

4TH REPORT OF THE
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

Meeting held on January 13, 2014, commencing at 4:05 PM, in the Council Chambers, Second Floor, London City Hall.

PRESENT: Mayor J.F. Fontana (Chair), Councillors B. Polhill, B. Armstrong, J.B. Swan, S. Orser, J.L. Baechler, N. Branscombe, M. Brown, P. Hubert, D.G. Henderson, P. Van Meerbergen, D. Brown, H.L. Usher, J.P. Bryant and S. White and L. Rowe (Secretary).

ALSO PRESENT: A. Zuidema, A.L. Barbon, J. Braam, B. Coxhead, S. Datars Bere, A. Dunbar, M. Hayward, G.T. Hopcroft, G. Kotsifas, L. Livingstone, A. Macpherson, V. McAlea Major, D. Munteer, D. O'Brien, L. Palarchio, M. Ribera, J. Senese and B. Westlake-Power.

I. CALL TO ORDER

1. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest

Recommendation: That it BE NOTED that the following pecuniary interests were disclosed:

- a) Councillor J.B. Swan disclosed a pecuniary interest in clause 2f) having to do with The Grand Theatre as his employer, Orchestra London, is currently involved in a process regarding a Performing Arts Centre.
- b) Councillor S.E. White disclosed a pecuniary interest in clause 2c) having to do with OW/ODSP Advocates Network, as well as other matters related to mental health, by indicating that she is employed by the Children's Aid Society and the London Mental Health Crisis Centre.

II. CONSENT ITEMS

None.

III. SCHEDULED ITEMS

2. 2014 Budget - Public Participation Meeting

That the written and verbal submissions with respect to the draft 2014 Budget, BE RECEIVED;

it being pointed out that the following individuals made oral submissions with respect to this matter:

- a) Donald S. Bryant, McKenzie Lake Lawyers, representing St. Joseph's Hospice – noting that St. Joseph's Hospice is the first and only non-disease specific hospice in London; noting that while London has had hospice services for 28 years, St. Joseph's Hospice will provide the residential component of this service, which has been missing to date; stating that the Hospice is non-denominational and will provide private rooms for its residents; noting that the Hospice will be privately operated, but requires \$5.5M in funding, \$3.6M of which has already been raised with \$3.5M towards space and equipment and the balance for sustainability purposes; asking that the City provide \$200K over two years; emphasizing that this facility is very much needed and the City should be a partner; pointing out the aging demographics in London and extending appreciation for the Municipal Council's consideration of the request.
- b) Barry Sandler, Executive Director, Veterans Memorial Parkway Community Program – acknowledging the dedicated efforts of the public/private partnership to enhance the Veterans Memorial Parkway; noting it takes a community effort to make such a project a success; advising that the project received a national award for a large scale

landscaping project, which has gained the area national media attention; stating that a number of stakeholders came together for the benefit of our City and doubled the number of plantings last year, which had an immediate visible impact; indicating there were 40 professional volunteers that prepared the ground for the trees and 450 volunteers then backfilled the plantings and staked the trees; pointing out that this year is the 100th Anniversary of WWI, and they are hoping to have a 50% increase in plantings this year, as well as new signage; stating that 85% of monies raised goes towards materials and services and that it is important to have Council support in order to maintain momentum for the project; and asking that Council continue its financial support by maintaining funding for the Veterans Memorial Parkway project at \$50K per year until project completion in the Fall of 2017.

- c) Mike Laliberte, Co-Chair, OW/ODSP Advocates Network – providing the attached presentation.
- d) Diane Szoller, Chair, Advisory Committee on the Environment – providing the attached presentation.
- e) Sean Quigley, Executive Director, Emerging Leaders London Community Network – providing the attached presentation.
- f) Ron Koudys, Board President, The Grand Theatre – thanking London for its support to date and noting that the City of London has been a strong supporter of the Grand Theatre; noting that the grant from the Canadian Cultural Spaces Fund in the amount of \$260K was sought for the purpose of safety and communications upgrades in order to ensure a safe workplace and is not related to the proposal for an expanded Grand Theatre as part of the Performing Arts Centre proposal; stating that the Grand Theatre would like to get an electronic display marquee like the London Convention Centre; emphasizing that the \$100K from the City is necessary to secure the grant from the Canadian Cultural Spaces Fund and must be received by September 2014; noting that the City's contribution would represent 15% of the overall project value; stating that he sees this as good value for the City in order ensure a safe and sustainable facility.
- g) Hope Clark, African Community Council – providing the attached presentation.

(Secretary's Note: A copy of the "Community Conversation with London's African Community", as referenced in the presentation, is available for viewing in the City Clerk's Office or online as an appendix to this Report.)

- h) V. Van Linden, Chair, Animal Welfare Advisory Committee – providing the attached presentation.
- i) Amir Eftekarpour, Vice President, Western University Students' Council - providing the attached presentation.
- j) George Wood, 907 Queensborough Court - noting that his pension has been cut, leaving little money for day to day needs after he pays his mortgage and property taxes; stating that there are a lot of seniors in a similar position to his and they simply cannot keep up with increasing property taxes and utility bills.
- k) Gary Brown, 35A-59 Ridout Street – noting that in many North American cities, most recently New York City, they have made choices to put in bike lanes in a city which has limited space; stating that recent studies have indicated that pedestrian and bicycle traffic can mean a 49% increase in retail sales, so increasing pedestrian and bicycle traffic in London is important since there are many small business in London that would benefit; suggesting that an investment in cycling would assist the Mayor in his job creation goals; stating that the City of Mississauga is asking the Province of Ontario for 1% of the costs for its "Share the Road" initiative; suggesting that 78% of Ontarians would cycle if there was better cycling infrastructure; asking that the Municipal Council not cut the \$200K

for dedicated bicycle lanes as this is a good investment to secure more jobs, increase revenues and keep the best and the brightest people in London.

- l) Roy Wood, 51 Brentwood Crescent – noting that he likes to bike to work 8 months of the year and also does a lot of recreational biking; indicating he bikes with his son and this is a great bonding experience; expressing concern about biking in London for safety reasons; and noting that the local bike lanes are patchy---some work great, but there is a need to continue to invest in a bigger network.
- m) Anthea Rowe, 44 Kingsford Crescent – indicating that she would like the bike lane dollars kept in the 2014 Budget; noting the investment is key to safety in cycling; asking for more bicycle lanes; and stating there is a need to maintain the investment in order to be a progressive city.
- n) Yasmin, 50 Chapman Court – indicating she likes to use the bike paths, but they are not cleared year round; asking that the bike budget not be cut; and noting year round access to the paths is necessary for running errands.

Motion Passed

YEAS: J.F. Fontana, J.B. Swan, S. Orser, N. Branscombe, D.G. Henderson, J.P. Bryant, B. Polhill, J.L. Baechler, M. Brown, P. Hubert, P. Van Meerbergen, D. Brown, H.L. Usher, S.E. White, B. Armstrong (15)

IV. ITEMS FOR DIRECTION

3. London Chamber of Commerce - 2014 Budget

Recommendation: That the communication dated December 19, 2013, from G. Macartney, CEO, London Chamber of Commerce, offering the London Chamber of Commerce Board's observations and recommendations regarding the 2014 Budget BE RECEIVED.

Motion Passed

YEAS: J.F. Fontana, J.B. Swan, S. Orser, N. Branscombe, D.G. Henderson, J.P. Bryant, B. Polhill, J.L. Baechler, M. Brown, P. Hubert, P. Van Meerbergen, D. Brown, H.L. Usher, S.E. White, B. Armstrong (15)

4. Downtown London - 2014 Budget

Recommendation: That the attached communication dated January 6, 2014 from R.T. Usher, Chair, London Downtown Business Association and J. MacDonald, Executive Director, Downtown London, requesting that the funding for Downtown London not be eliminated, BE RECEIVED.

Motion Passed

YEAS: J.F. Fontana, J.B. Swan, S. Orser, N. Branscombe, D.G. Henderson, J.P. Bryant, B. Polhill, J.L. Baechler, M. Brown, P. Hubert, P. Van Meerbergen, D. Brown, H.L. Usher, S.E. White, B. Armstrong (15)

V. DEFERRED MATTERS/ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 PM.