



Hamilton

Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee Minutes

**6pm
Tuesday November 3 2020**

**Virtual Webex
71 Main Street West, Hamilton**

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

Present: Mary-Ellen Crechiola, Alexandra Djagba Oli, Rhonda Mayer, Leisha Dawson. Michael Power, Julia Verbitsky, Eileen Campbell, Brian Kreps, Shawn Jamieson, Violetta Nikolskaya, Lance Dingman, Tom Mobley, Michael Slusarenko, Kirstin Maxwell, Morgan Stanek

Absent with Regrets: Sandy Leyland, Cllr Nann, Cllr Wilson, Shaun Jamieson, Cllr Collins, Tony Manganiello

Absent:

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

1. Ceremonial Activities

CARRIED

2. Approval of Agenda

**No changes to the agenda
(Mayer / Campbell)**

CARRIED

3. Declaration of Interest

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

4.1. September Minutes (Dawson/Dingman)

4.2. October Minutes (Mayer / Campbell)

CARRIED

CARRIED

5. Communications

6. Delegation Requests

7. Consent Items

8. Public Hearings / Delegations

9. Staff Presentations

**9.1 Encampment
(Campbell / Power)**

CARRIED

- The purpose of this update was to inform the committee that the injunction had been lifted, that everyone had been offered alternative accommodation, and street outreach continues to engage with individuals offering one-to-one support for those sleeping rough to let them know about the assistance available to them.
- The committee heard a brief update on the City's process for responding to encampments.
- That for a variety of factors the numbers fluctuate and for now and that Mental Health Street Outreach is addressing individuals need and ensuring housing plans are being completed for each person in agreement.

**9.2 Social Housing Waitlist Update - Daniel Blake
(Dawson / Slusarenko) Presentation accepted**

CARRIED

ATH applications:

- Too early to tell if there has been an increase in ATH applications due to Covid-19
- Will report back in early 2021 once we compile the annual stats for waitlist
- ATH Staff- currently all working fulltime either from home or the office
 - processing SPP/URG applications same day

- still no counter service BUT we can be reached by phone or email and all forms are available on our website
- answering phone calls in real-time for the most part and if not, messages returned within 24h
- emails returned within 24h
- Housing Support Workers available by phone or email for exceptional circumstances or urgent matters

Housing Offers:

- Housing Providers have been making offers throughout the pandemic
- There was a very short time in early April that we allowed them to hold off on making offers in order to focus on increasing health and safety protocols, do deep cleaning and plan for the safest way to move forward on offers.
- It's also important to note that Housing Services, in conjunction with our community partners in the homeless-serving sector, housed over 200 households from Apr-Jul using the Canada-Ontario Housing Benefit. These households are considered "housed" and are cancelled from the waitlist.

Other factors to consider regarding reduced housing offers from Apr-Sept:

- Evictions were halted = fewer available units
- Increased unit turnover time due to enhanced cleaning and availability of contractors

10. Discussion Items

10.1. 2021 meeting and agendas

Date: Jan-Mar (skip April) May-July (skip August) Sept - November

Presentation request for 2021:

Rental market scan - CMCH /Real Estate

Additions - how does that effect housing / Support

Jamesville - Indwell project

Housing First - Service Providers

11. Motions

11.1 2021 budget request for committee

(Mayer/Mobley)

CARRIED

Motion - Refer the request for \$1,000 budget to the City's budget request

12. Notices of Motion

13. General Information / Other Business

Reminder - no meeting in December

14. Private and Confidential

15. ADJOURNMENT

That, there being no further business, the Housing & Homelessness Advisory
Committee adjourn at 7:05
(Nikolskaya /Power)

CARRIED

Next meeting, January 4th, 2021
Webex

James O'Brien
Senior Project Manager
Housing Services Division

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Verbitsky
Chair, Housing and Homeless-
ness Advisory Committee