



Hamilton

Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee Minutes

6pm

Tuesday, January 3, 2017

Meeting room 264

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present: Marie Raftis, Julia Verbitsky, Michael Slusarenko, Lance Dingman, Eileen Campbell, Tyson Benn, Elske de Visch Eybergen, Trevor Jaundoo,

Absent with Regrets: Thomas Mobley, Councilor Collins, Councilor VanderBeek, Councilor Green

Absent: Mubashera Laeeq Ansari, Katrina Gervais, Connie Bellamy, Sandy Leyland, Lisa Chung

Also Present: Terry Quinn, City of Hamilton

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

(a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

None

(Jaundoo/Dingman)

That the Agenda for the January 3rd, 2017 Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee be approved, as distributed.

CARRIED

(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

None.

(c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 3)

(Jaundoo/Raftis)

Minutes from the November 1, 2016 Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee to include the wording, *equity and debt financing* with respect to development. The minutes were approved as presented with amendment.

CARRIED

(d) DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 4)

4.1 City of Hamilton Bed Bugs Strategy – Terry Quinn, City of Hamilton

Terry Quinn, Project Manager addressed the committee respecting bed bugs and answered questions during the presentation.

- Information on bed bugs, how to treat, proactive steps to avoid
 - Outstanding questions – time elapse for eggs to hatch – 2 weeks.
 - Additional information is available on the City's website – series of videos and resource tools
 - Hamilton's Bed Bug Strategy
 - Three goals presented: minimize bed bugs, identify and reduce significant infestations, create living, work and community spaces that are less receptive to bed bug infestations.
- Priorities:
- Bed bug Assistance program: Assistance to vulnerable residents, ensure appropriate services are available.
 - Workplace training & policies: Educate employers on the importance of dealing with bedbug issues and creating an environment where employees can report pest issues.
 - Public Education and Prevention: With a focus on reducing the stigma associated with bedbugs.
 - Integrated Pest Management (IPM): Landlords should be proactive in defending against bedbugs. Good practice for a landlord to check units once a year.
 - Monitoring & Evaluation: Surveys to the public, and monitoring outcomes. Support & Advocacy : City Council had supported this strategy and invested in it and committed staff resources.
- Hamilton Housing Help Centre is the intake agency for applications for the assistance program. Applicants must be below the Low Income Cut Off.

- Application process provides education on process and how to treat bed bugs. The City is working with the Hamilton District Apartment Association to host an education session for Landlords and Superintendents in 2017.
- The City has education videos put together by Public Health on their website, these are good resource tools for agencies.
- Education and Prevention strategies are critical for success of the Bedbugs strategy.
- Alignment with Housing & Homelessness Action Plan
 - Current metric for measurement is to reduce number of bedbug incidents reported. This metric will be part of the discussion around a 5 year review of the plan.
 - Further discussion required – is this the right metric for the current time frame, amendment may be required or the addition of other metrics.
 - Number of incidents reported will potentially increase with education efforts
- If landlord is not responding – Public Health is the agency to report the concern Housing Help Centre has a list of current providers that have been successful at bedbug removal and have resource tool for residents.

(Benn/Dingman)

Motion: That the presentation from Terry Quinn, Project Manager respecting bed bugs, be received.

CARRIED

4.2 Minister Ballard correspondence with Hamilton City Council, Bill 7, Housing and the Long Term Affordable Housing Strategy (LTAHS) 2016

James O'Brien, Senior Project Manager Housing and Homelessness Action Plan provided an overview of the background of the letter sent to all municipalities.

City of Hamilton has looked at city zoning – mixed use zoning.

If a secondary unit is reported, and illegal, by-Law must address. The City is looking at a strategy regarding secondary units.

There is process for amendments to official plans and zoning by-Laws that include multiple government layers of plans.

Hamilton's official plan was approved in 2013. The City is in the process of reviewing and implementing many aspects of Minister Ballard's letter.

The City of Hamilton is ahead on secondary units compared to some municipalities, the old city of Hamilton boundaries do allow them with restrictions.

Rural areas are not allowed secondary units due to service requirements.

(Jaundoo/Raftis)

Motion: That the letter from Minister Ballard respecting Bill 7 be received and that the Committee prepare a report of secondary units benefiting communities across Canada to be presented at the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee

CARRIED

(Jaundoo/de Visch Eybergen)

Motion: That City of Hamilton staff be directed to report to Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee on the current state of review or implementing provisions for secondary units and to provide information on Bill 7.

CARRIED

(e) General Information & Other Business (ITEM 8)

The City of Hamilton Community and Emergency Services Committee approved additional funding to address the immediate Housing Stability Benefit (HSB) pressures in order to maintain this important benefit at previous service levels, which was approved by Council on December 14, 2016.

Therefore, effective Thursday, December 15, 2016, the HSB mitigation plan has been revoked. This means the HSB eligibility criteria and process will revert back to what they were prior to November 28th. Any pending or new requests for HSB should be assessed based on previous HSB eligibility criteria. Participants who were denied HSB under the mitigation eligibility criteria may be advised to re-submit an application.

Housing Services Division staff will be going to Emergency and Community Services Committee with a report in February 2017 with options/solutions for continuing the HSB into 2017, while remaining within our capped budget. We will keep you updated as we move forward.

The committee would be interested in learning more about how affordable housing is financed in other jurisdictions, such as the USA, and if they have tools for financing that are not currently available in Canada/Ontario/Hamilton.

(f) ADJOURNMENT (Item 9)

(Jaundoo/deVisch Eybergen)

That, there being no further business, the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee adjourn at 8:10pm.

CARRIED

Next meeting February 7, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Julia Verbitsky
Chair, Housing and
Homelessness Advisory
Committee

James O'Brien
Senior Project Manager
Housing Services Division