

Adopted by Council at its meeting held November 4, 2013 [M399-2013]

SG

Windsor, Ontario, November 4, 2013

REPORT NO. 182 of the
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,
HEALTH & CULTURE STANDING COMMITTEE
of its meeting held October 9, 2013

Present:
Councillor Ed Sleiman, Chair
Councillor Jo-Anne Gignac
Councillor Alan Halberstadt
Councillor Fulvio Valentinis

That the following recommendation of the Social Development, Health and Culture Standing Committee **BE APPROVED** as follows:

Moved by Councillor Gignac, seconded by Councillor Valentinis,

That the report authored by the Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services dated September 16, 2013 entitled "Seed and Feed Program Outcomes and Update on a Food Charter for Windsor and Essex County" **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried.

Clerk's Note: The administrative report authored by the Executive Director of Housing and Children's Services dated September 16, 2013 entitled "Seed and Feed Program Outcomes and Update on a Food Charter for Windsor and Essex County" is attached as background information.

LIVELINK 16743, SS2013



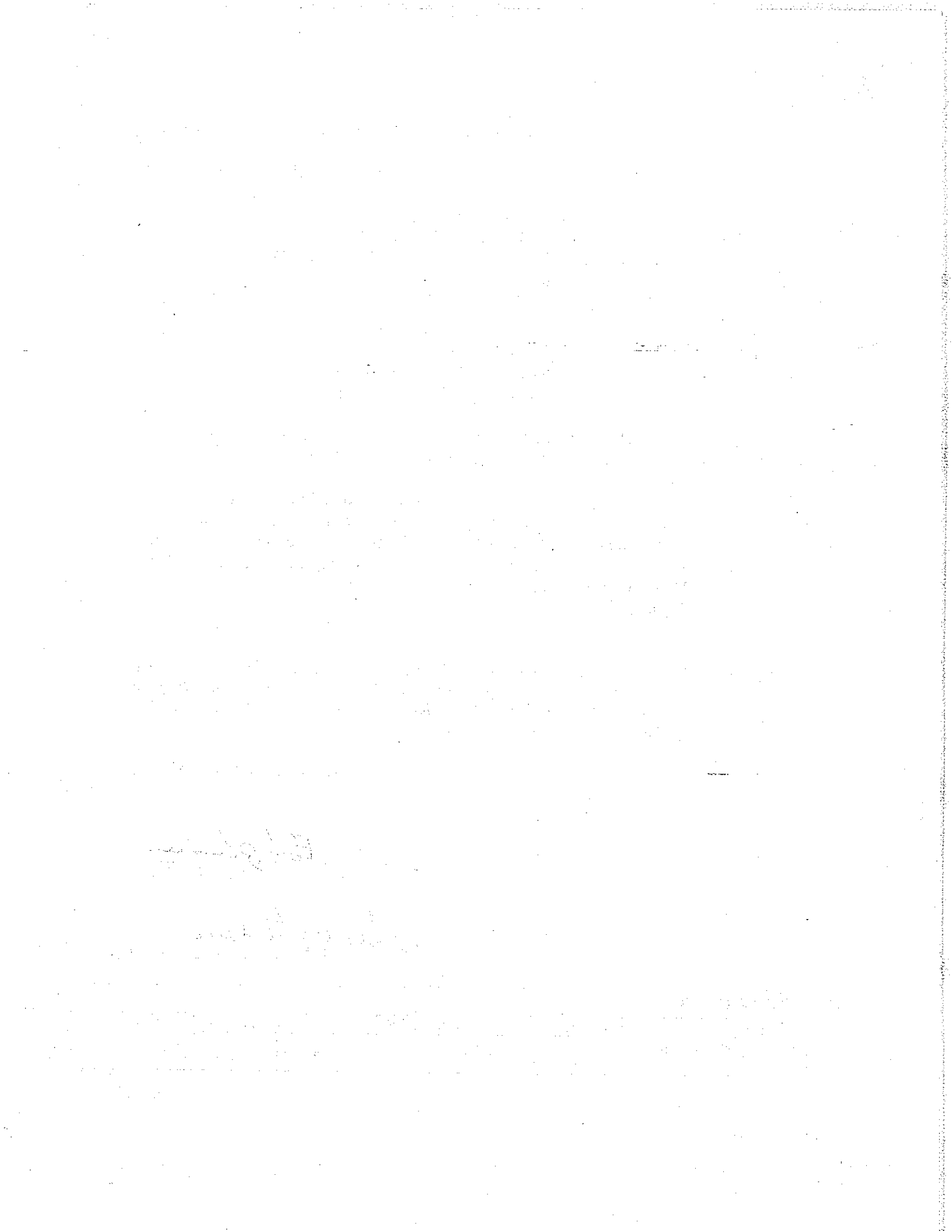
CHAIRPERSON



COUNCIL SECRETARIAT

NOTIFICATION :

Name	Address	Email Address	Telephone	FAX
See notification in report				



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF WINDSOR
Social Development, Health and Culture Standing Committee-
Administrative Report



MISSION STATEMENT:

"The City of Windsor, with the involvement of its citizens, will deliver effective and responsive municipal services, and will mobilize innovative community partnerships"

LiveLink REPORT #: 16743 SS2013	Report Date: September 16, 2013
Author's Name: Debbie Cercone	Date to Standing Committee: October 9, 2013
Author's Phone: 519 255-5200 ext. 6239	Classification #:
Author's E-mail: dcercone@city.windsor.on.ca	

To: Social Development, Health and Culture Standing Committee

Subject: Seed and Feed Program Outcomes and Update on a Food Charter for Windsor and Essex County

1. RECOMMENDATION: City Wide: Ward(s): _____

THAT Council receive the information contained in this report on the Seed and Feed Program and the Windsor Essex County Food Charter.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

N/A

2. BACKGROUND:

Food Security Initiative: Community Garden Expansion Strategy – Seed and Feed

Council at its meeting of January 23, 2012 approved a recommendation from the Social Development, Health and Culture Standing Committee for a Food Security Initiative: Community Garden Expansion Strategy termed the Seed and Feed Initiative for purposes of this report. A maximum of \$100,000 in one-time funding for this strategy was to be drawn from the Capital Provincial Unconditional Grant as per M19-2012.

The Seed and Feed Program was launched in January 2012 with the goal of expanding existing Community Gardens and/or the development of new Community Gardens through the provision of a one-time grant to eligible applicants who demonstrated that their community garden project provided fresh produce to people who may otherwise go without. A community garden is a single piece of land gardened collectively by a group of people. In addition to the obvious economic benefits, community gardens are a valuable social venue where neighbours can get to

know one another, and build a sense of community and belonging. Seed and Feed was about providing fresh food to people, but it was also about building healthy neighbourhoods and strengthening relationships as people come together to garden, care for one another and create social partnerships that benefit the entire community.

On March 1, 2012, a call for applications was issued to the community and 12 applications were received from community organizations interested in expanding or creating a community garden in their neighbourhoods.

Update on the development of a Food Charter for Windsor and Essex County:

In the 2009, Windsor-Essex County community report "Hungry for Change" the seed was planted for identifying a Food Charter as a vehicle to strengthen our local food system. This concept was reiterated in 2010 with a United Way sponsored community forum called Food Matters. Since that time a coordinator was hired to advance the Food Matters agenda that began in 2009.

A Food Charter is a document that details a community's values, principles and priorities around a food system and food security issues. It is a tool that links the values to influencing community actions. Windsor and Essex County faces concerns about safe food, nutrition, health, economy, unemployment and the environment. A food charter is necessary as a guide for effecting meaningful change.

In January 2012, Windsor's City Council passed M83-2012:

"THAT City Council SUPPORT in principal the development of a Food Charter for Windsor-Essex County that will guide decision-making about the food system in our region; with the understanding that the final Food Charter will be presented to Council for endorsement at a future date."

Since that motion, there have been some significant activities which were required in order to create a foundation for Food Charter development to begin. Key to the advancement of the Food Charter has been the creation of the Food Advisory Network of Windsor and Essex County or FAN.

Through consultation, it was determined by the community that our region required an entity that could function as a food system advisory and policy group. FAN has been created to represent growers, sellers, packagers, distributors, consumers, and food waste managers. This diverse group supports a health focused approach to the food system and will guide action, advocacy and policy at local levels and has taken the lead in the development of the local Food Charter.

3. DISCUSSION:

Food Security Initiative: Community Garden Expansion Strategy – Seed and Feed

A review panel that included representatives from the City of Windsor and the Town of Lasalle was convened to review and evaluate the submissions based on a series of criteria.

Out of this evaluation, 10 projects were approved and 2 were denied as they did not meet the eligibility criteria.

Projects were funded for the following items that either created new or enhanced existing infrastructure for a community garden. Some examples of the investments that were made with the grant include the following:

- Irrigation systems
- Material for raised beds
- Equipment
- Seeds
- Containers

All projects were also required to demonstrate that they had established partnerships with local food banks or other charitable organizations who could facilitate the distribution of the food that was grown in the gardens.

Seed and Feed generated over 100,000 pounds of food that was grown in the gardens with 226 varieties of vegetables and herbs by 798 volunteers who put in over 5,700 hours to maintain them. One organization, New Song Church, did not submit an outcome report. Administration confirms that work on their community garden was completed but since they did not submit a report their numbers were not reflected in the chart below. The following chart summarizes by each receiving agency their individual results for this initiative:

Agency	Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Varieties	Quantity of Food Grown in LBS
Ready-Set-Go	147	450	17	354.5
Lakeshore St. Andrews Presbyterian Church	422	844	4	75,635
Gestwood Camp Community Garden	25	150	19	477
Downtown Windsor Community Collaborative	30	500	34	2,261
Ambassador Horticultural Society Lasalle	27	400	32	56
University of Windsor	30	340	40	586
Can-Am Urban Native Homes	34	497	18	64
Youth and Family Resource Network	31	281	34	2,261
Unemployed Help Centre	52	2,240	28	27,175
Totals	798	5,702	226	108,869.5

Update on the development of a Food Charter for Windsor and Essex County:

To assist the community with knowledge and capacity building, Food Matters was able to facilitate a Food Charter workshop conducted by Sustain Ontario. Sustain Ontario works across sectors to build healthy farming and food communities and was able to provide guidance on Food Charter development and present information reflective of other communities in Ontario.

As it relates to the Food Charter development, FAN has:

- Conducted Research – This includes a review of the process completed by other communities and meta-analysis of other Food Charters that reflect similar regional perspectives to WEC
- Identified key value and principles – These are developed based on community reports, the representation within FAN and review of information and feedback from previous consultation events
- Draft – A community ready version of the Food Charter is very close to being ready

The key value driving the Food Charter of Windsor and Essex County is the health and well-being of the community. This value is one that allows everyone in FAN to work collaboratively toward a common public good.

FAN is finalizing the plans for the Food Charter to be introduced to municipalities. In advance of that, it is expected that FAN shall:

- Consult key informant stakeholders - These groups could include but are not limited to: medical professionals; agriculture organizations; economic development.
- Conduct consultation with community - After key information consultation and re-visioning of the Food Charter the community at large will be reached in various methods including focus groups, meetings, and online surveys.
- Food Charter to each Municipality for adoption - This will begin after re-envisioning the Food Charter with community feedback

While this work has taken some time, it has been necessary to ensure that the document become the voice of a community. Efforts have been taken to ensure that the document will be an active, fluid and live Food Charter as our community continues to build a strong and health food system. Food Matters has been able to provide resource and assistance to FAN and the Food Charter development. In anticipation of the end of Food Matters funding in March 2014, the goal is to have the Food Charter before Municipalities by that time.

4. RISK ANALYSIS:

N/A

5. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The original allocation for this initiative was estimated to be \$100,000. Through this grant program \$71,402 was allocated to the successful applicants of this program. This one-time funding was drawn from a provincial unconditional grant that was available at that time.

The following is a summary of the organizations that received a grant under Seed and Feed as well as their allocations:

Agency Name	Funding Approval
Ambassador Horticultural Society LaSalle	\$ 4,679.00
Unemployed Help Centre of Windsor	\$ 11,136.00
University of Windsor	\$ 12,498.00
Retreat and Camp Corporation of Essex Presbytery, The United Church of Canada o/a Gestwood Camp & Retreat Centre	\$ 3,475.00
Lakeshore St. Andrews Presbyterian Church	\$ 12,449.00
Youth & Family Resource Network of Essex County	\$ 10,167.00
Birth to Six Parental Support Coalition (Windsor) a/o Ready-Set-Go	\$ 770.00
New Song Church	\$ 13,000.00
Downtown Windsor Community Collaborative	\$ 700.00
Can Am Urban Native Non-Profit Homes (Windsor) Inc.	\$ 2,000.00
Administration	\$ 528.00
Total Allocated	\$ 71,402.00

6. CONSULTATIONS:

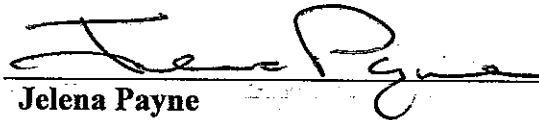
Michele Legere, Coordinator Food Matters Windsor-Essex.

7. CONCLUSION:

Overall this Council sponsored program was a huge success with feedback from the community gardens indicating that they were most appreciative of the opportunity to expand or develop a garden in their neighbourhood. Further, it provided an opportunity for residents in the neighbourhood and local food banks to provide access to persons in need of fresh produce. The final version of the Windsor Essex Food Charter will be presented to Council prior to March of 2014 when the Food Advisory Network has completed their work.



Debbie Cercone
Executive Director of Housing and
Children's Services



Jelena Payne
Community Development and Health
Commissioner



Helga Reidel
Chief Administrative Officer

jh

APPENDICES:

DEPARTMENTS/OTHERS CONSULTED:

Name: Nancy Jaekel, Financial Planning Analyst
Phone #: 519 255-5200 ext. 5171

NOTIFICATION :

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Vicki Rees, Treasurer Ambassador Horticultural Society LaSalle	999 Bouffard Road LaSalle, ON N9J 2Y1	vickirees@hotmail.com	(519) 734-7867	

June Muir, CEO Unemployed Help Centre	6955 Cantelon Drive Windsor, ON N8T 3J9	jmuir@uhc.ca	(519) 944-4900	
Susan Mark University of Windsor	401 Sunset Avenue Windsor, ON N9B 3P4	haaser@uwindsor.ca	(519) 253-3000 x2158	
Karen Seguin, Executive Director Gesstwood Camp & Retreat Centre	1034 Mole Side Road, P.O. Box 44 Essex, ON N8M 2Y1	gesstwoodcamp@gmail.com	(519) 776-7119	
Pastor Glen Hart Lakeshore St. Andrews Presbyterian Church	235 Amy Croft Drive Tecumseh, ON N9K 1C8	moffice@lsachurch.net	519) 979-8082	
Jenna Foley, Executive Director Youth & Family Resource Network of Essex County	23 Mill St. W. Kingsville, ON N9Y 1W1	JFoley@resourcenetwork.ca	(519) 733-8983 x 30	
Rev. Kevin Rogers New Song Church	999 Drouillard Road Windsor, ON N8Y 2P6	stevegreen@ymail.com	519) 971-7664	
Bob Cameron, Executive Director Downtown Windsor Community Collaborative	1005 Victoria Avenue Windsor, ON N9A 5N7	dwcwindsor@gmail.com	(519) 903-7629	
Margaret Messenger, Executive Director Can Am Urban Native Non-Profit Homes	180 Tecumseh Rd. E. Windsor, ON N8X 2P8	canamhomes@kelcom.igs.net	(519) 977-7782	
Blodwen Reitz, Community Development Coordinator Birth to Six Parental Support Coalition(Windsor)a/o Ready Set Go	647 Ouellette Avenue, Suite 106 Windsor ON, N9A 4J4	retgo@mnsi.net	(519)-977-9407	

