



MINUTES

FOOD & SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Thursday, Feb 13, 2014 - 2:00 p.m.,
City of Hamilton – City Hall, Room 192
71 Main St. W., Hamilton**

Present: Chair: Medora Uppal
Members: Carol Cowen, Scott Jones, Denise Arkell, Larry Huibers,
Loretta Hill Finamore and Don Jaffray

Absent with

Regrets: Thayra Marting, Anne Wilson, Fernando Forero, Laura Workman,
Katherine Kalinowski, Karen Efron and Maria Christina Pelaez;

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

Guests: Kerry Lubrik, Mary Ellen Prange, Claire Lechner, Nadia Perfetto and Ellen Pezzetta

1. WELCOME

Medora welcomed everyone to the meeting informing members that guests will be arriving at 3:00 to talk about the Good2Go Food Box Pilot.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

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

None

CARRIED

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Approval of minutes for November 14, 2013; approved as presented.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 Update from Dec 9th presentation

Medora mentioned that the presentation went well; with a great response from Council members.

Councilor Sam Merulla expressed his interest in attending future Food & Shelter meetings. City staff have booked City Hall for this meeting to help with facilitation and to make it more convenient for Councilor Merulla.

5.2 Housing and Homelessness Action Plan Update

Jennie gave an update of the March 6th Community Consultation being held at Good Shepherd Centre, Pearl St. location. Jennie asked if a representative from this committee could attend, Scott said that he could attend.

City staff will send out the invite for March 6th to the community this Friday.

5.3 Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Update

Jennie gave an update of the implementation of Phase III for CHPI. Amanda mentioned that the City is looking a more holistic approach with all the Federal and Provincial programs. City staff will be looking at Homelessness Prevention and Housing First Initiatives.

5.4 Homelessness Partnering Strategy Update

Amanda mentioned that City staff and working on the transition phase of HPS, and are waiting for confirmation from Service Canada on the next steps. Amanda is attending a conference in Ottawa next week at which time she should get more updates. Amanda would like to clarify whether the new Housing First programs will support clinical related services at the conference in Ottawa also. Members will bring back any ideas they may have for linkages to supports for these clinical services.

Also a report was presented to Council this Monday regarding the HPS renewal and City staff are waiting for approval, Amanda will be informing the Community on the progress after returning from Ottawa.

5.5 Membership Update

Jennie informed members that Thayra has resigned from the committee; she was not able to attend the meetings due to work conflicts. Also Rob Mastroianni, Supervisor, Emergency Shelter Services mentioned that his work schedule does not permit him to attend all meetings but he certainly will attend if required.

6. Good2Go Food Box Pilot Update

6.1 Overview of Good2Go Food Box - Kerry

Kerry gave an overview of the Good2Go Food Box Pilot project approved by Council in October of 2012; the initiative began in March of 2013. The pilot is a response to the lack of adequate income among single Ontario Works

clients to purchase healthy food. As part of the approval, Council requested that the City assist in investigating whether the Good2Go Food Box can be assisted through the use of City arenas, facilities and through local food banks. Vouchers for the Food Box program are distributed to single Ontario Works clients at the beginning of the month and redeemed for food boxes at various locations across the city (currently 22 locations of which, 5 are food banks) Enrolment in the program began with 100 in the first three months and has progressively increased; the goal was 500 per month. The average rate of pick-up is 52%, unclaimed food boxes are redistributed to a local food bank.

A full report on the evaluation of the Good2Go Food Box program will be completed in 2014.

Kerry asked members of the committee for their feedback on the program and if they have any suggestions on how best to deliver this service.

It was suggested that Kerry look at local supports that are already in place; where the client may already go as it seems that they are not able to pick up the boxes at the current locations for various reasons.

Nadia mentioned that the Freeway Café was the most popular pick-up point. Kerry appreciated the feedback from the group and will relay these messages back to City staff and provide a copy of the evaluation report for the committee when completed.

7 DISCUSSION ITEMS – FSAC 2014 Work Plan

7.1 Implementation of Action Plan

Suggestions:

- Need more investment from all levels of government
- Make sure Housing and Homelessness and Food Security are on the election agenda
- Report from Food & Shelter (in consultation with other advisory groups) re Homelessness issues

7.2 Homelessness Prevention Review

Suggestions:

- Food and Shelter provide feedback on March 6th Consultations Event
- Look at Housing First for youth (Loretta will bring back more information to the next meeting)

7.3 Food Strategy

Amanda gave an update that City staff are in the process of doing a scan of all departments involved with food security. They are developing a framework with Public Health, Public Works, Community and Emergency Services and Planning and Economic Development.

Amanda can provide further updates for the next meeting.

Don mentioned that SPRC are conducting a survey to report on an inventory of services in food security which should be completed late March early April. Members asked for Claire Lechner's contact information, City staff will provide the information for next meeting.

7.4 Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy

Deferred to next meeting

7.5 Other ideas

Deferred to next meeting

8 UPDATES FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

9 NEXT MEETING

Because of March Break, Jennie will send out a doodle poll request to reschedule the March meeting.

We have been advised that we are not to meet in October and November because of the election.

Jennie mentioned that Clerk's office has asked that members of the committee complete an evaluation form; Jennie will send a copy to members before the next meeting.

10 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:15