



Hamilton

Minutes

COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, Oct 1, 2014, 4:00 p.m.

Room 264, City Hall

Present: Dave Carson, (co-chair), Karen Burson, Ursula Samuels, Tina Moffat, Maciej Kowalski, Chris Krucker, Melanie Golba, Sarah Wakefield, Greg Witt, Adam Watson, Dr. Ninh Tran, Sandy Skrzypczyk

Guest: Joanne Hickey-Evans, Manager, Policy Planning and Zoning By-law Reform, Planning and Economic Development Department

Absent: Clare Wagner, Donna Lee Macdonald, Jean-Anne Bauman, Tabaruk Jahan, Councillor Pasuta, Councillor McHattie, Councillor Johnson

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Sarah Wakefield/Adam Watson)

3.1 Minutes of June 4, 2014, were approved as circulated

3.2 Minutes of September 3rd 2014 were approved as circulated

4. PRESENTATIONS

None

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Official Plan and Zoning By-law Changes for Urban Agriculture (Community Gardens and Urban Farms):

Joanne Hickey-Evans presented an update on the presentation to Council regarding Urban Agriculture and Community Gardens zoning by-law for approval (copy attached). The McQuesten Neighbourhood Action Team originally brought forward this request to Planning to allow for urban agriculture zoning with the goal to foster food-related social enterprises. The new zoning distinguishes between urban farms (allows sale of products resulting from the farming activities) versus community

gardens (allows only growing of food for personal consumption). The new zoning by-law outlines what, where, and how these activities can occur within Hamilton's urban areas. Notice of the by-law will be posted in the Hamilton Spectator on Friday October 3rd and has a 20 day appeal process. If appealed, it may take some time for this new zoning by-law to be instituted.

5.2 Members discussed the September 17th report to General Issues Committee (GIC) regarding Advisory Committees that recommended merging CFSSC and the Food and Shelter Advisory Committee: From the report: Responsibilities of the Food and Shelter Advisory Committee and Tenant Advisory Committees be re-distributed as follows:

- The new Food Strategy Advisory Committee will oversee all aspects of Food Security
- A "Housing Committee" be established to undertake the residential tenancy issues/policies of the Tenant Advisory Committee and to provide advice to Council and staff on the implementation of the City's 10 year Housing and Homelessness Action Plan

CFSSC's comments/concerns to this report include:

- **Membership Composition**
 - No staff seem to be included
 - Reduced membership to 9 limits representation and voice from all stakeholders within the food system
 - Over representation of food insecurity voice (4 of 9 members)
 - No representation of local food, food skills/social development stakeholders
 - Only including the chairs from other advisory committees may not be best approach (overburden their time, may not truly represent youth, local food, etc.)
- **Meeting Frequency**
 - Moving to quarterly meetings does not allow for timely response to issues
 - Will this reduce the effectiveness of the advisory committees or their influence, for example when providing timely feedback on staff proposals before presenting policy and regulation changes to Council
- **Merging and Name**
 - General feeling was positive with merging all aspects of food into one committee
 - Welcome the role of advising on the City's food strategy
 - Not overly concerned with the name of the committee
 - Comfortable with the new proposed name
 - Becoming a Food Policy Council was discussed; CFSSC essentially operates as one, what would be different?
 - Toronto Food Policy Council's key roles include supporting the Toronto food strategy and community outreach
 - There is more concern that the committee is genuinely valued and heard, regardless of its name; Community input and research done at no cost to the City should be fully valued

- **Resources**

- Need to adequately resource the advisory committee with staff and funds
- Is there potential to apply to the Community Enrichment Fund?
- Report refers to burden on staff/resources, is this reduction of advisory committees to save money or trying to be more cost effective
- Merging committees with similar issues would reduce redundancies and bring all voices to the same table; potential to increase communication among stakeholders within the food system as long as all are equally included

Action:

1. The Committee members requested more consultation with the City Manager's office and the Director of Neighbourhood and Community Initiatives and his citizen engagement team before a final recommendation on the Food Strategy Advisory team is made to the new Council.
2. Sarah plans to make a delegation to Council regarding the role and function of advisory committees.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION & OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Reminder to attend "Just Eat It" Food Waste movie on October 4 at 7 pm. There will be a panel discussion afterwards with Chris Krucker, Clare Wagner, and Graham Cubitt. Cost is \$10.

6.2 Hamilton Food Summit, November 4th, hosted by Public Health Services, Healthy Food Systems Registered Dietitians. The early bird cost will continue on as the regular cost for registration (\$40.00 +HST). The Food Strategy will be one of the themes that day. One of am presentations will update on the strategy's proposed vision, principles, and goals; one of the pm sessions will give participants the opportunity to give their feedback. This is the first "soft launch" of the food strategy's community engagement process, which will be fully implemented in 2015. The other two themes that day are food literacy and food environments. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

7. ADJOURNMENT

(Tina Moffat/Melanie Golba)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.