



Hamilton

Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee Minutes

6pm

Tuesday March 6, 2018

Meeting room 264

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West, Hamilton

James O'Brien, Senior Project Manager Housing & Homelessness
905-546-2424 x 3728

Present: Marie Raftis, Julia Verbitsky, Eileen Campbell, Sandy Leyland, Elske de Visch Eybergen, Lance Dingman, Stephanie Greenaway, Councillor Collins, Yim Chung, Michael Slusarenko

Absent with Regrets: Councillor Green, Chelsea MacDonald, Councillor VanderBeek, Thomas Mobley, Obaid Shah, Tyson Benn, Trevor Jaundoo

Also Present:

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

No changes to the agenda

(Greenaway/Leyland)

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Item 3)

Minutes from February 6th – approved

CARRIED

(Greenaway/Elske)

4. Presentations

4.1 Coordinate access – Social Housing waitlist update – Tammy Morasse Presentation – Access to Housing

- Centralized wait list is mandated in the Housing Services Act, 2011, this provides accountability. Housing providers have direct access to updated wait lists.
- Applicants and community agencies have one central point of contact. This also provides data to help inform system planning
- Question – portal housing fund – does this include low-income seniors to apply – priority designation is required
- Province is moving towards portal housing models with new criteria
- Question – is help available when people are moving locations – what is available for assistance – ex. Last month rent required
- Question – women in social housing – under priority status – is the portal benefit available to help move them if circumstances change
- Resources – Housing Support Worker – Complex concerns plus 3 Access to Housing Clerks – Administrative
- Comment – Changes come quickly – a bit confusing
 - Ex. Enhanced model – How does the information flow to people who need the services and other agencies to gain understanding
 - Website – Advisory Committee – Action Table – 40 sectors
 - Feedback on how to educate / communicate programs and changes
- 13,000 walk-ins per year / Access to Housing
- Question – Current wait list – how will program changes be communicated to those on the wait list – language barriers – changes – overwhelming – communication strategy
 - Communication has been set to everyone on the list, including signs posted at the old location directing individuals to 350 King St. East
- Five-priority status – more housed than chronological order – goal to increase housing stock and number of units. Most municipalities have three priority status
- New enhanced service will include:
 - Common allocation and supplementary forms
 - Maintenance of the centralized social housing waiting list
 - Standard eligibility criteria with established priority areas
 - Ensure individuals have accurate information to make informed choices about their housing options

- Referrals to community resources
- Supports to help people obtain and maintain housing
- Work closely with overhoused tenants and SPP applicants
- Implement program and service integration enhancements
- End of operating agreements have a continued impact on our overall stock. Mitigation capital maintenance is used to encourage units staying on the list

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(Slusarenko/Raftis)

Motion: presentation to be received.

CARRIED

4.2 Rising Star Presentation

Lance Dingman

- Cooperative is a collective of Mental Health Consumer Survivors dedicated to the creation of supportive communications for Mental Health Consumers
- Housing first and then continued support – Rising Star – Peer Network of Support – Peer driven
- Question – onsite assistance – cameras and security services
- Cooperative housing options may provide opportunities to free up more housing stock
- Jobs and job skills training
- No peer driven cooperatives – Rising Star is unique
- Start small – mental health consumers
- Eight peer mentors in program
- Ideally – capital component with co-op and peer to peer support for the consumers
- Rising Star is currently working towards incorporation
- Next steps including further collaboration with Kwanis Homes and John Howard Society with an overall focus of connecting people with programs coming from an institutional setting (healthcare or corrections)

(Raftis/Leyland)

Motion: presentation to be received.

CARRIED

5. Discussion Items

5.1 Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee work plan – Working Group

6. Motions

7. Notice of Motions

8. New Business General Information / Business

- No meeting in April – next meeting 1st Tuesday in May
- Calendar is on the City website
- Guests can attend
- May – priorities for next five years / direction
 - Advance materials to be sent
- Minutes for November 2017 going to Healthy and Safe Community

CARRIED

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

CARRIED

(Slusarenko /Leyland)

Next meeting May 1, 2018
City Hall – Room 264 – 2nd Floor

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Verbitsky
Chair, Housing and
Homelessness Advisory
Committee

Eileen Campbell
Housing and Homelessness
Advisory Committee