

CITY OF WATERLOO  
SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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**MEETING**

**Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2009**

**WPL – Lower Board Room**

**6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**In Attendance:** Laurie Strome, Lynda Gale, Kaye Crawford, Patrick Germann, Catherine Fife, Glen Polson, Sadia Arif Gassim, S. Sgt. Mark Bullock, Irene O'Toole

**Regrets:** D'Arcy Farlow (Chair), Councillor Karen Scian, Eunice Abudu, Tracy Jasmins, Insp Brian Atchsion

**Guest:** Ernie Ginsler, Vital Signs

**Co-Chair(s):** Catherine Fife and Laurie Strome

**Note-taker:** Henny Bruce

**MINUTES**

1. **Agenda accepted and approved. Minutes/notes of Nov. 18th meeting approved**
  
2. **Vital Signs – Ernie Ginsler**
  - 3rd year in Waterloo Region – is generally a report card on how the Region is doing
  - There are 10-11 areas of interest with 1 core common indicator each year
  - Collect 150-180 indicators each year with a local and national process for collection and selection
  - Use 3rd party statistics such as Government of Canada, Regional Municipality, Stats Canada
  - Produce 4 versions – booklet, in The Record and 2 on the website (full and shortened versions)
  - Want the indicators to be something that can be refreshed every couple of years and that has comparables to plot trends
  - Does not separate data out by municipalities or townships

**Questions/Comments**

How can you reach out to capture information from more areas? -

Use Social Service Agencies and Neighbourhood Associations but it is difficult to get new immigrant people to participate due to a number of factors. VS only has a small budget with the online survey work being donated so they could not create 4 versions in different languages. If you have suggestions please give Tracy a call at the KW Community Foundation.

Is there the ability to measure ourselves against ourselves? – Yes

- The group of 885 people that do the survey – could they be a static group, so you get a consistency with the groups of responders?

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- Could this committee be of help spreading this survey out? Yes

**Of interest:** There is a lower percentage of adults that attend theatre in Waterloo Region than the provincial average. Also we fall below the provincial averages in the areas of: readiness of preschoolers to enter school and new immigrants make less money than Canadian born and this spread has increased over the last 10 years.

There is vital information that we need to get from the immigrant population, this really needs to be advocated for; however, there is no funding to get this information.

In Ernie's opinion areas that Waterloo falls short:

- Income spectrum – more low income families than expected
- Social Service Agencies – we do not have one here in Waterloo and do not have easy access to the services
- Proportionally less affordable housing in Waterloo

Catherine thanked Ernie for attending and sharing this information with the group and we would welcome the opportunity to meet again.

### 3. Other Reports/Studies

- \* Ontario's poverty reduction strategy ("25 in 5") – discussion and a possible recommendation to Council
- \* This report has been produced by the Provincial government and this program is aimed at reducing the number of children living in poverty by 25% in 5 years.
- \* Committee members felt an endorsement was important however the committee also felt that an implementation plan was key and that local priorities need to be highlighted.
- \* Our role is to research as to what might make a difference and advise Council to move forward on concrete ideas.

The original report did go to Council in December and the resolution from that meeting is attached as part of the minutes.

#### Discussion:

Need to identify poverty as a priority in maintaining/creating safe communities

Ask Council to endorse the provincial report

After much discussion the committee decided to focus presentation on 3 areas of concern:

1. Affordable Housing
2. Access to affordable recreation programs
3. Establishing partnerships to establish accessible social services

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Motion: Moved by **C. Fife**

Whereas the Safe & Healthy Community Advisory Committee has identified poverty as a barrier to creating safe, healthy & inclusive communities,

Be it resolved that the Safe and Healthy Community Advisory Committee recommend that the City of Waterloo endorse the Provincial Report: "Breaking The Cycle: Ontario's Poverty Reduction Strategy" in its entirety. And that the Mayor communicate this endorsement to the Cabinet Committee on Poverty Reduction.

Be it resolved that the Chair/Co-Chairs of the Safe & Healthy Community Advisory Committee identify and communicate the key areas of concern relating to poverty in Waterloo to the council and Mayor at a future meeting. **Patrick moved and Laurie seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.**

- \* A review of the key points in the City' recreational report and the impact for neighbourhoods) – **Laurie Strome**  
Laurie provided a handout of her review/thoughts of the R&LS Master Plan which are included in these minutes. Currently the city has 1 staff person that works as the community liaison – this will be a challenge to work with all of the municipalities.  
**Action: Ask Debi LucasSwitzer to attend the Feb. meeting and give an overview of the plan with a focus on the Neighbourhood programming. Henny will invite Debi and inform Chair & Co-Chairs of her availability.**
- \* Others to discuss in the future (SCAN legislation; Ontario's Urban & Suburban Schools; Healthy Communities & the Built Environment) – **DEFERRED TO NEXT MEETING**

#### 4. **Committee Business**

- ❖ When to be pro-active/when to be re-active (e.g. three possible areas of pro-active focus might be: Livable Communities; Partnerships with other initiatives; Neighbourhoods) – **DEFERRED TO NEXT MEETING**
- ❖ Ideas for introducing ourselves and our mandate to city Council (Poverty Reduction Motion)
- ❖ Expanding Committee Membership & creating Subcommittees/working groups – **Irene O'Toole**  
Currently there are 2 community service representative positions open.  
**Action: Committee to pursue expanding committee.**  
Need to be able to work on Strategic planning/Work Plan – What are our goals, next steps and timelines.

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**5. New Business/Information Sharing**

March 11th Breakfast – Municipal Safe & Healthy Communities Advisory Committees:

This meeting is a joint gathering of all of these same type committees to share what they are doing. Location: Rockway Golf Club and starts at 8:00 a.m. The City of Kitchener's committee members will be there – could speak with them about their Terms of Reference and Work Plan. The seven Mayors have been invited and some of them are attending. Who from this table would like to attend? Patrick, Glen, Kaye, Catherine, Irene, Lynda – if others are interested to contact Irene.

**6. Next Meeting**

Wednesday, Feb. 18 – Waterloo Public Library – Lower Boardroom

Wednesday, Mar. 18 – Waterloo Public Library – Lower Boardroom

**Next Meeting:**

1. Others to discuss in the future (SCAN legislation; Ontario's Urban & Suburban Schools; Healthy Communities & the Built Environment)
2. When to be pro-active/when to be re-active (e.g. three possible areas of pro-active focus might be: Livable Communities; Partnerships with other initiatives; Neighbourhoods)

**Adjourn – 8:30 p.m.**

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**Action Items**

| <b>Item</b>              | <b>What</b>  | <b>Who</b> | <b>When</b>                             |
|--------------------------|--|------------|---|
| Future Meeting Ideas     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Invite Christine Bird from Alliance for Children and Youth</li> <li>· Invite someone from the Universities to speak to New Settlement concerns</li> </ul> |            |   |
| The Region Official Plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· committee should participate in the public consultation process now.</li> </ul>   |            |   |
| Woolwich Township Tool   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· tool that Woolwich Township has created, 9 questions on "how does this"</li> </ul>  | Darcy      | bring to a future meeting               |
|                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Want to create some type of lens/filter for Council to use</li> </ul>   |            | Worked on this at the Nov. 18th meeting |

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**DRAFT MINUTES - COUNCIL MEETING**  
**December 15, 2008**

A regular meeting of the Council of The Corporation of the City of Waterloo was held on December 15, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 100 Regina Street South, Waterloo, Ontario.

**Present:**

- Mayor Halloran**
- Councillor Scian**
- Councillor Vieth**
- Councillor Freeman**
- Councillor d'Ailly**
- Councillor McLean**

**Absent:**

- Councillor Whaley**
- Councillor Witmer**

**Mayor Halloran in the Chair**

**11. NEW BUSINESS**

- a) 25 in 5 Network for Poverty Reduction Strategy**
  - a) City of Cambridge Resolution**
  - b) An Action Plan for our Provincial Government**
  - c) Association of Municipalities of Ontario Alert**

Councillor Scian informed Council that the Health and Safety Advisory Committee is preparing a report on the 25 in 5 Network for Poverty Reduction Strategy that will be presented at a future Council session.

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### Rec & Leisure Services Master Plan - Notes

- The biggest concern is that community/neighbourhood groups are to assume responsibility for program delivery.
  - Changes to the community funding model won't take place until 2011. (I heard this year it has been raised from \$22,000 to \$30,000).
  - City staff are to become facilitators to help neighbourhood/community groups deliver programs. Pg 3-2
  - Where staff determine that direct programming is required there is no discussion of how a program might be started by staff and then handed off to neighbourhoods or other interested parties.
  - The transfer of program delivery is dependent on a continuing pool of volunteers. ( current trends are showing that fewer people are volunteering and those that do volunteer for shorter periods of time.)
  - There is an assumption that fundraising can make up a significant portion of capital costs.
  - R&L staff will develop the neighborhood services development strategy. Pg 3-11
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- Prices for using city facilities will be based on cost of program delivery. Pg 4-3
  - Coordinate facilities use more closely with neighbouring municipalities. Pg. 4-17
  - Continue talks with school boards to increase community access for rec and leisure uses. Pg 4-20 City to work with universities to determine gaps in university offered rec and leisure but also access student expertise and volunteer resources. To facilitate community use of university facilities. Pg 4-22
  - The Adult Recreation Centre will move into a not-for-profit corporate structure that self-operates with City support. (what does this mean?) page 3-5.
  - Creation of a skateboard plaza. Pg 5-3
  - Three more splash pads across the community. Pg 5-4 (user fees involved)
  - Community gardens. – under optional facilities pg 6-17
  - The city and the GRCA explore ways to improve public access to the Laurel Creek Conservation Authority. Pg 6-3
  - Continue to expand trails. Pg 6-6
  - Conserve the McNally lands for environmental uses. Pg 6-11
  - City to work with local and regional Mennonite and Heritage to form a governing organization to plan the future use of the Elam Martin farmland. Pg 7-20