



Hamilton

Minutes

FOOD & SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 9, 2013 - 2:00 p.m.,

Neighbour to Neighbour Centre

28 Athens Street, Hamilton

Present: Chair: Alex Ramirez
Vice-Chair: Medora Uppal
Members: Carmen Salciccioli, Scott Jones, Denise Arkell, Larry Huibers, Thayra Marting, and Katherine Kalinowski

Absent with

Regrets: Fernando Forero, Maria Christina Pelaez; Don Jaffray, Anne Wilson, Erika Reid and Laura Workman

Also Present: Amanda DiFalco, Manager Homelessness, Jennie Vengris, Senior Policy Analyst and Michele Attard (minute taker), Program Secretary/Housing Services Division; Carolin Anderson, Program Manager/Employment and Income Support Division, and Rob Mastroianni, Supervisor, Emergency Shelter Services

Guests: none

1. WELCOME

Alex welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Declarations of Conflict of Interest)

None

4. Minutes not approved

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
(Carmen Salciccioli/Denise Arkell/Carried)**

Food & Shelter Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, dated April 11, 2013 were approved as presented.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Overview of mandate, strategy for work plan 2013 – Jennie Vengris

Jennie explained due to the survey conducted to members of the meeting/time & location; it was suggested that the group should focus on a few priorities for the work plan

The following mechanisms for influence were discussed:

- 1) Consultations with City staff
- 2) Receive more information from City staff
- 3) Have delegations to Council
- 4) Write committee reports to Council

It was suggested that to engage Council it may be best to invite a Councillor to attend a meeting. Also it was thought that maybe FSAC could attend other working groups affiliated with Council.

City staff will follow-up with Senior Management to see what strategies may work to engage Council in attending these Volunteer Committees.

The following items were considered as a priority for Food and Shelter Committee Work Plan:

- 1) Food Strategy
- 2) Housing Stability Benefit (which is included in CHPI review)
- 3) Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative (CHPI)
- 4) Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS)
- 5) Homelessness Action Plan

There was some discussion regarding the Food Strategy and members would like to learn more about this initiative and where they are in the process. It was also important that this committee and the Emergency Food Strategic Planning Committee be involved in the Food Strategy by giving their feedback.

City staff will follow-up with this initiative and find out who is the main contact person for the Food Strategy.

Regarding the Housing Stability Benefit, members felt that this funding should be continued until December 2013. Amanda informed members that a report is going before Council on Monday for funding to December.

Jennie asked members if they would like an overview of the CHPI Review at the June meeting. Jennie mentioned that a consultation with the community is being held on May 16th called the "Shelter Summit" and she could bring back information on the event in June also.

City staff asked members to submit any questions they may have regarding the CHPI Review to them before the next meeting.

There were questions regarding the upcoming Homelessness Partnering Strategy funding of which an announcement was put forth that the funding will continue for another five years. Amanda informed members that she does

not have any information at this time, only that the City of Hamilton will continue to act as the Entity and there will be a Community Advisory Board as before.

It was agreed that this could be discussed at the meeting in September after consultations have been completed. FSAC members mentioned that they endorse the CAB funding model for HPS.

The Homelessness Action Plan is the 10 year plan for Homelessness which informs the CHPI and HPS priorities for funding. It was suggested that information regarding the plan be presented at the June meeting for member's information. It was also suggested that strategies from the plan which related to Food & Shelter be discussed at the meeting.

Members were interested in how this committee can connect with Neighbourhood hubs in the community. Jennie mentioned that Clerks office are asking Volunteer Committees to share their agendas with a web based site and she will follow up with Clerks to learn more about this. Engagement with the community will be discussed at a future meeting.

6 INFORMATION AND OTHER BUSINESS

Carmen mentioned that the Emergency Shelters are at capacity. Denise informed members that the Emergency Food Strategic Work Plan has been completed and she will bring back information at the June meeting. Carolin mentioned that the Ontario Works are implementing a new computer system, training will begin in August and the program should be going live in October. Larry mentioned that the number of clients accessing the HSB Program is increasing.

7 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:30.

8 NEXT MEETING

Members were asked if they should hold meetings in July and August; but due to the busy schedules it was agreed that it was best not to have summer meetings. Motion:

MOTION TO CHANGE MEETING TIMES FOR JUNE & SEPTEMBER (Carmen Saliccioli/Denise Arkell/Carried)

That due to the work of this committee for June and September these meetings should start at 1:00 instead of 2:00 pm.

**Denise will host the next meeting at Neighbour to Neighbour, June 13, 2013
from 1:00 – 4:00**