

INFORMATION ITEMS

Week Ending June 21, 2013

REPORTS

1. Guelph Family Health Team Expansion Report

CORRESPONDENCE

1. None

ITEMS AVAILABLE IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE

1. Grand River Conservation Authority – *Current* – June Issue

INFORMATION REPORT



TO City Council

SERVICE AREA Community and Social Services
Community Engagement and Social Services

DATE June 20, 2013

SUBJECT Guelph Family Health Team Expansion Request

REPORT NUMBER CSS-CESS-1328

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report provides a staff response to the request of the Guelph Family Health Team for \$1 million in one-time funding to support the construction of a Family Practice Teaching Unit at Farley Road, which was considered as part of the 2012 budget deliberations.

KEY FINDINGS

While the City is interested in community partnerships to enhance recreation and leisure programming in the south end of the city, it cannot provide financial resources to the Guelph Family Health Team to support the construction of the Family Practice Teaching Unit.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

BACKGROUND

The Guelph Family Health Team (GFHT) was launched in 2007 and provides a range of primary health care service for approximately 100,000 people in various locations across Guelph. Funded by the Ministry of Health and Long term Care (MHLTC), it combines existing family practice primary care services with a range of other clinical supports. They are currently expanding to a south end location on Farley Drive. Ross Kirkconnell, Executive Director of the GFHT, made a presentation to the Community and Social Services (CSS) Committee at the June 11, 2011 meeting. In the presentation, he noted various options for the City to consider in the development of such a clinic, which included: waiving development fees, a one-time contribution, or on-going funding. At this meeting, CSS Committee passed a resolution: "that the matter of the Guelph Family Health Family Practice Teaching Unit and a Collaborative Care Clinic, Farley Road be referred to staff to examine the City's role and to report back to committee."

INFORMATION REPORT



In follow up meetings with the GFHT, staff pursued the following objectives:

1. That the proposal provide an opportunity for community rooms and space in the south end, echoing our past practice of looking for ways to provide community rooms within neighbourhoods throughout the city;
2. That it provide an opportunity for programming in the south end, addressing a shortfall of space both for City operated and those operated by other community partners such as the Arts Council and the Guelph Wellington Seniors Association;
3. That it provide the possibility for the provision of urgent care in a decentralized location, taking pressure off the Guelph General Hospital and providing services in the Hanlon Creek Business Park;
4. That it provide an opportunity to partner with McMaster University.

Staff met with Mr Kirkconnell on three occasions following the presentation to CSS Committee. In these meetings staff advised on relevant City documents and processes such as the Community Investment Strategy and the budget delegation process. Staff received a proposal from the GFHT, and in October in subsequent meetings sought to clarify: the allocation of the square footage within the building, and the inclusion of a community room; the funding partnership and contribution of McMaster University; and to apprise the GHFT of other commitments and requests that were anticipated in the budget process by other community agencies.

In their delegation to City Council on November 23, 2011, the GFHT outlined their request as follows:

"Guelph Family Health Team, in partnership with the City of Guelph, Ministry of Health and Long term Care, McMaster University and Coldpoint Holdings will:

- Develop and build a family practice site at Farley Road in Guelph with space for 8 family physicians and other clinicians
- Develop and build a McMaster University Family Practice teaching unit to support sustainable primary health care in Guelph
- Develop a shared wellness and teaching space to support community needs and City programming in South Guelph
- Partner with the City of Guelph on the delivery of wellness programming to support Guelph residents."

This proposal responded to Guelph's growing population and ensures that Guelph is able to attract and retain primary care physicians to meet this growing demand. It capitalizes on McMaster University's interest in expansion of training of physicians within a collaborative model and a specially designed clinic space. The Minutes of the Council meeting reflect the request as follows:

"Mr. Ross Kirkconnell, Executive Director, Guelph Family Health Team, stated they wish to establish a team on Farley Drive with space for up to eight family physicians

INFORMATION REPORT



and clinicians. He stated that McMaster University Family Practice is interested in developing a teaching unit in Guelph. He is requesting one million dollars over a five year period to pay for the necessary renovations and to open an office in 2012. He stated they have a two year lease.”

REPORT

During the 2012 budget deliberations, Council did not approve the \$1 million request for the development of the family practice site on Farley Drive. Staff advised the GFHT of the need for a detailed business case that would highlight the benefits of the proposed site to provide primary care, urgent care and the additional opportunities that a partnership with McMaster may provide. Additionally, the business case would outline the various partners and their contributions.

Since that time, the GFHT has proceeded with the three stage process with the MHLTC to receive approval to develop the practice site. As of April 2013, they have completed the second stage which includes a detailed staff plan and all associated costs, and that these costs are included in the GFHT current budget submission to the MHLTC. They are continuing to work with the developer – Coldpoint – on a 14,000 square foot building, and there is still a desire to have a community room as part of the building footprint. Zoning is approved on the site. GTHT will be augmenting the site with the inclusion of other partners such as chiropractors, pharmacy services, and dentists. Similarly, conversations are continuing with McMaster on the opportunities to be a family practice teaching unit to support the training of medical residents.

GFHT is a member of the Leadership Group on Community Wellbeing, and we continue to explore partnerships in the delivery of services to seniors and on their current Health Links Pilot Project.

CORPORATE STRATEGIC PLAN

Organizational Excellence

- 1.2 Develop collaborative work team and apply whole systems thinking to deliver creative solutions

Innovation in Local Government

- 2.1 Build an adaptive environment for government innovation to ensure fiscal and service sustainability

City Building

- 3.1 Ensure a well designed, safe, inclusive, appealing and sustainable City

DEPARTMENTAL CONSULTATION

N/A

INFORMATION REPORT



COMMUNICATIONS

N/A

ATTACHMENTS

N/A

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bar Powell".

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen Clack".

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