GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE
REPORT 12-026
(as approved by Council on October 10, 2012)
6:30 p.m.
Monday, September 24, 2012
Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West

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Present:  
Deputy Mayor J. Partridge (Chair)
Mayor R. Bratina
Councillors B. Clark, C. Collins, S. Duvall, J. Farr,
L. Ferguson, B. Johnson, B. McHattie, S. Merulla, B. Morelli,
M. Pearson, R. Pasuta, T. Whitehead

Absent with Regrets:  
Councillor R. Powers – Personal
Councillor T. Jackson – Vacation

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THE GENERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 12-026 AND
RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Presentation of the Neighbourhood Action Plans for Beasley, Keith,
McQuesten and Stinson Neighbourhoods developed as part of the
Neighbourhood Development Strategy (CM12013) (City Wide) (Item 4.1)

(a) That the Neighbourhood Action Plans attached as Appendix A through D
to Report CM12013 be endorsed;

(b) That Planning staff be directed to consult with the relevant
Neighbourhood Hub or Neighbourhood Association on potential land use
changes that could assist in the implementation of the Neighbourhood
Action Plans where appropriate;

(c) That the completed Neighbourhood Action Plans attached as Appendix A
through D to Report CM12013 be distributed to and reviewed by City of
Hamilton staff and Neighbourhood Development Strategy Partners to
determine suitable actions to assist in the implementation of the
Neighbourhood Action Plans;

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(d) That staff be directed to report back to the appropriate standing committee on suitable implementation measures (including cost and resource implications) that will be undertaken by the City of Hamilton to support the implementation of the Neighbourhood Action Plans attached as Appendix A through D to Report CM12013.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Committee Clerk advised of the following changes to the agenda:

On a motion, the agenda was approved, as presented.

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None

(c) PRESENTATIONS

Chris Murray, City Manager

Comments included, but were not limited to, the following:

- Introduced the staff report and acknowledged the tremendous amount of work that has gone into the information to be presented at this meeting
- To give the sense of involvement on this project, Mr. Murray recognized the many staff in the audience
- Commented that the presentation of these Neighbourhood Action Plans is an important step to building trust and confidence with the residents in the neighbourhoods, and what is being presented is the straight goods on how we will move forward together with them on the Plans.

Paul Johnson, Director of Neighbourhood Development Strategies

Comments included, but were not limited to, the following:

- Thanked Council and Senior Management Team for their support of this project, which has allowed staff to build a strong relationship with residents of the neighbourhoods; also extended thanks to the HSR for providing transportation for the residents to attend this meeting
- Provided short staff presentation and video of neighbourhoods featuring comments from the residents
• Recommendations to endorse the plans also sends the message for staff from all City Departments to support the implementation of the plans
• Outlined timelines for strategy and investments secured to date.

Matt Goodman, Vice President of Grant and Community Initiatives, Hamilton Community Foundation

Comments included, but were not limited to, the following:
• Thanks for the opportunity to share and present the work that is being undertaken in the neighbourhoods
• Partners in this important piece of work
• Mutual goal of strengthening Hamilton’s neighbourhoods

Paul Johnson introduced a video on the South Sherman Hub which was designed, edited, filmed and created by residents in that community.

Suzanne Brown, City Manager’s Office

Comments included, but were not limited to, the following:
• Planning process undertaken in three of the neighbourhoods: Keith, McQuesten and Stinson
• Beasley Neighbourhood did planning on their own
• Created a neighbourhood action planning process that has created comprehensive community plans that address everything that happens in neighbourhoods
• Start with assets (what is good and positive)
• Committed to implementation of the plans and focus in neighbourhoods
• Implementation is more crucial than planning
• Role of planning team is to create plans, talk to the neighbourhood and now to advocate for their implementation
• Community engagement very important through surveys, door-to-door events and newsletters
• Various “quick wins” such as community cleanups, alleyway cleanups, community garden in Keith, park make-overs, summer camp have engaged residents in the neighbourhoods and are evidence of positive change
• Every single plan talks about beautification, parks and green spaces
• Biggest overwhelming theme was community pride
• Strong partnerships across the City, even before plans were completed
• Resident in each Neighbourhood has agreed to be the lead on every action to ensure that the implementation happens.

Following her comments, Ms. Brown introduced a neighbourhood video which provided a visual presentation of all of the work that has been happening.
Chair Partridge called upon representatives from each of the neighbourhoods whose plans were being presented:

(i) **Beasley Neighbourhood – Paul Elia**

Comments included, but were not limited to, the following:

- Local artist and former resident of Beasley Neighbourhood
- Has been involved with the Neighbourhood Association for four years
- Past events have included barbeques, movie nights, town hall meetings, neighbourhood garbage pick up and more
- Beasley Neighbourhood is bounded by Main Street, James Street, Wellington Street and the CN Rail Tracks and is one of the oldest neighbourhoods in the City, named after Richard Beasley, one of Hamilton’s first settlers
- Beasley is now one of the most culturally diverse and economically challenged neighbourhoods in the City
- Beasley Neighbourhood Association (BNA) was formed six years ago; membership has grown each year; connects residents, city services and elected officials so that needs are met; meetings are held twice a month
- BNA made history by drafting its own Community Charter

(ii) **Keith Neighbourhood – Steve Rowe**

Comments included, but were not limited to, the following:

- Keith Neighbourhood has sense of family
- Industries included Otis Elevator, Burlington Steel, Westinghouse, International Harvester
- Looking for ways to help and improve the community and enhance green space; make sure people parks are for people and dogs have park of their own
- Will work to develop community orchard; increase neighbourhood's health, safety and security; enhance recreational activities
- Changing perception of community is important
- Will work to eliminate Brownfields and adapt reuse for industrial properties

(iii) **McQuesten Neighbourhood – Patricia Reid**

Comments included, but were not limited to, the following:

- McQuesten Neighbourhood is very unique. Bounded by the Red Hill Valley and Parkdale Avenue, Queenston Road to just north of Barton Street; remarkably diverse neighbourhood
• Neighbourhood is comprised of long-term homeowners, new Canadians and refugees, Aboriginal peoples, CityHousing Hamilton tenants and apartment dwellers
• Population ranges from infants to the very elderly and ethnically, racially, religiously and financially diverse
• Neighbourhood has long been identified with many challenges; however, over the past 10 years, residents have been building on strengths and relationships
• Have been fortunate to have funding from the Hamilton Community Foundation; have had great support from Councillor Merulla monetarily and through advocacy
• Want to thank City for helping to develop this plan
• Vision: we the residents of McQuesten are proud of and engaged in community
• This journey is a process; no easy remedy, but a lot of hard work; inviting neighbours and city to walk that journey with them; see vibrant neighbourhood

(iv) Stinson Neighbourhood – Lucio Barcaroli

Comments included, but were not limited to, the following:

• Worked very hard to bring forward plan; not going into detail
• Talk more about the fact of the culture that came out of this entire process
• Bounded by Wellington Street to Wentworth Street, and from Main Street to the Escarpment
• Everyone was heard; the process was doable because of City staff
• Ask that this process continue to be funded and become a model for how communities and cities can work together

The presentations provided by staff and the speakers’ notes are available for viewing on the City’s website.

On a motion, the presentations from the representatives of Beasley, Keith, McQuesten and Stinson Neighbourhoods, were received.

(d) Presentation of the Neighbourhood Action Plans for Beasley, Keith, McQuesten and Stinson Neighbourhoods developed as part of the Neighbourhood Development Strategy (CM12013) (City Wide) (Item 4.1)

The Motion CARRIED on the following Standing Recorded Vote:
Yeas: Bratina, Partridge, Farr, Morelli, Merulla, Collins, Duvall, Whitehead, Pasuta, Ferguson, Johnson, Pearson, Clark
Total Yeas: 13
Total Nays: 0
Absent: McHattie, Jackson, Powers
Total Absent: 3

(d) ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Councillor J. Partridge
Deputy Mayor

Carolyn Biggs
Legislative Co-ordinator
Office of the City Clerk