

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

2. 2016-2019 Multi-Year Budget – Public Participation

- Vicki Van Linden, 431 Ridgewood Crescent, London, ON – speaking in support of Strategic Investment #16 – London Homelessness Prevention and Housing Plan 2010-2014/London Homeless Prevention System Implementation Plan, urging the City of London to fund all of this and give whatever is needed to vulnerable Londoners and move this way up the priority list; presenting the attached photos of a community housing facility in Toronto which is operated by Housing Link, but is similar to other facilities run by the City of Toronto; noting that the facility is on Broadview Avenue, with 25-30 self-contained units for individuals with mental health and addiction challenges; noting she passed by the facility for about a year before she realized it was not simply regular housing and that it sits in a mixed use area where there is commercial, office and retail establishments, a school and residential housing close by; advising that she was told there has not been any conflicts because of the location of the vulnerable population near a school attended by children; encouraging the City to proceed with the work covered by Strategic Investment #16 and to do so as quickly as possible; and indicating that through her work in animal welfare helping vulnerable pet owners she has noticed that it really isn't fair for private landlords to have to deal with the associated issues.
- Gena Brumitt, Brumitt Management & PR Group – indicating she manages commercial real estate, with her main client being Farhi Holdings Corporation, which holds the property known as Market Tower at Richmond and Dundas Streets; summarizing her communication dated January 4, 2016, attached to the Committee's agenda, which speaks in support of the London Police Services Board's request for funding to increase its foot patrol complement to 20 officers; noting that the current complement of officers is covering a larger area than before, and there is much support from local businesses and area stakeholders for an increase to the foot patrol complement; stating that foot patrol officers are better able to develop a working relationship with the area businesses and other stakeholders and to provide a suitable response to the kinds of issues that arise in the areas they patrol, rather than requiring a 911 call.
- Shawna Lewkowitz and Sue Hillis, Women & Politics – providing the attached presentation; indicating they are not certain if the City of London has applied a gender lens to the Budget to ensure it equally benefits men and women, but they did find a couple of areas where it appeared the City had, such as the Internship Program and the Winter Maintenance Strategy; noting that the City of Ottawa has successfully used this tool and would hope that London could emulate their success; and indicating that they could provide a list of areas they feel should be addressed so that the City could identify what the cost would be to address them.
- Wes Kinghorn, Urban League of London – indicating that he will save any detailed comments for the second public participation meeting; advising that the Urban League of London has over 30 local partners and will be expanding that in numbers and diversity; stating that they will be undertaking further meetings in order to provide specific concerns and comments at the next public participation meeting; advising that he is particularly pleased with two initiatives the City has undertaken: public engagement in areas that are more accessible and have childminding services available and the Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy.
- Timothy Pearson and Bonnie Lee, London Cycle Link - providing the attached presentation and indicating that London Cycle Link has been operating since 2013 and has over 200 members; stating that cycling supports a number of the City's key strategies; advising that the following have been identified as Cycle Link's top five priorities, in priority order: completion of Thames Valley Parkway – North Branch, Downtown to Old East Village route with a King Street cycle track, a north/south cycle track

in Downtown London, Downtown bicycle parking facility and a bike lane on Cheapside Street to connect Fanshawe College and Western University; further noting that although they have not included winter maintenance in their list, they do support Strategic Investment #17 – Winter Maintenance Strategy; indicating they do appreciate the way recreational pathways and bike lanes are being brought together, but they would still like to see protected bike lanes; suggesting that the total cost of their top five priorities would be approximately \$1.5 million, but that would have to be verified by City staff; stating that though it appears that the proposed budget should cover their priorities, the City staff no doubt has other uses for that budget, in addition to projects that support cycling.

- Abe Oudshoorn – noting that the City of London will be hosting the Homelessness Conference this year and that while it has made great progress with homelessness initiatives, there is always room to do better; indicating that there are areas London is handling well and areas that it needs to plug which include additional housing allowances since best practices note the importance of housing on health and social outcomes, as well as youth shelters; stating that youth do not benefit from sharing space with individuals who experience chronic homelessness and that the majority of youth who seek shelter do so to leave homes where there is violence; commending staff for the initiatives taken to date; and lastly indicating his support for connecting the Thames Valley North Branch.
- Jim Hewett, Chair and Member of the Board of Directors, Community Living London – providing the attached presentation indicating frustration that the City of London has not yet addressed public transit subsidy for low income Londoners and reiterating the importance of doing so.
- Dean Sheppard, Executive Director, Re-Forest London – providing the attached presentation in support of investment in tree planting and protection in the City of London.
- Sophie Helpard, President, Western University Students' Council – indicating that the Students' Council is largely in support of the Budget and drawing attention to two areas of priority for the students: Growing Our Economy and Building a Sustainable City; indicating that they wholeheartedly endorse rapid transit through the SHIFT Program, which is vital to the City's future student population and critical to the student population; noting the USC has been a strong advocate for rapid transit since the beginning and reiterates its endorsement for the hybrid BRT and LRT system and its inclusion in the Budget; supporting the Thames Valley Corridor Plan which will enable cyclists to better move through the City and connect to the Western University campus; noting that students continue to be a population that cycles and they believe that this is an investment in the health and leisure of the population; and finally indicating that the last projects they would like to endorse are the Dundas Place and Back to the River projects which the Students' Council believes will be an economic driver and will increase culture in the City to make it an attractive place for students to come and hopefully ultimately stay.
- Patty Ciufu, 88 Chesley Avenue – indicating she sits on the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee; advising that she has read the Strategic Plan and is disappointed that trees are mentioned only once, under the environmental section of the Plan; planting and growing the plant material for planting could be combined with things like housing to give marginalized people a chance to grow things healthy for the City and for themselves; advising there is a place just outside the City believed to be called Green Legacy where school children are given trees to plant; indicating that the previous Council wanted a work plan from the Trees and Forests Advisory Committee, but that is way too complicated—just buy trees and get them in the ground; stating that Forestry is wanting to do a study of warmer climate tree species, and give that work to local agencies, however forestry work could be done by the City's Parks and Recreation area; suggesting that the City needs to talk to its Ecologist about planting an ecosystem around the trees in order to protect them, noting the planting could be done by various groups; and stating that she

believes that with rental vans and tools, students could plant a 1,000 trees in a week.

- Tom McClenaghan, Friends of the Coves – quoting “quality people and enterprises are drawn to urban centres where quality of life is a high priority”; noting that while we could talk about components, he believes we are pretty much in agreement of the significance of our environment; asking if there is anything further than can be done to reduce the number of events where raw sewage is discharged into the Thames River; pointing out that Kitchener has put \$700 million into dealing with wastewater and sewage entering the Grand River Valley; acknowledging that this is a big ticket issue, but that we need to understand how they can make that much of an investment so we can muster that amount of investment in London; indicating that he associates his quality of life with the quality of the water in the Thames River; further commenting that Council approved a Conservation Master Plan and in 2015 we saw the first construction of a trail in the Coves, which was first class, and he has been staggered by the number of people on that trail; noting that another significant achievement was the Elmwood Gateway; stating that he hopes there is an implementation plan that identifies the next steps to complete the Conservation Master Plan; advising he does not see anything tangible in the budget for implementation; also indicating that invasive species is a big deal and there needs to be a budget for that in order to protect woodlots; further stating that Environmentally Significant Areas need to be managed and it is extremely important that they are managed and ongoing funding needs to be available to cover those costs