

CITY OF WATERLOO
SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING

Tuesday, August 18, 2009

WPL – Lower Board Room

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Laurie Strome, Lynda Gale, Kaye Crawford, D’Arcy Farlow (Chair), Tracy Jasmins, Councillor Karen Scian, S.Sgt. Mark Bullock,

Regrets: Eunice Abudu, Sadia Arif Gassim, Catherine Fife, Glen Polson Irene O’Toole, Patrick Germann,

Note-taker: Kaye Crawford

MINUTES

1. Update on Poverty Reduction Conference:

D’Arcy, Laurie, Irene and Patrick attended the local conference hosted by Tamarack, called *Reducing Poverty in Ontario - A Place-Based Response*.

- Minister Deb Matthews was in attendance and spoke and interacted with the participants
- General theme is that the Province wants the municipalities to pick up the ball
- Many good things coming out of:
 - Hamilton (Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction chaired by Mark Chamberlain)
 - Toronto (Francis Larkin and the United Way Toronto’s “*Action for Neighbourhood Change*”)
 - Opportunities Waterloo Region (Mary MacKeigan and the Leadership Round Table have a focus on youth access to recreational opportunities and equitable program subsidization across the Region).

Discussion

Committee members discussed their role in influencing municipal policy so as to build local capacity to support 25 in 5. Would like to go to Council in September or early October to respond to Council’s request for information on the 25 in 5 Provincial Poverty Reduction Campaign.

The Hamilton Round table on Poverty Reduction recommends youth engagement. We have some volunteer programs in Waterloo now which engage youth (ie Laurelwood has activity Friday nights that cost \$1.00.) Could the municipality support neighbourhoods across the city to provide this type of engagement? It often requires an active and strong neighbourhood association - this committee could support the city in helping establish and maintain neighbourhood associations.

It’s important to know how recreation subsidy funds are currently made available and accessed at the city as well as the role of the local school boards in assisting community development by providing space for groups.

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Actions related to Poverty Reduction

1. Could use the Opportunities Waterloo Region recommendations to support subsidizing youth programming. **Kaye to set up meeting with Lori Ludwig, D'Arcy and Laurie to discuss current situation and a proposed recommendation;**
2. Request the city to provide resources to build capacity and development of new Neighbourhood Associations in needed and desired areas (e.g. funds, expertise, space, staff);
3. Request Council to support the Community Garden concept as a tool to build community capacity and safety. Recommend strengthening the City's Official Plan with policies and guidelines for community gardens in neighbourhoods. The guidelines would set out details of support to be offered by the City such as rain barrels, land, compost, advertising etc. **D'Arcy to talk to Anna Lee Gun and the Community Garden Council on this point.**
4. **Councillor Scian will follow-up with the Mayor and Lynda to follow-up with Catherine Fife** regarding the current position and issues on using school board property for community after school and recreational programming (i.e. the "school hub" concept).

Other Business

S. Sgt. M. Bullock briefed committee on desire of WRPS to use 2 horse mounted police units in the Region, similar to Niagara, Hamilton and Toronto.

Action: D'Arcy to send out Patrick's email regarding a request for support of the mounted police initiative.

Other Actions:

- **Kaye** is seeking information from Clerk's Department on filling member vacancies on Committee and will report back.
- **D'Arcy** will send out information on **Brantford Symposium on September 10, 2009.**

Next Meeting

September 16, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

Adjourn – 8:30 p.m.