



September 24, 2015

Mayor & Council
Hamilton City Hall

RE: Operation of the Beasley Community Centre

To the Mayor & Council:

On behalf of the Beasley Neighbourhood Association, please accept this letter as input into your decision on the future operator of the Beasley Community Centre.

In the estimation of the members of the Association, Wesley Urban Ministries has met or exceeded our expectations on the following matters:

- Youth drop-in turnout has nearly doubled since 2012 and appears to be a strength;
- Beasley Community Advisory Committee is a step in the right direction, but requires a greater ability to implement constructive changes;
- Adult recreation committee provides an avenue for adults to input into programming.

However, we still believe that the following areas require additional attention in order to achieve our joint vision for a successful community centre in the Beasley neighbourhood:

- The locked front door is not welcoming & would like Wesley to address this with City;
- Inconsistent program usage; need innovation in programming to attract users;
- There is the feeling among some residents that Wesley is not facilitating resident, community partner, or BNA use of the Community Centre; this is especially frustrating when pushed out for jurisdictional reasons or for under-attended programming;
- Communication is alienating- Residents feel ownership over the centre, but they “encounter a wall” when trying to communicate with WUM in accessing the BCC and want a greater consultative role in the design and implementation of programming;
- Frustrated by inconsistent costs for a Seniors trip (to AGH); affordable adult/seniors programming is desired especially in a priority neighbourhood;
- We desire better, more consistent promotion of Wesley programming at the BCC;
- There is some concern of bullying of special-needs youth—this needs to be addressed;

On balance, we believe that responsibility for many of our issues lies with the City and can be addressed by a good-faith operator (such as Wesley, among others). However, we endorse any operator committed to work with the community to address the concerns itemized in this letter in the form of an updated operating agreement.

If you have any further questions or wish to discuss this further, please feel free to contact me at chair@ourbeasley.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Chewter', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Allison Chewter

President, Beasley Neighbourhood Association