Media Release: Tuesday, November 23, 2021, 4:30 p.m.

Regional Municipality of Waterloo

2022 Plan and Budget Public Input Meeting

* Addendum Agenda

Wednesday, November 24, 2021

6:30 p.m.

This meeting will be held electronically

150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario

1. Roll Call

2. Land Acknowledgement

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest under the “Municipal Conflict of Interest Act”

4. Delegations

2.1 Kristen Thompson, Waterloo Region Community Legal Services, re: Reallocate Waterloo Region

2.2 Martin Asling, Waterloo Region Yes in my Backyard, re: Affordable Housing

2.3 David Trueman, Co-Chair, CycleWR, re: Budget Considerations for Cycling

2.4 Paige Monck-Whipp, Network Catalyst, and Jean Becker, Founding Member of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Advisory and Advocacy Circle, Wellbeing Waterloo Region, re: Wellbeing Waterloo Region 2022 Funding

2.5 Isabella Stefanescu, Director, Wired World Incorporated, re: CKWR 98.5 FM - our community radio station

Should you require an alternative format, please contact the Regional Clerk at Tel.: 519-575-4400, TTY: 519-575-4605, or regionalclerk@regionofwaterloo.ca
2.6 Rachel Jones & Elizabeth Robertson, Waterloo, re: Concerns about the Requested Increase to the Policing Budget

2.7 * Nancy Regehr, Board Chair, Grand Philharmonic Choir, re: Funding support for the Grand Philharmonic Choir

2.8 * David Taylor, Grand Philharmonic Choir, re: Proposed Elimination of Funding for the Grand Philharmonic Choir

2.9 * Sean Simpson, Kitchener, re: Funding support for the Grand Philharmonic Choir

2.10 * Dr. Michael Garboll, Waterloo, re: Cancellation of Funding for the Grand Philharmonic Choir

2.11 * Stephen Furmaniuk, Kitchener, re: Concerns over Police Budget Increase, Alternate Allocation of Funds to Community Supports

2.12 * Gord Nicholls, Kitchener, re: Budget for River Road Extension, GR Transit New Buses, and Forest Property

2.13 * Andrew Bennett, Executive Director, Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, re: Operating funding for Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony

2.14 * Rachel Behling, Board Member, re: Funding support for the Grand Philharmonic Choir

2.15 * Victoria Hand, Kitchener, re: Funding for Cultural Services

2.16 * Ella Latta Suazo, Kitchener, re: removing the funding for the Grand Philharmonic Choir

2.17 * Mark Vuorinen, Artistic Director, Grand Philharmonic Choir, re: Region staff's proposal to cut core funding grant of Grand Philharmonic Choir

2.18 * Brenden Sherratt, Past President, KW Musical Productions, re: PDL-CUL-21-06, Discretionary Grants to Organizations

5. **Call for Delegations**

6. **Communications**

6.1 **Bob & Donna Bender**

6.2 * Bill Chesney, President, Region of Waterloo Arts Fund
6.3  * Kevin White  
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6.4  * Ben A. Benninger  
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6.5  * Sarah Matthews, Associate Professor, Department of Global Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University  
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7. Other Business

6. Adjourn
November 23, 2021

Helen Jowett, Chair, and Members of the Regional Budget Committee
Regional Municipality of Waterloo
150 Frederick Street
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 4J3

Dear Chair Jowett and Members of the Regional Budget Committee,

I am writing as the current chair of the board of the Grand Philharmonic Choir. Late last week, we were informed that a report on discretionary grants to organizations would be on the agenda of the Budget Committee of the Whole this week on Wednesday November 24. We were not aware of any prior consultation and were shocked to hear that staff were proposing to eliminate the annual operating grant to the Grand Philharmonic Choir starting next year 2022.

We have attempted on short notice to arrange delegations to the Budget Committee of the Whole meeting where the report will be discussed and recommendations considered. We have been told that there will be no delegations allowed at the Budget Committee of the Whole session in the afternoon and that we would only be able to speak at a subsequent public input meeting in the evening, after the report had been considered and recommendations made by the Budget Committee of the Whole.

We believe that Members of Committee should hear from delegations before being asked to make recommendations which will have very serious implications for our organization and for the other organization in the report if adopted. All of the groups impacted by the report should be provided adequate opportunity to express concerns to ensure that the process is fair and complete.

We respectfully ask that consideration of the report and certainly any decisions on the report be deferred until such time as all groups impacted by these recommendations have had an opportunity to respond fully to the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Regehr, Board Chair
Grand Philharmonic Choir
Region of Waterloo Council
150 Frederick St., 2nd floor
Kitchener, ON
N2G 4J3

Nov. 12, 21.

Dear Councillors,

We are watching as The Region of Waterloo Council is doing the important work of 2022 municipal planning and setting budget priorities.

As lifelong residents here, we know we are privileged to live in this prosperous, progressive community.

We appreciate your endorsement of the Transform WR Climate Action Strategy this past spring.

Implementation of the actions outlined in the Strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030 will require sufficient financial resources to actually make the needed impacts.

We and our children and our neighbours’ children support you in taking bold steps to address this urgent need.

Sincerely,
Bob and Donna Bender

Bob Bender
Donna A. Bender

c/o Waterloo City Council
The Arts Fund applauds the decision to move forward on the recommendations of the Anti-Racism Working Group.

Where the RWAF is concerned, we understand equity, diversity and inclusion work has two prongs:

1) how our grants work, and their impact on and interaction with IBPOC artists in our region; and
2) diversity (or lack of it) in the make-up of our volunteer board of directors.

Recognizing that we can always do better in both regards, the Arts Fund board has recently taken the following steps:

- We are continuing with our drive to identify and attract IBPOC artists from the region to serve as Artist-at Large advisors and especially as board members.
- We have also secured through an RFP process a consultant to assist us in taking the first steps on this journey. Through a consultation process with internal stakeholders (that is, RWAF staff, board members, and A@L advisors), and external stakeholders (that is, IBPOC artists and arts organizations in the region), we will identify the path forward.

Support from the region, in the form recommended by Culture Services, would allow us to pay each participating IBPOC artist an honourarium for their consultation time – an important acknowledgement of the value of their time and perspective.

I reported last time on the RWAF’s grants-giving over the last 3 years, and outlined structural changes we have recently made to how we do our work:

- establishing an online application and review portal;
- rationalizing and clarifying our grant-awarding criteria, so that community impact, project feasibility, and a clearly stated budget are each assessed and scored along with the perceived artistic merits of the project;
- awarding more project grants of a smaller size (normally $5K - $10K), in order to encourage emerging artists in our region.

We have also established an online social media presence, to better disseminate information about our program and especially the artists’ projects they support.

Thanks for this opportunity to provide input.

Bill Chesney

Board president - Region of Waterloo Arts Fund
Associate Professor Emeritus - Theatre and Performance
University of Waterloo
Good evening,

I would like to submit these comments as a written submission for the 2022 Plan and Budget Meeting for Public Input Session #2 on November 24th, 2021.

I recognize that the Regional Budget is about more than the allocation of police funding, however, having provided a written submission last year in general solidarity with other individuals who wrote more than forty pages in support of reallocating budget money within the region, specifically as an alternative to funding police services, I am disappointed to be doing the same again. I anticipate a greater number of people writing and speaking this year as well. The points provided by those individuals in their writing last year are still publicly available, and I would encourage a reading of those statements once more (here is a link to the January 14 Public Budget Input Addendum Agenda for that very purpose).

In recent weeks, the police services budget has been raised again as a concern, and I believe rightly so. The previous year’s budget along with several extenuating circumstances, including the pandemic, has resulted in several consequences. These include exacerbating the housing crisis, the temporary closure of the House of Friendship shelter and services – a troubling trend when considering the cancellation of the Out of the Cold program a few years ago – the closure of several Regionally run child-care centres, and the list goes on. Extraordinarily, the Region announced a budget surplus of approximately ten million dollars in this same year.

Of all the services that were stretched more than ever, the only one to receive an increase to budget was police services, an institution which is now threatening a reduction of service if they do not receive yet another enormous budget increase (totalling, if they receive their ask this year, more than $50 million annually since 2014), and what is more, has the audacity to ask for such an increase while acknowledging immense institutional and systemic failure which continues (and will continue) to go unaddressed in police work. When an immense amount of funding already goes to police services, to go on following this same model stands out as being illogical at best.

I will add my voice to the support of the calls from Reallocate WR:

1. Develop an Indigenous Community Hub at the Charles Street Terminal in relationship with Indigenous community.
2. Reject the WRPS budget increase proposal and demand a 0% increase in the WRPS budget
3. Immediately fulfill its commitment of $250,000 to facilitate community conversations and subsequent action plans for a police-free community care model.
4. Allot the equivalent of the maximum WRPS budget increase request to a community-led homelessness and housing affordability strategy including the immediate development and/or procurement of housing stock and shelter space.
5. Commit one million dollars towards funding mental health and neurodevelopmental resources & services for IBPOC, 2SLGBTQIA+, persons living with disabilities and other communities impacted by the trauma of police violence.

I find these requests are entirely reasonable.

The introduction to the budget on the region website lists six areas of focus. It is telling that the economy is listed first and that it takes until the sixth and final point to mention people.

Thank you for considering.

Sincerely,

Kevin White
From: Benedict
Sent: November 23, 2021 11:09 AM
To: Regional Clerk <RegionalClerk@regionofwaterloo.ca>
Subject: Support for the Stabilization of the Region’s Former Emergency Bunker (for Nov 24 meeting)

Councillors,

Please accept this correspondence as my polite but very adamant request that the budget allocation of (at least) $400,000 remain ‘protected’ in the 2922 Regional budget. When one considers the sole aspect of stewardship, among many other positive points for preserving the Bunker, I am astounded that this point is even up for debate! The Bunker MUST be stabilized and preserved.

Sincerely,
Ben. A. Benninger
Dear Council Members

I am writing regarding item **PDL-CUL-21-03, Regional Bunker: 3571 King St E. Community and Engagement and Next Steps** referred to the Budget Committee on September 14, 2021. I would like to offer a rationale in favour of the Recommendation, based on my expertise as a Cold War researcher who studies the significance of historic regional and national Emergency Management infrastructures in relation to current emergency preparedness policies.

As regional municipalities face new threats to critical infrastructures brought about by climate change, pandemics, and natural disasters, developing a *whole-community approach* to infrastructure management and revitalization depends on understanding and learning from past practices. As such, MEGHQ-Freeport offers two vital opportunities:

1. to learn from past practices in the development of current emergency management policies and practices and,
2. to establish economic development and educational opportunities for the public to learn about and appreciate Kitchener-Waterloo’s unique contribution to emergency management during the Cold War and to instill interest in contemporary emergency preparedness activity.

Historians and researchers are currently establishing the historical and architectural value of the MEGHQ-Freeport (Wilfrid Laurier University, The Diefenbunker: Canada’s Cold War Museum, Region of Waterloo Planning, Region of Waterloo Archives & Collections). I hold a federal scholarly grant supporting my research analyzing the significance of Cold War infrastructure and its relevance for contemporary emergency management policy and practice. Ongoing research indicates the unique significance of MEGHQ-Freeport in terms of regional emergency management. Stabilizing the facility will protect the opportunity to develop plans in concert with these emerging findings.

I respectfully offer these points for consideration in your budget deliberations.

Sara Matthews, Ph.D.