Services Act* and 2021 Rent Increase Guideline Regulatory Amendments - City Wide**

Councillor Gignac states that the Rent Geared to Income (RGI) increase came into effect on July 1, 2020, but it was decided to wait until July 2021 to implement any increase. Councillor Gignac adds that since the government is freezing all rent increases in 2021, will the RGI increase come into effect for those living in our properties now. Jolayne Susko, Coordinator Housing Administration & Policy, appears before the Community Services and Health Standing Committee Meeting via video conference regarding the administrative report Update: *Housing Services Act* and 2021 Rent Increase Guideline Regulatory Amendments – City Wide and indicates that in terms of the RGI simplification calculation, this is a change in the rent calculation and we have the choice of implementing in July 2020 or July 2021. The rent increase portion and the freeze on the rent is a Bill of its own so the rent freeze is mandatory for July 1, 2021.

Councillor Gignac inquires whether they are prepared to go ahead with the rent freeze on July 1, 2021. Ms. Susko indicates that they are mandated to do so. Ms. Susko adds that the changes that are already implemented relate to the transfers for those that are over-housed; all of these changes have had a significant impact administratively so they chose to delay the RGI calculation until July 1, 2020. However, the work will now start with planning and educating our housing providers, and rent supplement administration on what the new calculation entails. Debbie Cercone, Executive Director Housing and Children's Services, appears before the Community Services and Health Standing Committee Meeting via video conference regarding the administrative report Update: *Housing Services Act* and 2021 Rent Increase Guideline Regulatory Amendments – City Wide and notes that in terms of a rent subsidy program, we do deliver the Canada Ontario Housing Benefit Program and on behalf of the Federal and Provincial Governments, this program has been in place in our community since July 2020. Ms. Susko adds that in terms of the uptake on this program, the city is trending for a full uptake in our Canada Ontario Housing Benefit by the end of this year.

Councillor Morrison refers to the statement “there is no asset limit requirement in Windsor-Essex at this time” as noted in the report. Councillor Morrison states that if a person is below the income limit you qualify, but if a person had \$200,000 saved in a RRSP and is drawing money from that account due to some difficulty, would that person still qualify. Ms. Susko indicates that the person would still qualify and that there is no asset limit and the Retirement Savings Plan is protected.

Councillor Bortolin reports there was discussion at their Community Housing Corporation Board meeting regarding the residential rental freeze specifically as it applies to RGI and inquires whether there has been any discussion or feedback from the service providers back up to the government regarding Bill 204 specifically with respect to the rent freeze. Ms. Cercone agrees that Bill 204 has created a definite concern on behalf of the housing providers particularly as it relates to the freeze on the RGI outlined in the income section of the Bill. Ms. Cercone adds that there has been discussion at various levels with service managers, with the Ministry, in terms of the implications that this has had from a financial perspective and as it relates to the impact that this will have on



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housing providers and their respective budget. Ms. Cercone indicates that they will not be able to charge increases to their portfolio and that gap will need to be filled in some way through the service managers. Ms. Cercone adds that there are long-term implications not only from the housing providers but also for tenants. Ms. Cercone indicates that there is legislation which the City is obligated to follow. Ms. Cercone adds that these issues have been flagged and raised by Ms. Payne who sits at a table of leaders of Social Services.

Councillor Bortolin asks if there is a role for Council to play, i.e. to send a letter of support from the position of the service providers and to ask that Bill 204 be amended. Jelena Payne, Community Development and Health Commissioner, appears before the Community Services and Health Standing Committee Meeting via video conference regarding the administrative report Update: *Housing Services Act* and 2021 Rent Increase Guideline Regulatory Amendments – City Wide and indicates that if the CHC wishes to put forward something from their perspective and they are directly impacted, it could be endorsed by Council. Alternatively, a second letter supported by Council could be forwarded to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) with a copy to the AMO and to the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) who are also actively involved. Ms. Payne adds that the MMAH has reached out to OMSSA and the AMO and asked for information and feedback from the municipal service managers on the impacts at a ground level and adds that they have been providing information to both OMSSA and the AMO but they would be happy to facilitate a letter if so directed.

Councillor Bortolin inquires as to what would be the best course of action. Ms. Payne suggests that two letters be drafted; one from the direct provider and the other from City Council.

Councillor Gignac inquires that if the legislation does go through, are there plans to educate the residents that this might be happening in 2022. Ms. Cercone responds that they will follow-up with the housing providers.

Moved by: Councillor Bortolin

Seconded by: Councillor McKenzie

Decision Number: **CSPS 132**

That the report of the Coordinator, Housing Administration and Policy dated November 13, 2020 entitled "Update: *Housing Services Act* and 2021 Rent Increase Guideline Regulatory Amendments – City Wide" **BE RECEIVED**; and,

That a letter **BE SENT** to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing and The Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) outlining concerns with Bill 204 specifically relating to the Rent Geared to Income component.

Carried.

Report Number: S 165/2020

Clerk's File: GH/16905

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### 8.3. Windsor Essex 2019 Annual Report to the Community on the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Master Plan City Wide

Councillor Bortolin requests that Administration provide clarification regarding the achievements related to individual goals and targets and refers to Strategy #4 of the report which states:

*“advocate for a leveraged diverse funding services and collaborate opportunities including the private sector to create, maintain and preserve affordable rental housing”*

Debbie Cercone, Executive Director Housing and Children’s Services, indicates that in terms of the private sector, the programs that they are promoting with that particular group are providing information relating to the capital programs that are available if requested. Ms. Cercone adds that they do refer them to the National Housing Strategy Investment Fund through the Canada Mortgage Fund Corporation where they can access contributions and loans for new housing construction, which includes affordable housing. Ms. Cercone indicates that this is one of the strategies they undertake in order to promote the expansion of affordable housing in the private sector. Ms. Cercone adds that another strategy undertaken this year is to develop an internal committee in partnership with our internal city partners in the Building and Planning Departments to establish a response to the strategies that were identified in the Plan around how to use existing goals to promote the construction of affordable housing.

Councillor Bortolin indicates that he has researched other areas, i.e. the City of London, that have an affordable housing corporation that develops, but is not necessarily the developer as we are for Meadowbrook. The Councillor adds that they are seeing successes of adding upwards of 100 units a year through incentives that are tax based or tied to zoning provisions. Councillor Bortolin inquires whether the City are using these opportunities to incentivize affordable housing units. Ms. Cercone responds that what the development community is looking for is incentives. Ms. Cercone adds that the Community Improvement Plans as she understands are being offered to developers particularly in certain areas of the city. Ms. Cercone indicates that the margins of offering a lower rent on a particular unit are not great, and that developers are looking for those upper levels of government programs, and the City continues to try to prioritize a rental expansion through these programs but the funds are quite limited.

Councillor Gignac states that in regards to getting private developers to commit to partnering with the city, the challenges are not only building affordable housing projects and maintaining it during rent freezes but also looking at rent tenancies and ensuring that these units are receiving the support from the municipality not only in finances but in education.

Councillor McKenzie inquires that if the City implements what was accomplished in 2019, would we achieve our targets. Kelly Goz, Manager Homelessness and Housing Supports, appears before the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee via video conference regarding the administrative report Windsor Essex 2019 Annual Report to the Community on the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Master Plan – City Wide and responds that quantifying results is often challenging. Ms. Goz adds that if they can stop the inflow into homelessness because of the work

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that the City is doing through different sectors such as health and addictions and keeping folks housed through the supportive efforts, that work is much more difficult to quantify as to how many households they've housed in a year.

Councillor Gignac inquires as to how the City sets the targets and where we are on an annual basis over the 10-year period. Councillor Gignac adds that the challenge the City continually sees is the need for affordable housing; as the City establishes a benchmark as to what our needs are in year one of a ten year project, how does the City account for the annual increases in demand as compared to the benchmark set in year one. Ms. Goz responds that oftentimes, they are looking at the need for affordable housing from a homelessness perspective or from an affordability perspective. Ms. Goz adds that administration continues to monitor those trends and looks to see what the demands are with their emergency shelters system. Ms. Goz indicates that through the priority list for homelessness, they are able to see quite clearly if they should be making investments in supportive housing or in supportive programs. Ms. Goz concludes by indicating that the needs of people in the community are going to constantly shift and change over the trajectory of the next five to ten years.

Moved by: Councillor Bortolin

Seconded by: Councillor McKenzie

Decision Number: **CSPS 133**

THAT the Windsor Essex 2019 Annual Report to the Community on the 10 Year Housing and Homelessness Master Plan **BE RECEIVED** for information purposes.

Carried.

Report Number: S 166/2020

Clerk's File: GH/11710

## 9. QUESTION PERIOD

Councillor Morrison inquires about the closure of park facilities and the decision making process. Ms. Payne indicates decisions relating to the pandemic come from the Provincial Government, the Medical Officer of Health, the Mayor's Declaration of Emergency and at the Community Control Group Table.

Councillor Morrison inquires whether there are any restrictions for playgrounds in our parks. Councillor Morrison encourages the Communications Department to provide information and updates relating to park amenities to the public. James Chacko, Senior Manager Parks, appears before the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee via video conference and indicates that all parks amenities are open subject to social distancing and the restriction of 25 people or less for a social gatherings.

Councillor Sleiman inquires as to how many people can gather at the tree lighting event for Ford City. Ray Mensour, Executive Director Recreation and Culture, appears before the Community

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Services and Parks Standing Committee via video conference and indicates that 25 people are permitted at outdoor gatherings.

Councillor Bortolin inquires whether a survey has been sent to park users regarding closures. Mr. Mensour indicates that prior to going into the red category, a survey was sent to users asking if the city went into a red category, would they still pursue their respective activity. Mr. Mensour indicates that very little response was received from the survey.

Councillor Bortolin inquires as to what measures the Parks Department is introducing to encourage people to go outdoors and exercise in our parks. Councillor Bortolin requests that paths in the parks be prioritized for snow removal over parking lots. Mr. Chacko responds that under the current restrictions, parks are allowed to be open, which includes tennis courts and park amenities.

### 10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business the meeting of the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee is adjourned at 10:52 o'clock a.m. The next meeting of the Community Services and Parks Standing Committee will take place on Wednesday January 6, 2021.  
Carried.

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Councillor Sleiman (Chairperson)

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Supervisor of Council Services