



Hamilton

Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee Minutes

**6:00 pm
Tuesday February 2, 2021**

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

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

Present: James O'Brien, Julia Verbitsky, Michael Power, Eileen Campbell, Violetta, Nikolskaya, Lance Dingman, Tom Mobley, Shaun Jamieson, Rhonda Mayer, Alexandra Djagba Oli, Morgan Stanek, Cllr Collins, Michael Slusarenko,

Absent with Regrets: Sandy Leyland, Cllr Nann, Cllr Wilson, Tony Manganiello, Mary-ellen Crechiola, Leisha Dawson,

Guests:

Anya & Shania Bhopa, Brian Kreps, Rob Mastronianni

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

1. Approval of Agenda

The Chair advised that there were no changes to the agenda.

(Nikolskaya / Djagba Oli)

That the Agenda of the February 2, 2021 meeting be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

2. Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations.

3. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

(i) January 5th 2021 (Item 4.1)

(Dingman/ Campbell)

That the Minutes of January 5th 2021, be approved as presented

CARRIED

4. Staff Presentations (Item 9)

(i) **Canadian Courage Project (Item 9.1)**

Anya & Shania Bhopa addressed the committee with an presentation on the Canadian Courage Project. The presentation included, but was not limited to the following points:

- Community organization started in Toronto that creates care kits for homelessness youth and pets.
- Care kits include hygiene items and food
- All kits are locally sourced.
- The group provides direct support and also focuses on public education and increased awareness of the issues facing those experiencing homelessness

- The group focuses on homeless youth with pets because pets have a link to improved mental health and this was a gap in their local system
- The groups is working to focus on creating permeant housing solutions

(Mayer/ Nikolskaya)

That the presentation respecting the Canadian Courage Project, be received.

CARRIED

(ii) Rent Geared to Income changes (Item 9.2)

Brian Kreps addressed the committee with a presentation respecting Rent Geared to Income Changes. The presentation included, but was not limited to the following points:

- Deepest form of subsidy
- No more than 30% of income
- Generally, awarded through ATH waitlist or specific support programs
- Income must qualify, no arrears and status in Canada

Changes:

- July 1, 2021
- File income taxes annually - NOA
- Annual process based on the net income
- RGI calculation is an annual calculation based on 30% of adjusted family net income (AFNI).
- Households only required to report certain changes in income prior to next annual review
- Calculation of approximate net income
- Household members in full-time studies will now have their income exempt from the rent calculation.
- A review of a household's RGI rent must be conducted every 12 months.
- The length of time an RGI household can pay market rent before becoming ineligible for RGI assistance will be extended from 12 to 24 consecutive months.

Next steps:

- Information for Tenants (Now)
 - Awareness of the change
 - Obligation to file taxes
- Timing in Update Cycle (Jan – June)
- Updated Policies (March-April)
- Training on Policy Changes (May)

(Campbell / Djagba Oli)

That the Presentation respecting Rent Geared to Income changes ,
be approved.

CARRIED

(iii) Social Housing Waitlist Data (Item 9.3)

Brian Kreps presented a Summary of current data to the advisory, as follows:

| | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---------------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Total Households | 6704 | 6231 | 6647 |
| # Currently in RGI (Transfers) | 1166 | 1113 | 1089 |
| # Active Applications (Non-transfers) | 5538 | 5118 | 5558 |
| | | | |
| Total Households Housed | 508 | 595 | 638 |
| # Households Housed in RGI | 508 | 469 | 416 |
| # Households Housed with Portable HB | | 126 | 222 |

(Slusarenko /Mayer)

That the Presentation respecting Social Housing Waitlist Data, be approved.
CARRIED

5. General Information / Other Business (Item 13)

Citizen Committee Report in progress from January discussion:

Motion: That the City ask the Province of Ontario to change the legislation to allow municipalities to pay for relevant fees for affordable housing from existing City Funds.

Attendance follow up item, all members are in good standing. No attendance issues with members missing meetings without notification.

PUSH documentary is currently available for free on TVO

6. ADJOURNMENT

(Slusarenko /Dingman)

That, there being no further business, the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee adjourn at 7:17

CARRIED

Next meeting, March 2, 2021
WebEx
City Hall – Room 264 – 2nd Floor

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

James O'Brien
Senior Project Manager
Housing Services Division