

MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY

Council Chamber
Tom Davies Square

Tuesday, March 24, 2015
Commencement: 6:24 p.m.

COUNCILLOR MIKE JAKUBO, IN THE CHAIR

Present

Councillors Signoretti, Vagnini, Montpellier, Dutrisac, Kirwan, Lapierre, Jakubo, Sizer, McIntosh, Cormier, Reynolds, Landry-Altmann, Mayor Bigger

City Officials

Doug Nadorozny, Chief Administrative Officer; Lorella Hayes, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer; Kevin Fowke, Director of Human Resources & Organizational Development (7:40 p.m.); Eliza Bennett, Manager, Communications and French Languages Services; Brigitte Sobush, Deputy City Clerk; Liana Bacon, Legislative Compliance Co-ordinator; April Antoniazzi, Council Assistant

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None declared

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIR

Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed those in attendance and advised that the purpose of the session was to receive input from the public regarding the Healthy Community Initiative (HCI) funds.

ROUTINE MANAGEMENT REPORTS

Item C-1 Healthy Community Initiative Fund 2014 Year End Report

Report dated March 13, 2015 from the Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer regarding Healthy Community Initiative Fund 2014 Year End Report.

The following recommendation was presented:
FA2015-20: Kirwan/Bigger: THAT the City of Greater Sudbury accepts report dated March 13, 2015 from the Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer regarding Healthy Community Initiative Fund 2014 Year End Report, and that the appropriate by-laws be passed.

CARRIED

PUBLIC INPUT

The chair explained the procedure for the meeting. A speakers' list was available and submissions were heard in the order they appeared.

Northern Ontario
Railway Museum

Cody Cacciotti spoke on behalf of the Northern Ontario Railway Museum in favour of the HCI funds. He outlined how the museum has benefited from the funds and noted they have allowed the museum to leverage grants from other funding agencies. He noted the process could be improved, but that most importantly citizens should be educated about the fund and its intent.

Barry Van Horne

Barry Van Horne, a resident and taxpayer of the city, voiced his disapproval of the HCI funds. He noted some councillors' campaigns included abolishing the funds and questioned why the issue was being discussed again. He would prefer the money go to roads.

Ward 8 Community
Action Network

Rachelle Niemela, Chair of the Ward 8 Community Action Network (CAN), spoke in favour of the HCI funds. The group has received input from residents and reported that most residents want the funding to continue with stringent guidelines put in place. She urged Council not to abolish the funds and supports a shared decision making process involving staff, residents and council. The funds, she noted, are an investment in neighbourhoods and encourage quality of life.

Coalition for Liveable
Sudbury

Naomi Grant spoke on behalf of the Coalition for Liveable Sudbury. She discussed Project Impact, a small scale example of participatory budgeting and outlined how that system could work on a larger scale with the HCI funds. She suggested the funds be divided by area rather than by Ward to ensure everyone is well represented and recommended that some funds be kept to address needs as they come up. She emphasized the importance of a fair and transparent process and noted the funds should not be seen as a replacement for adequately funding the core budget.

Arthemise
Camirand-Peterson

Arthemise Camirand-Peterson, president of the Ridgecrest Accessible Neighbourhood Park Association, spoke in favour of the HCI funds. She described how she has witnessed the revitalization of the park due in part to HCI funding. She stated many residents don't understand the process and that posting expenditures online contributes to the education of the public. She also noted Councillors should be able to accumulate the funds with a possibility of review after four years.

PUBLIC INPUT (cont'd)

Sebastien Perth,
Lilly Noble

Lilly Noble and Sebastien Perth spoke in favour of taking a participatory budgeting approach to the HCI fund. The participatory approach would allow citizens to work in partnership with council to allocate a part of the municipal budget to community projects. They noted other cities currently use forms of participatory budget and that it gives residents a sense of ownership and pride. If this approach was adopted councillors would not be involved in the decision making process but instead would facilitate the process and staff would create transparent policies and educate the public.

Coniston Community
Action Network

Wyman MacKinnon, vice-chair of the Coniston CAN, spoke in favour of the HCI funds. He asked that the funds remain available to CAN groups. He outlined some of the projects the funds have made possible for his group and noted the Coniston CAN will continue to place importance on transparency and accountability. He noted the projects funded by the HCI funds allow residents to pull together and work together.

Beaver Lake Sports and
Cultural Club

Leslee Salo and Maureen Bennison spoke on behalf of the Beaver Lake Sports and Cultural Club in favour of the HCI funds. The club is a non-profit, privately-owned organization. Without HCI funding and donations the club would not be able to remain operational. The group suggested that HCI funds should not be used for small scale city projects or acquisition of capital assets but mainly for not for profit, privately owned organizations. Leslee Salo noted she is also the vice-president of Walden-CAN and a member of the Anderson Farm Museum Heritage Society and that both groups are in favour of the HCI funds.

Louis Street Community
Association

Elizabeth Davis, community coordinator of the Louis Street Community Association, spoke in favour of the HCI funds. She noted Louis Street is a marginalized area and access to the funds provided opportunities the area wouldn't normally have. The community group is working toward long term sustainability and the funding received allows the group to continue to move forward in a positive way.

Ryan Heights
Neighbourhood
Association

Dee Latourelle, spoke on behalf of the Ryan Heights Neighbourhood Association in favour of the HCI funds. She spoke of projects that would not have been possible without HCI funding and provided a vision for the future of the area.

PUBLIC INPUT (cont'd)

Dr. Darren Stinson

Dr. Darren Stinson provided an electronic presentation. He illustrated the amounts spent from HCI funds from 2008 to 2014 and noted the greatest benefactor of the funds is the City of Greater Sudbury. He described the funds as a micro-financer for the community and credited them for providing economic growth in the community. He noted the funds are a unique method of helping the city to be a better place.

Capreol Community Action Network

Randy Crisp, chair of the Capreol CAN, spoke in favour of the HCI funds. He spoke of how the funds are instrumental to continue to move Capreol forward and go toward many sub-committees in the community. He noted the funds are necessary and that the \$2500 CANs currently receive from the city is insufficient. He supports a larger sum being given to CANs but continuing to request larger ticket items through council. He also supports CANs having to illustrate how any money they've received is spent. While he is not against a collaborative approach to the HCI funds he suggested councillors should ultimately make funding decisions.

Lions Eye in the Sky Advisory Board

Craig Moxam and Rob Vaillancourt, board members of the Lions Eye in the Sky Advisory Board, spoke in favour of the HCI funds. They explained the funds are necessary to continue to operate and update the Eye in the Sky and how important it is for the safety and security of the community.

Azilda Community Action Network

Richard L. Paquette, secretary of the Azilda CAN, spoke in support of the funds. He noted HCI funds have been used to Leverage important projects in the community and that future projects and further improvements don't necessarily fit into capital budgets. He suggested that council look into changing the process, provide new guidelines to make the funds accountable and maintain a process without too much bureaucracy. He described the funds as Ward funds to improve the community instead of belonging to councillors.

New Sudbury Community Action Network

Michelle Black, chair of the new Sudbury CAN, spoke in favour of the funds. She suggested a more user friendly website, press releases to get the message out and plaques noting that a project was funded in part by the HCI to increase public awareness and confidence. She supports the funds being controlled by the elected councillors.

PUBLIC INPUT (cont'd)

Dr. Raymond Jacques

Dr. Raymond Jacques, citizen representative of Lo-Ellen Park area, spoke in favour of the HCI funds. He explained that micro-funding improves health and the economy of the community. He suggested that the decision making be the responsibility of councillors and the CANs. He explained one to two percent of the global budget should be allocated to health and that more money should be put into green space advisory. He noted funds should be taken from the roads budget.

Steve May

Steve May, spoke in favour of the HCI funds but suggested changes to be made. He noted road signs were not the best way to use HCI funds, that those should be funded through the capital budget and that sustainable funding should be revisited. He supports participatory budgeting, as is currently used in Hamilton. He is not in favour of councillors administering their own funds because accountability and transparency have to be paramount in public spending. He explained that the current decision making process is arbitrary and transparency is retroactive. He stated the current structure is not working and a new model for the administration of the funds must be found.

Donovan Elm West Community Action Network

Monique Mercier chair Donovan Elm West CAN, provided petition signed by the community in favour of HCI funds.

Adjournment

Bigger/Kirwan: THAT this meeting does now adjourn. Time: 7:55 p.m.

CARRIED

Brigitte Sobush, Deputy City Clerk