



Minutes

FOOD & SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE Thursday, April 23, 2014 - 2:00 p.m., City of Hamilton – City Hall, Room 433 71 Main St. W., Hamilton

Present: Chair: Medora Uppal
Members: Denise Arkell, Carol Cowan, Larry Huibers, Laura Workman,
and Don Jaffray

**Absent with
Regrets:** Anne Wilson, Fernando Forero, Scott Jones, Karen Efron and Maria
Christina Pelaez, Katherine Kalinowski, Loretta Hill Finamore and
Councilor Sam Merulla, City Councilor – Ward 4

Also Present: Jennie Vengris, Senior Policy Analyst and Michele Attard (minute
taker), Program Secretary/Housing Services Division; and Clair
Lechner, Manager Chronic Disease Prevention,

Guests: Carmen Bian, Senior Policy Analyst, Neighbourhood and Community
Initiatives.

1. WELCOME

Medora welcomed everyone to the meeting informing members that Carmen will
be arriving to talk about Community Initiatives.

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 February 13, 2014; approved as presented

5. BUSINESSBUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

5.1 March 26th Housing and Homelessness Check-In Event

Jennie mentioned that the Check-In event was a great success and that City staff are working on a follow up communication piece for the Community. The priorities were endorsed by the Community Advisory Committee for the Homelessness Partnering Strategy on April 10th and a Call for Applications should go out to the community in late June or early July.

6. Community Initiatives – Carmen Bian

6.1 Emergency Community Assistance Program

Carmen informed members that a program at Red Cross that was approved to March 31, 2014 for Assistance for low-income individuals with children up to 2½ yrs. of age is no longer available. Carmen asked for feedback from members on best practices for providing this service in the community.

Carmen gave a little background information that this program was passed by Council 12 years ago as a recommendation by the Food & Shelter Advisory Committee at that time.

Red Cross was granted \$30,000 per year from the City of Hamilton to provide diapers and formula for individuals in need. Carmen asked if any members had suggestions on how to best deliver this program and how can we collaborate with partners in the community. , there is no staffing component; the program was run by volunteers only.

Carmen will send information to Jennie and all members and so that they can provide any feedback as soon as possible.

6.2 FOOD4KIDS PROGRAM

There was discussion about the Food4Kids program and members were in agreement that it was a good program but felt that the program did not include partnerships and members were not in support of the child taking home the food for only themselves; they were concerned that other family members were in need of food also.

Claire mentioned that she would contact the Hamilton School Board and discuss whether these are good practices in the school system.

7 DISCUSSION ITEMS – FSAC 2014 Work Plan

a) The Housing and Homelessness Action Plan

Jennie asked members to send any questions they may have for Kirstin and to send them to her before the next meeting. Kirstin has been invited to provide information on government relations work for the Action Plan.

b) City of Hamilton – Budget Review

Don mentioned that he is working on the budget review and would appreciate any help from members to complete this task.

c) 2014 Municipal Election – Homelessness and Food

Medora distributed a draft copy of questions that members could use to inform citizens of questions they may want to ask candidates during the upcoming elections.. Members thought the questions were very good, and

Laura will give Medora feedback on a question related to the Aboriginal Community. Members were asked to review the questions relating to their sector and return to the next meeting with revisions and facts / source documents that could be added to the document

It was suggested that these questions be attached to the minutes for reference.

d) 2010 – 2014 Evaluation

Jennie distributed a copy of the completed evaluation of the Food and Shelter Advisory Committee from the survey sent by Medora's assistant Lisa.

Medora will send Councilor Merulla a copy of the work plan before the next meeting

It was also suggest that for future meetings the agenda include the "Purpose" of the committee, also Medora asked that City staff confirm that all members are receiving all emails.

8 UPDATES FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

None

9 NEXT MEETING

May 8th, location to be determined

10 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:20