



City of Hamilton
ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
ADDENDUM

Meeting #: 20-003
Date: March 10, 2020
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Location: Room 192 and 193, City Hall
71 Main Street West

Alicia Davenport, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 2729

7. CONSENT ITEMS

7.2 Housing Issues Working Group Update

*7.2.a Housing Issues Working Group Meeting Notes - January 21, 2020

7.4 Transportation Working Group Update

*7.4.a Transportation Working Group Meeting Notes - January 28, 2020

*7.4.b Ban of Electric Scooters from Public Property

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

*10.4 Inaugural Public Meeting of Accessibility Standards Canada (no copy)

13. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS

*13.8 Hamilton Steel City Wheelers Trivia Night Fundraiser (no copy)

Added Item 7.2(a)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES Housing Issues Working Group

January 21, 2020

Room 192-193, City Hall

10:00a.m. – 12:00p.m.

In attendance: James Kemp, Paula Kilburn, Tom Manzuk, Mary Sinclair, Anthony Frisina, Shahan Aaron, Lance Dingman, Robert Semkow, Aznive Mallett, Doug Stone, Jayne Cardno

Absent: Michelle Dent

Also in attendance: Edward John; Housing Services Division,
Greg Witt; Housing Services Division

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of minutes
3. Presentation from Edward John regarding the Housing Services Division. The PowerPoint presentation is attached hereto as Appendix "A". Greg Witt made note of our questions and condensed them into a Q & A format. This document is attached hereto as Appendix "B". Recording of presentation in full is available upon request.
4. Discussion of HSC19001. When we submitted a list of questions regarding some issues with the housing department; for example: "Are there any options for persons with disability in social housing after they have had an extended stay in hospital?", we were given this report that seems to only deal with funding for homeowners that need modifications in the home. While this program is worthwhile to those that it can help, it does not answer any of the questions that we asked. It was decided that these questions

remain on our outstanding business list and we resubmit them at our earliest opportunity.

5. Meeting was adjourned at 11:45a.m.

Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

January 2020



Hamilton

What we do:

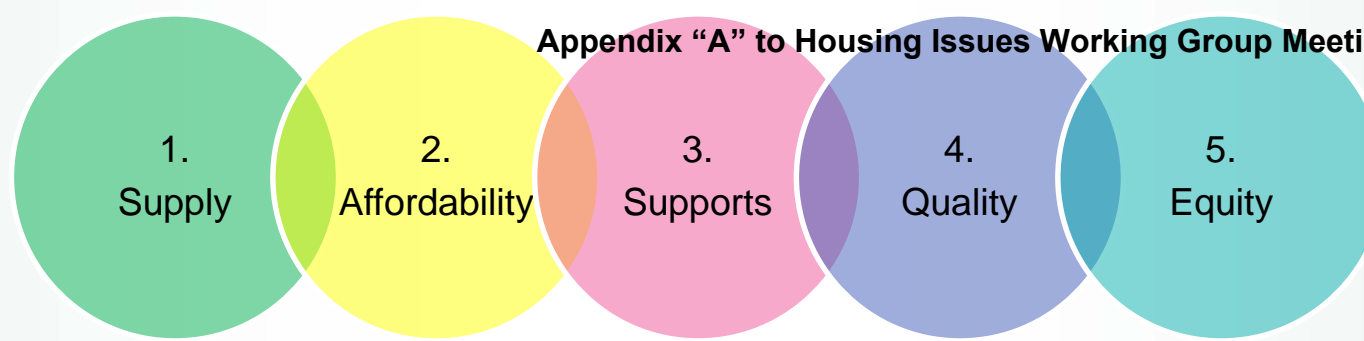
- Homelessness Services
- Emergency Shelter Services
- Residential Care Facilities
- Social Housing Administration
- Affordable Housing Program
- Policy and Program Development



Ongoing systems work

- Integration of Access to Housing with the Housing Services Division
- Homelessness Enumeration
- Improved coordination of services within the homeless serving sector
- Implementation of the Poverty Reduction Fund
- Use of surplus municipal lands for affordable housing
- Working with the Planning division to inform regulations, targets and update planning documents where appropriate.





Housing and Homelessness Action Plan:

- Review done in 2019
- Renewed focus on developing affordable units through a secondary units strategy
- Several implementation points focused on increasing accessibility.



National Housing Strategy and Co-Investment Fund

Focus of NHS:

- Creating housing that exceeds mandatory minimum requirements related to affordability, environmental efficiency, and accessibility.

Requirements of Co-Investment Fund

- 20% of dwelling units must meet accessibility standards
- Common areas must be barrier-free



Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Lens

- Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) training for Staff
- HFIG trained on EDI
- Part of applications and evaluation matrix
- Women are one of the Reaching Home priority populations
- 30% dedicated to women
- Implementation phase



HOUSING SYSTEM Challenges

- Lack of federal & provincial investment in new affordable & rental housing for decades
- Stagnant supply of rental and affordable housing with
 - increasing and aging population
 - rapidly increasing housing costs, most impacting those with the lowest incomes
 - lack of deeply affordable units
 - high costs & other challenges for rental development
- Social and deeply affordable housing is at risk
 - large and costly repair backlog, systems at end of life cycle
 - end of operating agreements and mortgages
- High needs for supports



Housing Services Big Picture

- Housing Services municipal levy annual amount \$45M
- Provincial/Federal \$48 M (2019) – includes capital contribution programs
- \$50 million Poverty Reduction Fund (over 10 years)
 - New affordable rental construction, repairs to social housing, Indigenous poverty reduction
- Annual capital municipal levy \$1,000,000 to Social Housing (\$500,000 dedicated to CityHousing Hamilton)
- Home for Good funding
 - \$1,000,000 Provincial funding



COCHI/OPHI

Program	2019 - 2020	2020 - 2021	2021 - 2022
COCHI	\$1,231,970	\$1,430,467	\$2,784,784
OPHI	\$4,611,100	\$2,388,900	\$3,719,100
Total COCHI +OPHI	\$5,843,070	\$3,819,367	\$6,503,884



Poverty Reduction Fund

- Affordable Rental Housing Construction (\$20 M: \$4 M annually for 5 years)
 - YWCA – 35 units and leveraged 15 additional units for persons with developmental disabilities; Indwell Community Homes 50 units, as well as purchase of 50 Caledon site - \$3.1 M
 - CHH – 2019/20 has \$3 M allocated to Bay and Cannon St. project. CHH has also directly funded 87 new units
- Social Housing Repairs and Renovations (\$20 M; \$2 M per Year for 10 years)
 - CHH -\$1 M - \$484,406 rehabilitated 106 units, Social Housing providers \$1 M – 377 units.
- Indigenous Poverty Reduction (\$10 M; \$1 M annually)
 - agreement is signed and implementation by HEDAC has started



Housing Services – External Partner Funding

- Social housing providers
- Rent Supplements and Housing Allowances through private and non-profit landlords
- Emergency Shelters
- RCF Subsidy
- Homelessness Prevention
- Housing First programs
- Ancillary Services



Social Housing Providers

- Funding provided (2019) \$48 M
- Funding is municipal and federal
- 47 providers
- 11,647 units (RGI and AM)
- 8,553 RGI (2018)
- ATH Waitlist 6,704 (2018)



Rent Supplements & Housing Allowances

- Funding provided (2019)
\$7,194,000
- Funding is municipal, federal and provincial
- More than 1600 units



Emergency Shelters

- Funding provided (2019)
\$8,575,650
- 6 partners funded, operating 12 shelters
- 341 total beds
 - 21 youth; 46 single women; 194 single men; 80 families



Residential Care Facilities

- Funding provided (2019)
\$6,841,140
- 53 providers
- Average 760 residents supported
monthly



Homelessness Services

Program Name	Level of Government	Annual Allocation (\$)
Reaching Home	Federal	6.5M
Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI)	Provincial	19.5M
Home For Good	Provincial	1M
Levy	Municipal	3M
TOTAL		30M

Ancillary Services

- Funding provided (2018) \$1,941,216
- 7 partners funded, including;
 - Food Share
 - Hamilton Executive Directors Aboriginal Coalition
 - Housing Help Centre
 - Social Planning and Research Council



Thank You



Questions & Responses Following the Presentation Given by Edward John, Director Housing Services Division, at the Advisory Committee for People with Disabilities (“ACPD”) Housing Issues Working Group Meeting Jan 21, 2020

1. How does one choose where to live through the new Access to Housing (“ATH”) model?

A: Under the new ATH model, staff are transitioning from merely being caretakers of a waitlist to providing supports to individuals who have housing needs. The vision is that staff be available to meet with people to triage their housing situation as they fill out their applications. In many situations, people have needs beyond simply housing (affordable transportation, childcare, debt) and while meeting a person’s housing needs is the primary goal, staff can be connecting people with services which may address some of their non-housing needs as well. In order for this type of ‘person-centered’ approach to work, it is necessary for staff to gather information from people. Gathering data will allow staff to get a better idea of a household’s needs in order to match them with the appropriate services and supports in the community.

2. What kind of benefits are available for renters?

A: More broadly, there is an ongoing concern about the ability of for-profit developers to build rental housing as the City has no legal ability to constrain tenure and affordability level after the affordability term is over. The goal of the Housing Services Division is to work with partners who share in the vision of providing long-term affordable housing solutions. We are aware that we need to not only push the idea of rental housing but push the idea that purpose-built rental housing needs to be maintained going forward. In the

short and medium term, the Division offers programs like the Housing Stability Benefit and Rent Supplements.

3. What assistance is provided to people with disabilities who are filling out the ATH application forms?

A: Anyone requiring assistance in completing the ATH forms can request that a staff person meet with them in the office, in the community or in their home. This assistance is available to anyone who requests it, and is not limited to persons with disabilities.

4. How can the ACPD support getting more accessible units built in new developments?

A: What this group can do is help people understand what accessibility means beyond simply what is contained in the Ontario Building Code. An example of this insight might be explaining to developers on what might be the most important considerations when building accessible units.

5. What can we do to promote new residential construction that can be easily converted into accessible units?

A: While there have been some improvements to Building Code over the years, a challenge remains with the way it is written. The Code is written as a series of minimum targets with which builders and developers must comply. The challenge for Housing Services in achieving higher standards is that without incentives in place, builders are generally not going to go above and beyond the minimums. In an environment with funding constraints there is only so much municipalities can do to influence rules and regulations which are Provincial jurisdiction. Saying that, Housing Services has made considerable progress in working with its

partners and non-profit housing providers to create new affordable rental housing that is either accessible at the time of construction or is constructed in a way that it can be more easily converted into accessible units.

6. How can the City improve the wait times with the Social Housing Waitlist?

A: The City acknowledges there are lots of households on the list; however, it is important to understand that the needs of people and households change over time. Housing Services is in the process of refining how it manages the waitlist. We envision a different way of looking at the list, and a more dynamic way of using the list to meet the needs of people. For example, as people's lives change (have another child, care for an elderly parent) they have different needs – not always housing. The key is working with people to understand their needs and ensuring they are on a path to stable, secure and affordable housing.

7. Is there an opportunity for this group to review, revise or simplify the Access to Housing (ATH) Main Application Form and Special Needs Form?

A: Yes, staff will bring it back for a facilitated review

8. If someone is in an accessible unit and their situation changes, where they may need new modifications, what is the process to assess the situation and then accommodate that person's new needs if deemed appropriate?

A: This is no different in social housing than it is in private market rentals. The landlord has a duty to accommodate under the Ontario Human Rights Code. The request for

accommodation or modification should be submitted to the landlord in writing along with any accompanying medical verification.

9. What does the Housing Services Division do to prevent fraud?

A: We have a monitoring system in place which among other things, specifically reviews household incomes on a regular basis. However, it is important to understand that while monitoring is part of the Service Manager’s role, staff are not solely focused on policing people’s incomes. Ultimately, Housing Services is worried about meeting people’s basic needs and prioritizing choice, access and integrity in its service delivery.

Added Item 7.4(a)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Transportation Working Group

Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Room 193, City Hall

Attendance: Shahan Aaron (Chair), Mark McNeil (Co-Chair), Anthony Frisina, Paula Kilburn, Tim Nolan, Kim Nolan, Mary Sinclair, Tom Manzuk, Aznive Mallett

Presenters: Jay Adams, Mark Mindorff, Kathy McVicars

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Mark Mindorff with DARTS Low Floor Lift Promaster

Presentation Information

- Smoother transition
- Can accommodate 2 – 3 wheelchairs
- Fewer driver injuries
- \$100,000 range for vehicle cost
- Hand grips on the inside of the van
- Whole lift needs to touch ground before loading and unloading
- Sienna not as productive as Lift Promaster
- Floor is 18 inches high

TWG Members observations

- Enhanced suspension
- It takes time
- Wobbles due to high floor
- Didn't like it as it is a lift
- Not good in winter
- Snow and ices clearing need to be addressed

- No possible lift on the side
- Lower than high floor, better at managing wheelchair

TWG Recommendations

- Needs better handles
- Loading and unloading signage

TWG Inquiries

- Loading and unloading time using the lift when compared to ramp
- In case of a rear end accident where the lift might be damage, what's the back up option

2. Welcome & Introduction / Approval of Agenda
 Aznive Mallett / Mark McNeil

3. Review of Meeting Notes – November 26, 2019
 Paula Kilburn / Anthony Frisina

4. Review ATS-DARTS Policies

- Separate city and darts policies
- Review AODA regulations to check what updates are necessary
- AODA > Municipal Policies > Public Transit > ATS - DARTS

ATS - DARTS

- Point system not yet implement
- Same ride change is counted as cancellation
- Regular newsletter informing of change
- Better clarity in communication
- Education for passenger
- ATS reviewing billing process
- Starting a communication plan

- System accountability for being outside the pickup window
 - Automatic call back (recommended)
 - Hold DARTS accountable
5. Bus Shelter Accessibility
- Main St at McNab St
 - Forward to BEWG
6. Discussion of Agenda Items for next meeting 5:20 pm
- AODA Regulation
 - AODA functionality
 - Find if council accepted the policy review
 - Clarification on loading and seatbelt on to HSR
 - Audit of eligibility process – timeframe 3 months
 - Check GIC presentation
7. Community Bus
- Jay Adams, Senior Project Manager, Customer Service
- Re-envision the HSR
- Improve service for conventional transit
- Understand the experience of customer
- Implementation of changes in 16 – 18 months
- Summer > proposing changes
- reenvision@hamilton.ca
- hamilton.ca/myhsr
- Results of Re-Envision Survey
- Connecting with Business Improvement Area, Neighborhood Association, Chambers of Commerce, Schools, Real Estate Board
 - 40% of total data collected is usable
 - Chair Restrain Policy needs to be clear

8. Adjournment by Anthony Frisina at 5:55 PM

Added Item 7.4(b)

CITY OF HAMILTON

MOTION

Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities: March 10, 2020

MOVED BY T. NOLAN.....

SECONDED BY K. NOLAN.....

Ban of Electric Scooters from Public Property (City Wide)

WHEREAS, other Canadian cities such as Montreal and Toronto have implemented a ban on the use of electric scooters in their communities;

WHEREAS, the province of Ontario has permitted Ontario cities to self-determine whether to permit electric scooters on its roads and sidewalks;

WHEREAS, there are no regulations in place regarding the use of electric scooters on roads and sidewalks apart from an age limit of 16 years to operate;

WHEREAS, electric scooters can run at a speed of close to, or in excess of, 30km / hour posing a significant safety risk to persons with disabilities particularly those with mobility or sensory disabilities;

WHEREAS, operators of electric scooters are not required to possess either a license or insurance to operate;

WHEREAS, operators of electric scooters are not required to undertake any specific or regulated training in order to own or operate an electric scooter; and,

WHEREAS, other disability advisory committees in the province of Ontario have recommended a ban on the use of electric scooters on municipal sidewalks and roadways because of their risk to safety of others;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities for the City of Hamilton respectfully recommends that City Council ban the use of electric scooters on all City roads, sidewalks, pathways and in all other areas of the City until such time that electric scooters are fully and completely regulated and their operators properly trained, licensed and insured in the same manner as any other motor vehicle in the province of Ontario.