



**City of Kingston  
Arts, Recreation & Community Policies Committee  
Meeting Number 02-2024  
Minutes**

**Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.  
Hosted at City Hall in Council Chamber**

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**Committee Members Present**

Councillor Chaves, Chair  
Councillor Osanic  
Councillor Ridge  
Councillor Stephen

**Regrets**

Councillor Amos  
Councillor Boehme

**Staff Members Present**

Heather Mitchell, Manager, Social Assistance & Early Years  
Ruth Noordegraaf, Director, Housing & Social Services  
Christine O'Connor, Committee Clerk  
Iain Sullivan, Committee Clerk.

**This is not a verbatim report.**

**Meeting to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by Councillor Ridge  
Seconded by Councillor Stephen

**That** the agenda be approved.

**Carried**

### **Confirmation of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Stephen  
Seconded by Councillor Osanic

**That** the minutes of Arts, Recreation and Community Policies Committee Meeting Number 01-2024, held Wednesday, December 13, 2023, be approved.

**Carried**

### **Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

There were none.

### **Delegations**

There were none.

### **Briefings**

There were none.

### **Business**

#### **a) Child Care and Early Years Review**

Ms. Noordegraaf and Ms. Mitchell introduced the report.

Councillor Stephen thanked staff for the report. She noted that many of the topics in the report were ones she often received questions about. She asked for an explanation of the difference between not-for-profit and commercial childcare. Ms. Mitchell explained that the two types receive the same amount of funding. She stated that the Ministry of Education has a maximum of 30% of the total allocations for for-profit centres. She noted that the for-profit centres operated as businesses while the not-for-profits

operated differently. Ms. Noordegraaf confirmed that the two types operated under the same frameworks and requirements and that the City did not treat them differently.

Councillor Stephen noted the number of spots in the report and asked for clarification on if the centres were operating at a low capacity. She further noted her experience in the education field and commented that the issue with staffing was correct. She looked for further confirmation that the way that money is distributed from the Ministry of Education has changed. Ms. Noordegraaf stated that the number in the report was all spots in the City, including those at schools. She noted that the City staff were aware of continued staffing issues at childcare centres which reduced capacity. She further noted that some centres had very high fees which caused them to have 'empty' space. Ms. Mitchell explained that one-to-one support was in contradiction of the Ministry of Education's desires. She explained that the resources can be split in several ways and works on a tiered approach.

Councillor Stephen stated that there were issues with the system that the province had implemented. She asked if there was anything the City could do to assist centres in keeping staff. She further asked for additional information regarding the non-compliance noted in the report. Ms. Noordegraaf explained that organizations like the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and many municipalities were working on this issue. She highlighted that Council could add its voice to the conversation if it so wished. She commented that the Ministry of Education had very strict requirements for compliance and it is rare for them to need to intervene in a centre. She stated it was not the City's role to be a major part of the enforcement. Ms. Mitchell explained that the City had a Program Integrity Officer on staff whose job was to help in staffing and training.

Councillor Osanic asked for confirmation that many municipalities were facing a similar issue. She asked for further confirmation on the expected update to funding allocations in the Report. She commented that it was unfortunate that centres had to fundraise. . She inquired if the number of centres the City has agreements with has stayed the same. Ms. Mitchell confirmed that other municipalities were facing the same issue. She noted that the number of operators had increased but they were all operating at full capacity. Ms. Noordegraaf stated that the City was waiting for further direction from the province regarding the updates to the funding models in September.

Councillor Osanic asked for an explanation on why no expansion was seen in 2025. She explained that she had received a call from an operator who requested that the City support them and asked if there was anything the City could do. She requested confirmation that parents and operators should reach out to their local Member of Provincial Parliament (MPP) for a solution. Ms. Mitchell explained that the number of

spaces was determined by the province and they were not allowing any more spaces for 2025. She explained that the funding model had changed significantly in 2024 and that the amount of money was tight. She confirmed that parents and operators should contact their MPP. Ms. Noordegraaf further explained how the funding is distributed. She highlighted that the \$10 a day daycare from the federal government has had impacts across the system. She stated that the City can work more with the province and the sector to find solutions.

Councillor Ridge asked for confirmation that the Report contained the right waiting list for people. He noted that he had received several complaints regarding that list and asked if staff had heard similar complaints. He agreed that there were many pressure points. Ms. Mitchell confirmed that the list in the Report was the official list from the province. She agreed that the technology had not been leveraged the way that it should have been. She confirmed that staff were trying to clean up the data. Ms. Noordegraaf stated that Councillor Ridge was not the first person to bring up the issues with the list. She agreed that there was more work needed to improve the list and compared the work needed to that done with the By-Names List.

Councillor Chaves noted that no increase in spaces was anticipated for 2025 and asked if unutilized spaces would be used. Ms. Noordegraaf stated that staff could bring things back to the province regarding expansion. She further stated that the numbers were those that were allocated by the province itself. She noted that many of the issues come back to the funding and staff were hopeful for a positive update in September.

The Chair provided an opportunity for members of the public to speak. There were no members of the public present.

### **Motions**

There were none.

### **Notices of Motion**

There were none.

### **Other Business**

There was none.

**Correspondence**

There was none.

**Date and time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Arts, Recreation and Community Policies Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor Osanic  
Seconded by Councillor Stephen

**That** the meeting of the Arts, Recreation and Community Policies Committee adjourn at 6:51 p.m.

**Carried**