



Hamilton

MINUTES
HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 2, 2018

6:00 p.m.

Room 264, 2nd Floor

Hamilton City Hall

71 Main Street West, Hamilton

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

Present: Julia Verbitsky, Lance Dingman, Sandy Leyland, Thomas Mobley, Elske de Visch Eybergen, Michael Slusarenko, Eileen Campbell, Marie Raftis

Absent with Regrets: Chelsea MacDonald, Yim Chung, Councillor Green, Councillor Collins, Obaid Shah Councillor VanderBeek, Trevor Jaundoo

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

No changes to the agenda.

(Leyland/Raftis)

That the agenda for the October 2, 2018 meeting of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1 June 2, 2018

(Leyland/Dingman)

That the Minutes of the June 2, 2018 meeting of the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities and Seniors Housing Handbook

Guide highlighting the work of joint subcommittee to produce a document directed at the unique housing needs for persons with disabilities and seniors. Focus of handbook on:

- General information
- Personal responsibilities
- Types of housing
- Conditions and special needs
- Decision making
- Respite care
- Safety Features to check

Committee members informed the HHAC of the collaborative process, timelines and key features of the document.

Discussion centred around working group deliverables for the HHAC for the next term of committee.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 National Housing Day Update with Motion

Update on the November 29th event, hosted at Michelangelo's by the City of Hamilton, Alectra Utilities, Union Gas Limited, CMHC, and the Realtor's Association of Hamilton Burlington. The event will focus on Strategy 2.6 of the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan – Reduce the burden of growing utility costs on low income tenants and homeowners.

(de Visch Eybergen/Leyland)

Be it resolved that the Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee commits up to \$150 towards bus tickets for the National Housing Day event on Nov 29th.

CARRIED

5.2 HHAC, End of Term and Next Term of Council

Committee members are encouraged to reapply to membership on the HHAC for next term of Council. There will be publicly posted information in November of the recruitment/selection process.

Staff liaison will share detailed information with the committee once it is released from the Clerks office.

5.3 Action Plan Review

An overview of the data that is informing the Action Plan review looking at the key areas including:

- Housing and Poverty (15.3% of Hamiltonians living in Poverty)
- Indigenous Housing issues (60.9% of Indigenous households are in rental situations)
- Major Trends (Rising housing prices, up 22% from 2016 and rising rents seeing an annual average increase of 4.1%)
- Hamilton's Housing need (Core Housing need in Hamilton is 15%)
- In Hamilton a living wage in 2017 for a family of four was \$62,250 (after tax)
- Current Housing stock (increase in the number of single detached homes being rented from 2006 to 2016 – 10.4% to 13.5%)

Committee members highlighted some positives as part of the last five years including innovative service providers who are building new affordable housing. The Housing First approach is a positive development and providing increased services.

Ongoing challenges include the difficulty of finding affordable rental accommodations in the market. Rapid increases have made it harder than ever to find affordable units. A concern they have with the Housing First approach is possible encouragement of people getting worse in order to raise acuity scores to receive help. A way to address this is programs directed at prevention.

Additional costs for adequate housing were raised, many people focus on utilities but other items like renal insurance is a challenge for low to moderate income renters.

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

7. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS

8. ADJOURNMENT

(Dingman/Leyland)

That, there being no further business, the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee be adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

CARRIED

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

James O'Brien
Senior Project Manager
Housing Services Division