

WRPCPC Agenda

February 9, 2018

Waterloo Region Museum

10 Huron Road, Kitchener

Classroom A and B

9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (8:30 a.m. Networking)

Chair: Shayne Turner

Minutes: Mary Anna Allen

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
4. Approval of the January 12, 2018 Minutes – 5 min (attached)
 - 4.1 Business Arising
5. Approval of the Smart Update for February 9, 2018 - 10 min (attached)
6. WRCPC Elections: - 30 minutes
 - 6.1 Chair
 - 6.2 Vice-chair
 - 6.3 Facilitating Committee Members
7. WRCPC Orientation and Knowledge Exchange - 60 min
8. Report on Opioid Actions by WRCPC: Christiane Sadeler and Rohan Thompson – 30 min
9. Book Review: The Cyber Effect by Mary Aiken - Andrew Jackson - 15 min
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment
12. Next Meeting: March 9, 2018

WRCPC Minutes

January 12, 2018

Region of Waterloo

99 Regina Street South

Room #508

9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (8:30 a.m. Networking)

Present: Barry Cull, Barry McClinchey, Bill Wilson, Mike Haffner, Carmen Abel, Carolyn Albrecht, Cathy Harrington, Chris Cowie, Courtney Didier, Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders, Felix Munger, Helen Jowett, Jane Mitchell, Jennifer Mains, Kelly Bernier, Kathy Payette, Kelly Anthony, Hsiu Li-Wang, Liz Vitek, Mark Poland, Michael Beazely, Peter Ringrose, Richard Eibach, Sarah Shafiq, Sharon Ward-Zeller, Shayne Turner, Shirley Hilton, Tom Galloway,

Regrets: Andrew Jackson, Angela Vanderheyden, Denise Squire, Irene O'Toole, Joe-Ann McComb, John Shewchuk, Jonathan English, Judy Merkel, Mark Pancer, Michelle Sutherland, Peter Rubenschuh, Trisha Robinson

Guests: Tim Welch and Joshua Warkentin from TWC Consulting

Chair: Shayne Turner

Minutes: Mary Anna Allen

1. Welcome and Introductions:

Welcome and introductions were made.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Agenda item - Legislation Concerning Not Criminally Responsible Dispositions - was carried forward to a future meeting. Added to the agenda was a consultation about Wellbeing Waterloo Region Reference Group's emerging priorities.

Moved by Sharon Ward-Zeller

Seconded Kelly Anthony

Carried

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest: None

4. Approval of the December 15, 2017 Minutes:

Moved by Cathy Harrington

Seconded by Michael Beazely

Carried

4.1 Business Arising: None

5. Regional Housing Consultation:

Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders, Commissioner of Community Services, provided some background information about the Waterloo Region Housing Master Plan.

Waterloo Regional Housing is one of the components of Housing Services and sits within the Community Services Department of the Region. Waterloo Regional Housing operates approximately 2700 units that are directly owned by the Region of Waterloo. Those units are situated across 62 sites.

Approximately one year ago, the Region began creating a master plan to look at the future direction of Waterloo Regional Housing and the role it should play in the future expansion of housing. The Region questioned whether it should continue to expand as a stand-alone entity, stay as it is or whether it should collaborate with other organizations in some of its operations.

Regional Council has approved the Waterloo Regional Housing Master Plan. The Region of Waterloo subsequently commissioned Tim Welch Consulting (TWC) along with Glenn Pothier (GLPi Consulting) to carry out community consultations about the future of Waterloo Region Housing. Consultations were held with Waterloo Region Housing tenants, regional and area elected officials and staff, community housing providers, support service agencies, and private sector developers.

Tim Welsh and Joshua Warkentin from TWC were invited by the Community Services Department to present to the WRPCPC and hold a focus group discussion. The WRPCPC were provided with the summary of consultations document “What We Heard” along with the preamble to review in preparation of the consultation. Please see full presentation attached.

The consultants are now in the process of checking in with organizations and individuals that were part of the initial consultation to ask for further feedback about the summary results in the “What We Heard” document.

Following the presentation to the WRPCPC the Council and consultants had a discussion that included some of the comments:

- Comparable studies of other communities are being done on different approaches but the current study did not specifically look at the issue of comparing waiting lists with other municipalities. However, Regional Housing staff have performed analyses on housing needs compared to other municipalities across the province.
- The waitlist (placement management) is a list of people that are waiting for some sort of subsidized rent. It does not speak to the overall housing need. This could be anyone who is homeless or someone who has been on the list for 6 to 7 years and are paying rent that exceeds 30% of their income. It is difficult to compare housing from one jurisdiction to another because when the province divested social housing it did not provide legislation or guidelines on how to operate it.

- Waitlists are the current practice of service managers. We need to first look at what the organization wants to do and then the management of system can be reviewed in a much more holistic way.
- There is a positive aspect to Waterloo Region Housing having a low profile. In general terms, it can mean that there are not many problems associated with the housing.
- Part of the study showed that there is some confusion in the community as to the difference between Waterloo Region Housing, which is the proprietor, and Regional Housing services, which is responsible for being the service system manager and is responsible for overseeing all of the non-for profit housing in the community.
- The consultants shared that there was some recognition that the scope of the project is limited but hopes that as the Master Plan progresses it will include others in the community that deal with the different aspects of affordable housing issues.
- Redevelopment of housing is a partial step in increasing accessibility. It is part of longer term capital planning.
- In the last strategic plan of the WRPCPC, the community identified lack of affordable and accessible housing as one of the root conditions of crime. Those who are homeless and /or precariously housed are often very vulnerable to becoming a victim of crime and or coming in conflict with the law.
- In neighbourhoods with high-density housing and residents that share similar economic and social struggles in close proximity to each other, ongoing issues with personal safety or experiences with other social tensions has occurred.
- Engagement of youth in a meaningful and sustainable long-term way, and restorative practices, are opportunities for increasing proactive measures. Many successful short-term projects in this regard were never funded beyond the pilot stage.
- A successful 4-month employment entrepreneurship program in Housing has been implemented by the Region of Waterloo to engage approximately 32 youth with most of them living near or within the housing complexes. The youth learn employment-related skills by performing unit inspections and interacting with the tenants.
- Historically, in Waterloo Region Housing tenant councils would make decision over housing repairs. Over the last three years, the Region has engaged each of the communities to help with the design of the units to help instill a sense of ownership.
- Waterloo Region Master Plan cannot be implemented in isolation. It is all part of a broader social system.
- The stigma of living in subsidized housing also impacts crime prevention. Changing this is a collective community responsibility.

In conclusion, crime prevention intercepts with housing in three key ways: (1) The increased risk of those who are precariously housed and/or homeless; (2) The stresses associated with housing where tenants share very similar life conditions; (3) The stigma of housing complexes that can lead to increased sense of public insecurity. Housing has great potential to get the balance between proximity, density and diversity right such that safer communities are the outcome.

The consultants will finalize **What We Heard: Environmental Scan Reports**. A planning day is scheduled for January 24, 2018 to formalize next directions and goals. A report with recommendations will go to Regional Council in the Spring of 2018 when Regional Council is expected to make a decision about the Waterloo Region Housing Master Plan.

6. Approval of WRCPC Budget 2018:

The Regional Municipality of Waterloo is the core funder for the WRCPC and the budget for 2018 has been approved. While WRCPC does not have the capacity to change the overall budget, it is customary for the budget to be presented at this meeting of Council so members can ask questions or make suggestions for budgetary line adjustments (if possible) and/or propose other changes for the future.

The WRCPC Budget for 2018 was presented and Council was given the opportunity for feedback.

Tom Galloway commented that while resources for crime prevention through social development are small when compared to enforcement measures there are many communities across Canada that have less capacity than those available in Waterloo region.

Moved by Kelly Anthony

Seconded by Courtney Didier

Carried

7. Approval of DRAFT WRCPC Slate 2018 and Policy Recommendations:

The membership of WRCPC is reviewed and approved annually and finally ratified by Regional Council. The Vice-Chair of WRCPC as the Chair of Nominating presents a draft slate at the January meeting (one month ahead of the inaugural meeting) with specific attention to filling vacancies. This discussion is a closed session item.

Motion to move into closed session

Moved by Courtney Didier

Seconded by Barry Cull

Carried at 10:14 am

Motion to move into open session

Moved by Carolyn Albrecht

Seconded by Shirley Hilton

Carried

8. Waterloo Region Wellbeing Reference Group Feedback of Emerging Ideas:

Christiane Sadeler provided an overview from the Waterloo Region Wellbeing Reference Group meeting that was held on January 11, 2018. Wellbeing Waterloo Region is starting to land on four big ideas:

1. Connected Community
2. Healthy Child Development
3. Affordable Housing
4. Social Inclusion

Christiane asked the WRCPC for feedback and comments to the following question:

1. What are your comments of the emerging big ideas as a focus for Waterloo Region Wellbeing?

The WRCPC provided feedback and comments. Please see attachment. Christiane Sadeler will forward this information to the CAO, Mike Murray.

9. 40th Anniversary of the Justice Dinner 2018 - Christiane Sadeler – 10 min

With the 40th anniversary of the Justice Dinner coming up in 2018, the Facilitating Committee and staff are looking to members of WRCPC for suggestions regarding locations, topics, format, costs, etc. The plan is to put a committee in place as soon as possible to begin to prepare the event, which is scheduled to take place on November 22, 2018.

Christiane asked Council members to please email her with some ideas e.g. the venue, format, keynote for the 40th Anniversary of the Justice Dinner 2018.

10. Rural Post Opportunity:

Similarly, to the former **Safe City Series** that WRCPC hosted twice together with Rogers TV, WRCPC has been offered a regular guest spot in a new rural bi-weekly publication: **Rural Post**. This is an opportunity to engage the rural community and to write about crime prevention through social develop.

Rohan Thompson asked Council members if they would be interested in contributing a written submission, approximately 350 to 400 words, to be featured in the series. The first submission from WRCPC will be due at the end of February 2018. Those interested in submitting an article are as follows: Liz Vitek for Grand Valley Institution (perhaps with the women writing), Sharon Ward -Zeller, Richard Eibach, Kelly Anthony, Felix Munger, Kelly Bernier and Sarah Shafiq.

It was suggested that Christiane speak also to the rural Mayors about contributing written submissions to the newspaper.

11. Domestic Assault Review Team Event Request:

The Domestic Assault Review Team (DART) asked if the WRCPC would be interested in

volunteering to manage a WRPCPC display at the Conestoga College Student Fair on February 16, 2018. The display and material are to be provided by WRPCPC staff. Volunteers are expected to stay the entire day (lunch provided). Council members are to contact Rohan Thompson at rthompson@regionofwaterloo.ca if interested in volunteering.

Post addendum: Due to a conflict with another WRPCPC event on February 16, 2018, the WRPCPC regrettably declined the offer to participate at the Conestoga College Student Fair for this year.

Carolyn Albrecht shared with Council that DART service provider partnered with WRPCPC to produce a handout that connects domestic violence to longer-term health impacts. These handouts are also going web based. Christiane shared that Public Health and specifically Lori-Snyder McGregor has been a long time excellent partner in this collective work, which also came together in the charter for Violence Prevention that WRPCPC has signed and which the Region of Waterloo signed as one of the first municipality in Canada.

12. Book Review: Robyn Maynard - Policing Black Lives - State Violence in Canada from Slavery to the Present

As part of knowledge mobilization, members of WRPCPC will share information they gathered through reading a book, attending a seminar, etc. for the benefit of their colleagues on Council. Barry Cull reviewed this book by Robyn Maynard with an eye to what it might mean for local crime prevention opportunities and shared review with Council.

The author, Robyn Maynard provides an overview of Canadian state violence from colonial times to the present. Searching behind Canada's surface of multiculturalism and tolerance, Policing Black Lives traces the violent realities of anti-blackness from the slave ships to prisons.

Barry's blog will be featured in the member section of the WRPCPC website.

13. Other Business

The Iceland Project:

The WRPCPC, in partnership with the University of Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier University, is hosting an event on February 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kitchener Public Library. Dr. Alfgeir Kristjansson will be the keynote speaker. Dr. Kristjansson is part of a team in Reykjavik that has created and implemented the "Iceland Approach". This approach is a systematic, multi-sectoral, and effective upstream prevention effort designed to reduce previously high rates of cannabis, alcohol, and tobacco use among Icelandic teens.

Staffing Changes:

Juanita Metzger and Elin Moorlag Silk have resigned from the WRPCPC effective January 2018. Juanita is pursuing more part time ventures that include community work and writing while Elin has accepted a full time research position. Shayne Turner thanked and

acknowledged both staff and especially expressed appreciation for Juanita's eight-year long contributions to WRPCPC. Under Juanita's leadership the Friends of Crime Prevention initiative has thrived and become a model for other communities. Juanita's dedication to the value of mutual support has been especially visible in her crime prevention efforts that bringing together community to learn from one another and to build understanding. Juanita thanked the WRPCPC and shared that it was a pleasure working on the many projects.

14. Adjournment:

Moved by Jane Mitchell

Carried at 11:39 am

Smart Update (Consent Agenda)

For the Meeting of WRCPCC on February 9, 2018

The Consent Agenda is published on a bi-monthly basis. **Please review this report before meetings.**

Please note that any Council member has the right to “pull” an item from the Consent Agenda and add it to the regular agenda for discussion, comment or clarification. Approved consent agendas are published on the Council’s [website](#) along with approved minutes. Consent Agendas are selective, not comprehensive. Whenever possible, Consent Agenda items reflect the key **approaches** of the Smart on Crime 2015-2018 plan designed to accomplish three overarching Council directions.

- Youth: Unleashing the Potential of ALL Youth
- Neighbourhoods: Building Local Capacity for Change
- Smart on Crime: Advancing the Momentum

Expand Reach through Understanding and Engagement:

- The area survey report has been shared with Community Services Committee of the Region and the Police Services Board. Unlike previous surveys, this survey generated significant attention in media (The Record, 570 AM, CBC - KW, etc.) and on social media. Interestingly the greater sense of vulnerability experienced by women in downtown areas received higher attention than the increase in trust overall (which was a significant increase of 16% over previous years). Women’s vulnerability in public spaces (when compared to private spaces) tends to be over-reported which in turn actually results in a greater sense of not being safe. This gendered result has been consistent for over two decades nationally and in local communities while the increase in trust in the community of Waterloo region was in fact “news”. The greater attention to women as feeling less safe in public spaces might be related to either the media tendency to focus on negative data or the current #metoo movement having further raised the awareness of women’s experiences of harassment and abuse.
- Staff have turned down many requests for presentations and media appearances related to the opioid situation but presented at a class at WLU by invitation from John Milloy and a Cambridge group who hosted an event at the Dunnfield Theatre. WRCPCC appeared in the latter event together with the WRIDS Public Health, WRPS and Cambridge staff.
- Work has begun on a film and PSAs regarding the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act. The development of this information is funded by WWLHIN.

- An in-house evaluation report about the Friends' course has been completed. The first trial run shows overall success in content and process. A fuller evaluation completed as part of a Mater Thesis will further advance our understanding of how to provide knowledge exchange opportunities in situations where concepts are complex and often have a long history of popular understandings.

Base Change in Good Evidence and Innovation:

- WRPCPC's Advisory Group on Research and Evaluation (**AGORE**) has identified **youth engagement** as a current area of focus. As first steps, members of AGORE have been involved in the following:
 - writing of an **op-ed article** on preventing substance use among youth;
 - **planning sessions** to help inform knowledge exchange with Alfgeir Kristjansson, who is coming to Waterloo Region to talk about the Icelandic model for prevention of substance use among youth.
- WRPCPC with Memory Tree video services completed a **short orientation video on upstream prevention**. The video will be shared with the Council at the February meeting and will form part of the sector outreach package for members of WRPCPC.
- Evaluators of the Smart on Crime (2014-2018) community plan have completed an **Evaluability Assessment report**. In addition to recommendations for next steps, the report outlines WRPCPC's objectives, goals, and theory of change as well as the way these are implemented. Evaluators are planning to attend WRPCPC's March meeting to orient the Council on the data collection methods and activities, which will be initiated in late winter/early spring.
- As part of WRPCPC's **historical analysis project**, Conestoga College researchers have conducted seven **key informant interviews** and are looking to interview ten other individuals throughout February. Once the interviews are completed, the Conestoga team will prepare the final knowledge product made up of a timeline and historical narrative.

Lead side by side: Leverage dynamic partnerships:

- WRPCPC is partnering with Public Health Ontario, Toronto Public Health and the Canadian Center on Substance Use for a CIHR (Community Information Health Research) funded scoping review of community based opioid strategies.
- WRPCPC staff are working with Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) and other partners on a May 2018 conference on collaborative and innovative solutions to Ontario's opioid crisis.

- Staff continue to support efforts in Cambridge (including Cambridge Memorial Hospital, citizens, Council members) upon request.
- WRPCPC members and staff have continued their involvement in Well-being Waterloo Region (WWR) work, including but not limited to:

Participation in a forum that brought together representatives from various collaborative initiatives in Waterloo Region in order to discuss the governance model for WWR as well as ways of enhancing connectedness between systems/sectors; and involvement at the steering group and the advisory group levels for the community wide survey. WWR is currently developing a survey in partnership with the Canadian Index of Wellbeing and the plan is to implement it in the Spring of 2018. The Canadian Index of Wellbeing has completed the baseline community profile report for WWR, which assesses the state of wellbeing in Waterloo Region across various domains such as community vitality and living standards. Depending on the overall directions to be taken by WWR some of these data might be well positioned to inform the next strategic efforts of WRPCPC.

Advocate for Equity and Belonging. Reduce Marginalization and Discrimination:

- A request for funding has been developed to conduct focus group discussions with marginalized youth and it is now pending a response.
- Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) in partnership with the Racial Justice Network and WRPCPC are in the process of planning, developing and implementing a one-day conference. The conference will work with Black identifying high school students in the WRDSB to examine how they experience Anti-Black Racism and how WRDSB can work with students and faculty to address identified issues. WRDSB was successful in receiving grant that will support this event. We are still early days in the planning but the hope is that the one-day conference will be held by June 2018.

Community Corner:

In this section, staff share community training events and other significant information and opportunities that have been provided by members of WRPCPC and partners. Please note this will not include fundraising or partisan events.

GenNext Inspiring Passion: The Needle and the Damage Done: Invitation to the GenNext Inspiring Passion: The Needle and The Damage Done discussion on February 8, 2018 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Communitech Area 151 The cost is \$10. For more information, and to register please go to [Uwaykw - GenNext Inspiring Passion: The Needle and The Damage Done](#)

The UBUNTU Health Fair: ACCKWA has organized the Ubuntu Community Health Fair. Black Canadians face poorer health for varied and complex reasons. Join local community discussions on the impacts of anti-Black racism in policing, health care, and education. Meet community organizers focused on creating a safer, healthier future for our African, Caribbean and Black communities in Waterloo Region! WRCPC has assisted with staff resources to support this event. The health fair is being held on February 10th from 10:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Kitchener City Hall.

The Black Experience Project- Community Conversation: The Congress of Black Women-Waterloo Region Chapter along with the KW Multicultural Centre, City of Kitchener and WRCPC are hosting the Black Experience Project presentation at Kitchener City Hall on February 11th, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Celebration of Life of Trudy Beaulne (1954-2018): An invitation to celebrate the life and work of **Trudy Beaulne** on February 11, 2018 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at St John Evangelist Church Hall, corner of Water St North and Duke St. The entrance is from Duke Street. Ring a doorbell if you come after 3: 00 p.m.

Hallman Lecture: How did Iceland transform rates of adolescent substance use over a 20-year period?: Free event on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at the University of Waterloo in the Quantum Nano Centre, room 0101, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. For registration or information, please go to [Iceland Project](#).

Preventing Substance Use Amongst Youth: A National Success Story from Iceland: Free event at the Kitchener Public Library on Thursday, February 15, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. For registration or information, go to [Kitchener Public Library](#).

A Day in the Life of A Muslim Woman in Cambridge: Kinbridge Community Association & The Coalition of Muslim Women of Cambridge presents an **Interactive Art Project and Show** on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Kinbridge Community Association, 200 Christopher Drive, Cambridge. For more information go to [Kinbridge Facebook](#) or call 519-624-3855.

Pregnancy, Breastfeeding and Substance Use: On Thursday March 1st 2018, Dr. Lisa Graves will visit Waterloo Region to offer three education sessions on Pregnancy, Breastfeeding and Substance use.

Two sessions will be offered during the morning/afternoon at Grand River Hospital and one session will be offered in the evening at the U of W School of Pharmacy downtown Kitchener. The content will be similar in all three sessions. These events are free!

Please register for one of these events by clicking the Eventbrite link below. Seating is limited so please register early.

[Grand River Hospital – Session A – March 1st, 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.](#)

[Grand River Hospital – Session B - March 1st, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.](#)

[University of Waterloo, School of Pharmacy, March 1st, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.](#)

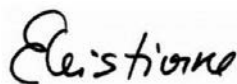
Waterloo Region Immigration Forum: Invitation to the Waterloo Region Immigration Forum 2018 on March 1, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (Breakfast provided) at the Holiday Inn, 30 Fairway Road S, Kitchener. For more information, or to register please go to Eventbrite [Waterloo Region Immigration Forum 2018](#)

What is up in the WRCPC office?

- WRCPC throughout its tenure has enjoyed a stable staffing situation. Until now! We started into the New Year with Juanita Metzger moving onto more part-time work and Elin Moorlag-Silk securing a full-time position. Juanita has been with WRCPC since 2009 and has greatly helped to advance the directions of moving crime prevention towards being a social movement (rather than a program or project) through the development of the friends initiative, her work in and with neighbourhoods and other innovative engagement methods such as the “porch chats”. Elin came to us initially on a short term contract when Dianne Heise retired and quickly made significant contributions to the knowledge base of WRCPC including her analysis of an internal WRCPC review. Both Juanita and Elin are remaining in the community and their passion for social justice development work (backed by good evidence) will no doubt contribute to a safer and healthier Waterloo region from within their respective new roles for many years to come. Thank you Juanita and Elin for making WRCPC your home base for a while and for all that, you have done for WRCPC and our community. We wish you well and hope you come by to say “hi” often.

- The above staff changes come at a particular busy time for WRCPC. Staff had to make some hard decisions around what to pause for now to accomplish those things that we are already committed to in the community. We thank members of WRCPC and community partners for your patience in this transition period.

Respectfully submitted,



Christiane Sadeler,

Executive Director

February 05, 2018

January 12, 2018



Waterloo Region Housing
Master Plan for Regionally-Owned Community Housing
Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council



Agenda

- WRH Overview
- Purpose
- Master Plan Overview
- What We Heard – Summary
- Comments/Questions
- Next Steps/Other Business

Scale: 1:250,000

Produced Dec. 2016
By: Tim Welch
The City of Waterloo
Waterloo Region Housing
100 Wellington Street, Waterloo, ON N2L 2G5

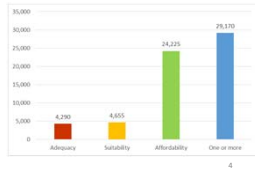
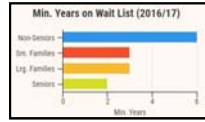
Overview of WRH

- More than 2,700 units on 62 communities
- More than 11,800 tenants
 - Almost half children/youth
 - 98.5% of units are subsidized
- Single/semi-detached, townhouses, apts.
 - 1,300 family units; 1,070 senior units; 310 adult units
- Average age of stock: 46 years
- WRH operates/manages units, Region owns

3

WRH Master Plan

- Guide WRH activities over 20 years
 - Plan for aging housing stock
 - Community building exercises
 - Role in providing new community housing
- Growing need for affordable housing
 - Waiting List Times Increasing
 - Core Housing Need
- Number of tenants requiring supports increasing



Consultation for Master Plan

- Process began summer 2017
- Stakeholders consulted
 - WRH tenants
 - Region/Area Elected Officials/Staff
 - Community Housing Providers
 - Support Service Agencies
 - Private Sector Developers
- Consultation process
 - Focus groups
 - Small group sessions
 - Interviews
 - Paper/online surveys



What We Heard – Knowledge of WRH

- Low knowledge/familiarity among all stakeholders
 - Many associated WRH with Service Manager role
 - Reflects organizational structure within Region, reputation
 - Perceived as well funded provider by community housing sector



What We Heard – Organizational Strengths

- WRH moving in right direction, many improvements
 - Tenant relations
 - Youthforce
 - Tenant councils, advisory group
 - Highly motivated staff
 - Tenant stability
 - Strong Asset management
 - Communication among staff
 - Inclusive housing policies
 - WRH staff



7

What We Heard – Organizational ‘Itches’

- Some perceived weaknesses:
 - WRH’s low profile
 - Lack of vision
 - Low independence
 - Not innovative enough
 - Design and condition of WRH communities
 - Stigma of community housing
 - Geographic Distribution of housing
 - Not enough partnerships with community housing providers
 - Communication between staff



8

What We Heard – Benefits of WRH

- Key benefits of Region as a housing provider
 - Advocate for community housing sector
 - Providing quality housing/supports
 - Helping society’s most vulnerable
 - Preserving affordable housing stock
 - Access to integrated support services (e.g. community hubs)
 - Inclusive housing policies



9

What We Heard – Future Roles

- Four potential WRH roles
 - Status Quo
 - Facilitate
 - Expansion
 - Divest
- Status Quo
 - Not appropriate/acceptable
- Combination of facilitate, expand and divest
- Divest single detached dwellings
 - Proceeds for building new housing
 - Maintain, expand number of units



10

What We Heard – Future Roles Cont.

- Expand (Redevelop Existing Sites)
 - Near unanimous support under key criteria:
 - Close proximity to higher order transit;
 - Supports Regional policies;
 - Land is underutilized;
 - High capital repair/maintenance costs
 - Comfortable with increasing number of units on site
 - Interest in partnering from support service, non-profit/private sector housing providers
 - Should have a mixture of incomes



11

What We Heard – Future Roles Cont.

- Expand (Build New Communities)
 - Less consensus on building additional WRH communities
 - Reasons for support:
 - Units are affordable in perpetuity
 - Growing need for housing with supports
 - Inability of private sector to build affordable housing
 - Uneven development capacity in non-profit sector
 - Reasons for concern:
 - WRH's higher operating/construction costs
 - Focus on repairing existing stock
 - Limited capacity to manage additional units



12

What We Heard – Future Roles Cont.

- Facilitate
 - Some non-profits would like land banking
 - Capacity building in non-profits
 - Provide back office service provisions for smaller providers
 - Collaborative approach to building new units/ integration of services
 - Utilize surplus school/Region sites



13

Conclusion

- Questions/Comments
- Next Steps
 - Finalize What We Heard, Environmental Scan Reports
 - Planning Day
 - Discussion Paper/Recommendations to Council



WRPCPC meeting January 12, 2018

What are your comments on the emergent big ideas as a focus for Waterloo Region well-being?

Connected Community:

1. Healthy Children and Youth - Healthy Child Development
 2. Affordable Housing
 3. Social Inclusion
- These statements clarify “wellbeing” and bring things into focus. They address real issues and that makes me more confident in moving forward.
 - The education sector is critical in supporting all three areas. Any prevention or intervention with our children and youth will benefit our region in the long term. Schools can support children, youth and their families directly where they live.
 - The final plan is for the community to design. It can't be done top down. In the rural consultations the social isolation of seniors was raised as a topic. There is also lots of data to show the long-term health impact of social isolation.
 - Why use the term “social isolation” and not a “sense of belonging” or “connectedness”. In the age friendly work the sense of belonging or connectedness was a significant protective factor.
 - Healthy child development and social inclusion is something that the whole community can get behind. Housing is a little different and more sector specific. It is more like a tool than a broader aspiration/call to action.
 - What is WRPCPC's role and what is everybody's role in reaching these aspirational statements? We have these larger ambitions that include bodies like the WRPCPC that are connected to the Region but also have a fair level of independence and we have some other collaborative tables. The first part of reaching the goals is of course making them explicit and then review who does what?
 - Seniors and people with disabilities are largely affected by the lack of connectedness or social isolation and often what holds people back from joining or participating in activities is affordability of that activity along with the lack of encouragement. Some retired people never leave the house. What will be the role of transit be in addressing social isolation?
 - Social isolation and belongingness is a large issue for the families in the child welfare system and so it merges with health child development goals.
 - There is a clear connection between isolation and crime. The women at GVI clearly don't believe that they “belong”. As part of wanting change, the women at

GVI often isolate themselves from previous negative influences. Therefore, isolation is almost purposeful in some regards and this isolation has huge longer term implications.

- There is a cost factor to most participation but we can be creative in terms of finding things that are pro-social that are also very affordable.
- A restorative region fits very well with groups like the seniors, public housing and women from GVI reintegrating into the community and with youth. These groups are often marginalized and many times the only way they interact is when there is a conflict. How we deal with the reintegration of the women from GVI can either further isolate and stigmatize the women or introduce them into the community in a healthy way. We also need to prepare the community to reduce the stigmatization. Would like to see the use of some of that restorative language in the Wellbeing WR plan (known in the Province as the Community safety and well-being plan). The region is the birthplace of restorative justice and that distinguishes our community from many others.
- When it comes to implementation this is going to require the involvement of everybody from policy leadership at the Regional Council level right down to finding ways where individuals can contribute.
- Why housing instead of broader resource issues (food security and income support)?
- Social isolation also affects new Canadians but in a very unique way.
- Housing can be seen beyond safe stable and affordable as something that creates community. Regional Housing has an opportunity here to develop more structures that encourage a sense of community.
- The area of social isolation recognizes things that work to connect people like faith groups and other places where people gather.
- Who is going to coordinate this initiative? What is WRCPC's role in supporting WBWR these areas of focus? It started as a community safety plan at the municipal level and we have a role to play there don't we?
- Research draws a clear connection between mental health and social isolation.
- Isolation from negative peer groups – sometimes recommended in crime prevention - can have negative impacts as well (no peer group to connect with. There are other positive ways to address the potential negative impacts of high risk peer groups).
- WBWR will require an "All hands on deck" method to make this happen
- What does belonging mean in communities with increased density?
- How do we learn from existing local examples that work and expand on that knowledge? Can we drill down further so that particular communities/initiatives see where/how they fit?