



Notes (Quorum was not met)

**FOOD & SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 12, 2015 - 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
City of Hamilton – City Hall, Room 222
71 Main St. W., Hamilton**

Present: Chair: Medora Uppal
Members: Don Jaffray, Katherine Kalinowski, and Denise Arkell

Absent with

Regrets: Councilor Sam Merulla, Loretta Hill Finamore, Laura Workman, Larry Huibers, Carol Cowen, and Karen Efron

Also Present: Nadia Zelisko, Senior Policy Analyst, Homelessness Policy & Programs; and Michele Attard (minute taker), Program Secretary/Housing Services Division

Guests: None

1. WELCOME

Medora welcomed everyone to the meeting. Medora explained that the meetings in January and February were cancelled due to lack of quorum, and that it was important to convey to members that our next meeting in April is important to attend because a review of Food & Shelter Committee will be on the agenda and inform the report on Volunteer Advisory Committees that will go forward to the General Issues Committee in June.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

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

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Approval of minutes for Sept 11, 2014 deferred due to the lack of quorum

5. BUSINESSBUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Review of Volunteer Advisory Committee

Nadia explained to members that the City is conducting a review of Volunteer Advisory Committees and they are conducting meetings with Committee members and staff from March until April. The meetings will inform the report going forward to Council on June 17, 2015. A representative from Clerk's office will attend the meeting in April to get everyone's feedback.

6.2 Status of Food & Shelter Advisory Committee

Members had a discussion of the future of this committee; some of the concerns that were brought forward were:

- 1) What would be the impact of collapsing these volunteer committees?
- 2) The need to make sure that Emergency Food is not marginalized in the mandate of a newly formed committee
- 3) How are the Terms of Reference going to be developed; and,
- 4) That the connection with Housing does not get lost should this committee be disbanded.

Members asked if they could receive the questions from Clerk's office in advance, Nadia will contact Clerk's office before the next meeting to relay this request.

Members also requested that the minutes and agenda go out to all members in advance of the next meeting.

6.3 Future of Food & Shelter Committee Work Plan

Deferred

6.4 Community Food Centres

Denise gave a brief overview of what is a Community Food Centre, explaining that the focus is on health and nutrition.

There are several Community Food Centre's across Ontario; two in Toronto, which provide community frontline services, community cooking, education, community gardens, and community kitchens for example. Neighbour to Neighbour will be conducting consultations in the community to get feedback on community needs in regards to food programs. They may be setting up the programs in a new location. Denise will keep everyone informed.

6.5 City's Planning regarding Emergency Shelter beds for Women

Katherine informed members that the Women's Housing Planning Collaborative (WHPC) has put forth a request for continued funding for the

additional 10 beds at Mary's Place since the current funding ends May 31st. Sustained funding is critical in the Women's shelter. City staff will be presenting a report to Council in April regarding this funding. Nadia will confirm the date of the Council meeting and let members know in advance.

6.6 20,000 Homes Campaign

Nadia distributed flyers regarding the 20,000 Homes Campaign Registry Week; this initiative will be conducted the end of April. Hamilton has been asked by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness (CAEH) to pilot this campaign to build public support for ending homelessness. City staff are in the process of recruiting volunteers to conduct surveys which will help us know every person experiencing homelessness by name in order to assess their needs and prioritize resources. The Housing Services Division is seeking volunteers to work shifts on Sunday April 26th and Monday April 27th. Survey teams composed of professional staff and community volunteers will systematically canvas the community and complete surveys. The survey data will be entered by trained staff and results will be shared back with the community on April 30th.

This will not be an exhaustive survey; it will focus on a central geographic area which includes the downtown core within the boundaries of Hess St. and Wellington St., Barton St. and Hunter St, canvassing shelters, drop-ins and meal programs and the streets. Nadia gave a brief overview of the 100,000 Homes campaign in the United States, which resulted in housing over 100,000 homeless individuals over a period of four years.

Amanda presented to Council on March 9th for approval of the initiative. Council and Senior Management are supportive.

This campaign will incorporate the VI-SPDAT tool therefore it is also an opportunity for those in the sector to gain firsthand experience with the tool to explore its utility.

It was suggested that maybe the Spectator Editorial Board could be informed of the campaign to spike interest in the community.

7 UPDATES FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Katherine updated the members on the fact that several programs previously funding by Provincial and Federal Government will not receive continued support. These programs include: 1) Trusteeship Program which assists low income individuals in the community, approximately 800 clients benefit from this program which keeps them housed. These clients not only receive the help through the Trusteeship program but they can link with other services in the shelters; 2) Notre Dame Resource Centre which assists 50 – 100 youth in the program with lunch/dinner and many other services; and, 3) Elizabeth Fry Society which serves vulnerable women in the community. Members were concerned about these programs not being funded and felt that there is an urgency to address this issue as soon as possible.

Katherine also mentioned the National Homelessness Conference in Ottawa which will be held in November and that the deadline for presenting at this conference is

April 2nd.

8 NEXT MEETING

April 9, 2015, City Hall, room 222 from 2:00 – 4:00pm

9 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:05