EMERGENCY & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE
MINUTES 16-002

1:30 p.m.
Monday, February 8, 2016
Council Chamber
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West

Present: Councillor M. Green, Chair
Councillor A. Johnson, Vice Chair
Councillors J. Farr, T. Jackson, S. Merulla, T. Whitehead and J. Partridge

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THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF COUNCIL:

1. Endorsement of Report "The Right to an Adequate Standard of Living: An Update to the 2006 Report" to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Geneva (City Wide) (Added Item 6.1)

(Merulla/A. Johnson)

(a) That Hamilton City Council endorse the report "The Right to an Adequate Standard of Living: An Update to the 2006 Report", and write to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights to confirm that endorsement to the United Nations Committee;

(b) That the General Manager of Community & Emergency Services be directed to research the possibility of the City of Hamilton becoming a Human Rights City (i.e. a discussion that is currently underway in our sister cities of Edmonton, AB, and Winnipeg, MB); and

(c) That the General Managers of Community & Emergency Services and Finance & Corporate Services be directed to work in conjunction with the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic (HCLC), to incorporate the issue of the cost of federal-provincial downloading to municipalities in the report as this further impoverishes the citizens of Hamilton; and

(d) Request language in the submission that is both gender and orientation neutral.

CARRIED

2. YWCA Hamilton's Transitional Living Program for Women (City Wide) (Added Item 6.2)

(Whitehead/Partridge)
That staff be directed to continue working with YWCA Hamilton to identify alternate funding sources, opportunities and/or efficiencies.

CARRIED

3. McQuesten Urban Agricultural Social Enterprise and Community Gardens (CES14037(a)) (City Wide) (Item 8.1)

(Merulla/Jackson)
That the General Manager, Community and Emergency Services Department be authorized and directed to extend the temporary Neighbourhood Action Strategy Project Manager – McQuesten Urban Farm position through to April 2017, in the amount of $110,000, to be funded from the Neighbourhood Action Strategy Fund (Project id#20551255204).

CARRIED

4. SAMS Update (CES15020(b)) (City Wide) (Item 8.2)

(Merulla/Partridge)
That the Mayor correspond with the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Community and Social Services, requesting:

a) Financial reimbursement ***in the amount of $820,056 incurred by the City of Hamilton up to June 2016,*** over and above the $549,600 (100% funding) previously received as a result of the implementation of the Social Assistance Management System (SAMS);

b) ***Additional funding for costs incurred as a result of SAMS implementation once the system has stabilized and the amount of deferred work and associated lost revenues has been determined***; and

c) A copy of this report be circulated to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), all Members of Provincial Parliament, and the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association.

Amendment Carried
Motion as Amended, CARRIED

5. Pavilion User Fee Harmonization (CES15029(b)) (Ward 11) (Item 8.3)

(Farr/A. Johnson)

(a) That the Mount Hope Pavilion be removed from the Parks rental inventory and the applicable user fee (Parks-Gla-Mt. Hope Pavilion) be removed from the Recreation User Fee Listing as attached in Appendix A to Report CES15029(b);

(b) That the Winona Pavilion user fee (Parks-SCr-Winona-Pavilion) be removed from the Recreation User Fee Listing as attached in Appendix A to Report CES15029(b) and replaced with the approved City Wide Pavilion Fee (Parks-Hamilton Pavilion); and,

(c) That "Recreation User Fee Harmonization" be removed from the Outstanding Business List.

CARRIED

6. Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee 2016 Budget (CES16011) (City Wide) (Item 8.4)

(A. Johnson/ Farr)

That the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee's 2016 base budget submission attached as Appendix A to Report CES16011in the amount of $1,000, be approved and referred to the 2016 budget process for consideration.

CARRIED

7. 2016 Budget Request – Seniors Advisory Committee (FCS16016) (City Wide) (Item 8.5)

(Green/ Merulla)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee's (SAC) 2016 base budget submission in the amount of $1,500 be approved and forwarded to the 2016 budget process.

CARRIED

8. Funding for a McQuesten Urban Farm Farmer (Item 9.1)

(Merulla/Jackson)

WHEREAS the City of Hamilton has initiated the construction of the McQuesten Urban Farm;

WHEREAS the fresh produce from the McQuesten Urban Farm is a much needed resource;

WHEREAS retaining a farmer to implement and operate the farm as well as to build capacity within the residents for future operations is required; and

WHEREAS a single tender was received and exceeded the estimated value of $60,000,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That $36,000 from the Environmental Mitigation Reserve account #108061 be used as a funding source for the McQuesten Urban Farm Farmer.

CARRIED

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Legislative Coordinator advised of the following changes:

DELEGATION REQUESTS

4.1 Delegation request by Craig Foye, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, respecting Endorsement of a Report to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Geneva

4.2 Delegation request by Denise Christopherson and Medora Uppal, YWCA Hamilton, respecting the YWCA Hamilton's Transitional Living Program for Women

(A. Johnson/Merulla)
That the Agenda for the February 8, 2016 meeting of the Emergency & Community Services Committee be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 3)

(i) January 18, 2016 (Item 3.1)

(Farr/A. Johnson)
That the Minutes of the January 18, 2016 Emergency and Community Services Committee meeting be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

(d) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 4)

(Merulla/Jackson)
That the following delegation requests be approved for today's meeting of the Emergency and Community Services Committee:

(i) Delegation request by Craig Foye, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, respecting Endorsement of a Report to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Geneva (Added Item 4.1)

(ii) Delegation request by Denise Christopherson and Medora Uppal, YWCA Hamilton, respecting the YWCA Hamilton's Transitional Living Program for Women (Added Item 4.2)

CARRIED

(e) CONSENT ITEMS (Item 5)

(i) Hamilton Veterans Committee Minutes (City Wide) (Item 5.1 (a)(b)(c)(d))

(Farr/Jackson)
That the Hamilton Veterans Committee Minutes dated September 8, October 13, November 10, and December 8, 2015, be received.

CARRIED

(f) DELEGATIONS (Item 6)

(i) Craig Foye, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic, respecting Endorsement of a Report to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Geneva (Item 6.1)

Craig Foye appeared and spoke before the Committee regarding the report titled "The Right to an Adequate Standard of Living: An Update to the 2006 Report", which is to be presented to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Geneva. In providing an overview of the follow-up report and its recommendations, Mr. Foye advised that improvement over the 10-year period (since 2006) has been minimal. Mr. Foye requested Council's endorsement of said report.

(Farr/ Whitehead)
That the presentation and correspondence submitted by Craig Foye respecting Endorsement of a Report to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in Geneva, be received.

CARRIED

For disposition of this matter, refer to Item 2.

(ii) Denise Christopherson and Medora Uppal, YWCA Hamilton, respecting the YWCA Hamilton's Transitional Living Program for Women (Item 6.2)

Denise Christopherson and Medora Uppal, appeared and spoke on before the Committee regarding the YWCA Hamilton's Transitional Living Program for Women. Ms. Christopherson and Ms. Uppal noted that the Program is in high demand and despite advocacy work being done, lack of funding has created a significant challenge for the YWCA. In providing an overview of investments and the work that is being done to date, the YWCA Hamilton's Transitional Living Program for Women is experiencing a shortfall of $125,000. Ms. Christopherson and Ms. Uppal requested funding from the city and encouraged Committee to consider these challenges during the 2016 budget process.

(Farr/Partridge)
That the presentation from Ms. Denise Christopherson and Ms. Medora Uppal, respecting YWCA Hamilton's Transitional Living Program for Women, be received.

CARRIED

For disposition of this matter, refer to Item 3.

(g) ADJOURNMENT (Item 13)

(Partridge/Whitehead)
That there being no further business, the Emergency & Community Services Committee meeting, be adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor M. Green, Chair
Emergency & Community Services Committee

Denis Farr
Legislative Coordinator
Office of the City Clerk