

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

### 2. 2015 Budget – Public Participation

- David Billson, Board Chair and Dr. Helene Berman, Professor and Associate Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences – providing the attached presentation in support of funding for renovation of Pillar Non-Profit Network’s space to accommodate a Social Innovation Shared Space.
- Deeq Abdi and Raban Anand, African Community Council – providing the attached presentation in support of funding not for the African Community Council, but for the London Newcomer Employment Initiative, which is hoped to be able to positively affect 500 people and secure 100 jobs; indicating that he will be more successful than other organizations with a similar employment mandate as he is more practical and action-oriented and knows where jobs can be created; noting that individuals and organizations who receive City funding should be held accountable; noting the funding request from the City will cover 100 jobs, but they will also be seeking provincial and federal funding to expand their program.
- Diane Szoller, Chair, Advisory Committee on the Environment – reiterating the submission appended as part 2c) of the Added Agenda regarding the funding of initiatives to protect the environment.
- Jeff Schlemmer, Executive Director, Neighbourhood Legal Services – reiterating the submission appended as part 2d) of the Agenda, asking the City of London to allocate additional funds to the Community Homeless Prevention Initiative and to make ending homelessness a priority in its Strategic Plan.
- Sean Quigley, Executive Director, Emerging Leaders London Community Network – providing the attached presentation and reiterating the request for funding to ensure the continuance of Emerging Leaders, as outlined in the submission appended as 2e) to the Added Agenda; noting that at the present time the City funds 70% of its annual operating budget and that Emerging Leaders would not be able to continue past April without receipt of the funding it is seeking from the City of London; also noting that Emerging Leaders has received legal advice it would not be able to obtain charitable status, but it is attempting to secure fee for service work.
- Tom Partales, London Optimist Sports Centre (BMO Centre) – thanking the Committee for the opportunity to present; noting that it is a not-for-profit volunteer organization that operates the BMO Centre; stating that the lease held by the City for the Soccer Dome at 6 Cuddy Boulevard is slated to end and the demand for use of the BMO Centre is such that it won’t be possible to absorb the programs currently running at the Soccer Dome; emphasizing the benefit to the neighbourhood and the community as a result of the BMO Centre; indicating that the BMO Centre operates 7 days a week, starting early in the morning and running well into the night, serving 5000 athletes, seniors, the cultural community and not-for-profit groups, as well as offering subsidized programs to ensure affordability; noting the Centre draws visitors from all over Southwestern Ontario, with 210 teams participating in a recent tournament; pointing out that the BMO Centre currently pays \$70,000 in annual property taxes and expects to pay approximately \$110,000 in annual property taxes if the requested one-time funding of \$750,000 was obtained to allow for the expansion of the facility; indicating that there would be about 70 to 80 temporary jobs generated for the construction of the expansion and that the expansion has the potential for creating up to five permanent jobs.
- Dean Sheppard, Executive Director, ReForest London – providing the attached submission in support of the urgent need for funding London’s Urban Forest Management Strategy.
- Gus Kotsiomitis, Chair and Jennifer Hollis, Project Manager, London Middlesex Immigrant Employment Council (LMIEC) making the attached presentation in support of a flat annual funding amount of \$54,025, requiring an additional prorated amount of \$18,009 to bring 2015 funding up to that level; it being noted that the Committee was also provided with an information brochure regarding the services of the LMIEC, a copy of which is available for viewing in the City Clerk’s Office; and indicating that they also draw upon provincial and federal funding but need additional support from the City to address a funding gap and would like to move to the City’s Strategic Funding Framework so as to ensure ongoing funding.
- Wilma de Rond, Chair and Carol Stewart, Project Manager, Employment Sector Council London Middlesex – presenting the information included as 2i) on the Added Agenda and also providing the attached further information in support of its request to be included in the City of London’s Strategic Funding Framework in order to ensure sustainable funding.

- Janette MacDonald, CEO and General Manager, Downtown London – requesting that the funding that was deferred to 2016 for a flexible Dundas Street be moved back to 2015 as the project will create event space and will reap “hard core” economic development in the Downtown; and noting that it is important to ensure businesses on Dundas Street are disturbed as little as possible.
- Kathleen Sykora, representing Barry Tepperman, Palace Theatre – reiterating the information contained in Communication No. 4 on the Agenda; requesting funding for capital projects to ensure their building is properly maintained and repaired, particularly where auditorium walls are deteriorating due to structural issues caused by the style of the roof; stating that the Palace Theatre does not have a history of requesting funding from the City of London, rather they have managed through funding from a Trillium Grant, donations and ticket sales.
- Jack Blokker, Conservation Action Committee of Nature London – making the attached presentation in support of a greater financial commitment to protect and enhance London’s natural heritage.
- William Pol, Chair, Cycling Advisory Committee (CAC) – reiterating the submission included as part 2m) of the Added Agenda which sought the reallocation of some funding to allow all-season access to the Thames Valley Parkway and for on-road bike lanes, which would in turn increase year-round usability, while pointing out that an analysis of the exact dollar amount has not been undertaken; noting that the CAC represents a broad cross section of cyclists; expressing appreciation for the support of the Civic Administration, the London Transit Commission, the London Police Service and the Middlesex-London Health Unit as it relates to cycling; and indicating that he is looking forward to all Council Members joining the CAC for a bike ride.
- Ray Wood, Local Resident – indicating he is speaking once again on behalf of seniors who are homeowners and cannot afford any more increases in property taxes or hydro and water charges; noting that the Mayor had asked staff to assist however they could last year, but all they did was advise him on affordable housing; stressing there are a lot of people in the same position as he is and that help does not simply mean saying someone is sorry; asking for a program to be put in place to assist people in his position; and noting that many others come asking for grants and that he thinks that sometimes those grants are abused.
- Carmen Reis and Rachele Coleman, Northwest London Resource Centre (NWLRC) – making the attached presentation in support of the request for funding for the Northwest London Resource Centre.
- Gary Brown, London Resident – indicating he is not speaking on behalf of the Cycling Advisory Committee; stating that he has concerns with the bike lane from Upper Queen Street not being completed at Commissioners Road, staff comments that they have not even considered protected bike lanes and that it would be too expensive to complete the bike lanes on Commissioners Road; requesting that a complete and safe bike route be completed so cyclists remain safe at Upper Queen Street and Commissioners Road; asking that sidewalks be cleared for seniors and that funding be provided for implementing the City’s Urban Forest Strategy.
- Vicki Van Linden, Resident – asking that the Police Budget not be increased above inflation; noting that year after year the London Police Service has threatened layoffs so if better paid means fewer officers, we need to figure out how we can make that work; suggesting that perhaps some Police work could be moved to City staff who are not governed by the arbitration process; noting that there are a number of areas that have “quasi Police” powers; enquiring how the Housing First initiative ties in; and sharing her experience with a local homeless individual who was told to “move along” by Police, but Police wouldn’t have to do this if he had a home to live in.
- J.P., Limberlost Resident – indicating he would like to see more children’s programming in the neighbourhood.