

ITEM 20
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 65
COUNCIL MEETING Oct. 7/74

Re: Willingdon School for Girls

Following is a status report from the Director of Planning on the subject property.

This is for the information of Council.

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PLANNING DEPARTMENT
OCTOBER 4, 1974

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER
FROM: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING
SUBJECT: WILLINGDON SCHOOL FOR GIRLS
FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES COMMISSION

At the September 30 meeting of Council, a query arose concerning the future use of the facilities formerly used by the Willingdon School for Girls. The Planning Department has now been in contact with the Department of Public Works, representing the Building Committee of the proposed users of the facility, and is able to report as follows.

As Council is aware, the facilities have been used for approximately the past year, on a temporary basis, as living accommodation for B.C.I.T. students. In response to inquiries in the summer of 1973 by the Corporation concerning possible community use of the premises, the Provincial Government advised that the facilities were not available for Municipal or community purposes, but would continue to be used as a Provincial facility for the foreseeable future.

It is currently being proposed that the existing facilities be made available to the Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission for use as a remand centre, for the accommodation of persons taken into custody who require special treatment because of apparent or suspected mental conditions. The period of custody at this location would not exceed 30 days, following which the individuals would be taken elsewhere for further custody or treatment, if the case so required. At this time, no significant external changes or additions to the buildings are being contemplated, but internal alterations are involved in order to change the use of the buildings.

The proposed use qualifies under the P6 Regional Institutional District Zoning Category that applies to the site, as well as to the balance of the B.C.I.T./B.C.V.S. lands. It should be noted that the use for the Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission involves psychiatric nursing care under conditions of strict custodial security, and that the persons held in the remand centre will not be free to leave the buildings or to have unrestricted use of the surrounding grounds during their period of detention. Hence this use is distinguished from that of a rehabilitation centre or halfway house by the fact that there will be no interaction with society in general or with the surrounding neighbourhood.

Although the Municipality has not yet been formally contacted by the Commission, in connection with this project, it is understood that communication is likely to be received following the scheduled October 11 meeting of the Commission, and we are assured that the necessary Preliminary Plan Approval and all Municipal building permits, etc., will be obtained for the work to be done.

Although no further particulars are available at this time, it is considered that the proposed change of use and building alterations will be handled in due course through the customary Preliminary Plan Approval and Building Permit processes, before approval is given.

The foregoing is for the information of Council.


A. L. PARR,
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING.

DGS:lm

c.c. Chief Building Inspector