

**Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities  
Housing Working Group  
Meeting Notes  
2:00p.m. – 4:00p.m.  
Tuesday, February 19, 2019  
Room 193/City Hall  
71 Main Street West**

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**Present:** Mary Sinclair, Patty Lynes. John Hawker, Tom Manzuk,  
Doug Stone

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Attendance**
- 3. Acceptance of Agenda**
- 4. Acceptance of the minutes for January 15, 2019**

Correction: Item 6.0 General Discussion about Housing

Remove bullet

- CityHousing Hamilton

- 5. Distribution of Guidebooks**

- Review distribution strategy for the guidebook to date:
- September 19, 2018, completion of Guidebook. Greg Witt prepared a distribution list for Housing Working Group;

- Electronic copy of the guidebook:  
<https://www.hamilton.ca/city-initiatives/strategies-actions/housing-homelessness-research-and-planning>
- Link to the document:  
<https://d3fpllf1m7bbt3.cloudfront.net/sites/default/files/media/browser/2018-09-24/guide-finding-housing-hamilton-people-disabilities.pdf>
- Greg Witt provided an email template for notification of the guide to stakeholders (see attach);
- **Tom and Paula emailed municipal candidates for mayor and ward councilor;**
- Guidebook: Talking Points prepared.

#### Master List:

- Mary gave out 45 copies.
- Mary provided a master list and has recorded who she has provided copies.
- Review Jessica's letter template;
- Has there been any enquiries or responses?
- Who receives the enquiries?
- Confirm who has received a hard copy of the guide and list for email notification;
- Patty to consolidate contact list for next meeting.

## **6. Discussion - Special Needs Form:**

- Discussion about living independently;
- Living in housing that is not accessible. Who do you approach for help, in adapting your current housing instead of having to move and fill in the application;
- What are the other options to provide accessible accommodations?
- Ontario Renovates: Money available only if you own your house:
- Ask Edward to our March Meeting (April for sure).
- Ask questions: Have they investigated other avenues of assistance prior to asking the city.
- With disability there is no one fit solution.
- Are you aware of other programs that would help?
- Is there a person who can help you navigate the system?
- What is SPDAT? Decision assistance tool.
- The library is taking over what inform Hamilton used to do.

**7. General Discussion:**

- a. Revision of the ATH applications in light of Housing and Homelessness Action plan (streamlining)
- b. Support service available to adapt housing units so that the tenant does not have to move
- c. Why is provision being made only for people who own their homes (HSC 19001 – 17 January 2019).
- d. Speaker to talk about SPDAT and moment in time information.
- e. Following discussion of questions for the Manager of Housing, defer question and further discussion: Why are current programmes (Ontario Renovates, Investing in Affordable Housing), only available for people who own their homes? There are more programs directed to home owners than renters. Programmes are provincially mandated.

8. Meeting adjourned at 4:00

9. **Next meeting:** March 19, 2019 at 2:00pm in Room 193

## Questions for Edward Johns, Manager of Housing Division

1. How can the applications process for accessible housing be made simpler for people with special needs?
2. When is the applicant for accessible housing notified that they are not limited to three choices (suitability, appropriateness) in chronological order and have a right to appeals decisions?
3. How does an applicant contact the housing support worker before applying?
4. How do applicants with special needs get directed to the Housing Help Centre?
5. If an application is requested in an alternate format, why is the special needs form and the classification scale for accessibility not provided in the same requested format?
6. When can a completed inventory of accessible housing in Hamilton be expected?
7. What 'tool' is being used to determine consistent accessibility features?
8. In September 2017, Kirsten Maxwell reported that there were only 298 individuals on the ATH waitlist that have accessibility requirements. Of these 27 need accessible units within accessible builds. How does this coincide with information about SPDAT, a moment-in-time, and 'Home for Good' Statistics?

9. What support services are available to adapt existing accommodations so that the tenants do not have to move?
  
10. How can landlords be encouraged to become involved in providing moderate modifications for existing tenants so that they do not have to move?