



Hamilton

Minutes FOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 9, 2018,
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
City Hall, Room 264, 2nd Floor
71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present: Luc Peters (Chair), Clare Wagner, Kate Flynn, Laurie Nielsen, Bill Wilcox, Hannah Pahuta, Steve Robinson, Lynn Gates (Recorder), Sandy Skrzypczyk (Staff Liaison)

Absent with Regrets: Nancy Henley, Bill Slowka

Guests: Sarah Cellini (Recreation), Romas Keliacius (Recreation), Suzanne Neumann (Public Health)

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(H. Pahuta/L. Nielsen)

Minutes from April 11th, 2018 were approved as presented.

CARRIED

4. CONSENT ITEMS

None

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Recreation Centres & Food - Sarah Cellini (Recreation), Romas Keliacius (Recreation), Suzanne Neumann (Public Health)

Riverdale Community Hub Proposal

Presentation regarding the *Riverdale Community Hub Proposal*, which combines affordable housing (48 units) with a recreation centre located near the Centennial Parkway. Staff have worked with the School Board to package the proposal as a Community Hub, as the Lake Avenue Elementary School is already operating as a 'hub.' The area around Eastgate Mall has a dense population of marginalized people.

The proposal includes a kitchen, office space, a library, and an area for seniors' programming. The top floor of the tower will be allocated for Seniors Activity Programs.

A revised report will be prepared for the Hamilton District School Board Liaison Committee, scheduled for June 1st.

This project and the Riverdale Hub proposal align with two of the Food Strategy Goals regarding increasing food literacy and food friendly neighbourhoods to improve access to healthy food for all. Riverdale has a *Neighbourhood Action Plan*, which includes a goal to increase the food security of residents. Their Food Security objectives include:

1. Locate a new food bank in Riverdale that has extended hours.
2. Enhance the quality and type of food available in the neighbourhood.
3. Develop other food security programs such as Community Gardens, Community Kitchens, and Educational Programs.

Operational challenges have included:

- Pest Management for Residents and the Community Kitchen - Food Handler Training will be required.
- Developing Engaging Programs - Services need to be well-attended to be sustainable. Attracting youth has been particularly difficult. Project Champions will be required. The Committee recommended utilizing existing data on food security programs rather than spending additional time and money to hire consultants to determine the type of programming to offer; instead, use this money for program delivery.
- Cost of Infrastructure - If approved by Council, construction will begin in 4-5 years.

Recreation's Healthy Food and Beverage Action Plan

The Recreation Department (RD) has one full-service kitchen in operation. In June 2017 staff decided to enhance promotion of healthier choices and less bottled water usage. Recommendation 9 of the Food Strategy includes actions to increase healthy food choices within public spaces, such as recreation centres. Concerns have been raised about the availability of sugary drinks and plastic water bottles, and a *2017 Arena Survey* identified that most of the respondents were dissatisfied with the low availability of healthy foods.

The guiding principles of the Project for decision-making are:

1. Access to healthy food and beverages.
2. Free and convenient access to tap water.
3. Environmentally sustainable drinking water.
4. Financially sustainable food services.
5. Availability of information.
6. Socially responsible marketing

The *Cold Vending and Beverages Contract* with the City end at the same time as the three year Recreation Plan. The Department is now issuing RFPs for *Snack Vending*. The *Concession Contracts* involves five different contracts. The hockey season starts in September and recreation centres are expected to provide food for tournament participants. Refrigerators are now in place to store fruit, etc. and have pilot tested the selling of fruit smoothies. Upcoming actions include:

- The Food and Beverage Guidelines uses a stoplight approach to categorize foods. A potential recommendation may be to increase prices on food items in the "Red" group.

- A “Tap Into Your Water” campaign will be launched to encourage the use of water bottle stations.

6. MEMBER UPDATES

No updates

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Food Strategy Update - Sandy Skrzypczyk, Public Health Services

Several delegates have signed up to speak regarding the report about banning bottled water on city property.

The Emergency Food Network Chair, Karen Randall, has resigned from her workplace; therefore, she is no longer the Chair of this Network and not able to attend tonight’s meeting. Karen will ask the Network if another representative can attend the Food Advisory Committee’s June meeting.

7.2 2018 Work Plan

100in1Day Hamilton

Sandy distributed an outline to post on the 100in1Day Hamilton website describing our initiative. Bill S. confirmed that space is available at the downtown Farmers Market on June 2nd.

ACTIONS

1. Sandy, Luc, Laurie, and Claire will staff promotional poster board about the Food Strategy.
2. Sandy will look into creating a summarized handout of the Food Strategy Goals as a handout at the 100in1 Day event.

MOTION

(C. Wagner/L. Gates)

That a maximum of \$250 be allocated for supplies for the 100in1Day Hamilton event.

CARRIED

Delegation to Board of Health

The Committee’s request to delegate will be discussed at the May 14th meeting. Kate will revise previous presentation and forward to everyone for comment. The main message will be that the Committee approves the public health approach to poverty reduction that emphasizes that changes in financial and housing policies are required. A potential recommendation could be that a process be developed by Public Health outlining how revisions to the Food Strategy would be made to ensure transparency and consistency in the future.

Annual Report

An annual report will be drafted to highlight accomplishments by the Committee and will be included in the 2019 Budget Request report.

ACTION:

Sandy will use past discussions, minutes, and notes to draft the report and circulate to the members for their revisions/input.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION

None

9. GENERAL INFORMATION & OTHER BUSINESS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT (B. Wilcox/C. Pahuta)

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

CARRIED