



Hamilton

**Housing and Homelessness Advisory Committee  
Minutes**

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

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

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

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**Present:** James O'Brien, Julia Verbitsky, Michael Power, Eileen Campbell, Violetta Nikolskaya, Lance Dingman, Tom Mobley, Shaun Jamieson, Rhonda Mayer, Sandy Leyland, Yolisa de Jager, Mary-Ellen Crechiola

**Absent with Regrets:** Cllr Nann, Cllr Wilson, Tony Manganiello, Leisha Dawson, Alexandra Oli, Morgan Stanek, Cllr Collins, Michael Slusarenko,

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**FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:**

**1. Approval of Agenda**

The Chair advised that there were no changes to the agenda (Mayer/Nikolskaya)

**That the agenda of the March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 meeting be approved, as presented.**

**CARRIED**

**3. Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations

4. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

5. Staff Presentations

(i) Housing First and Homelessness (Item 9.1)

Yolisa De Jager addressed the committee with a presentation on Housing First. The presentation included, but was not limited to the following points:

**Chronic homelessness** “Individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness and who meet at least one of the following criteria: they have a total of at least 6 months (180 days) of homelessness over the past year or they have recurrent experiences of homelessness over the past 3 years, with a cumulative duration of at least 18 months (546 days).”

**Acuity** speaks to the severity of a presenting issue. When expressed numerically through an acuity assessment, a high number represents more complex, co-occurring issues that are likely to impact a person’s housing stability.

**Imminent risk of homelessness** is an immediate risk of losing housing within the next 60 days.

2019: The City of Hamilton aims eliminate chronic homelessness by 2025

- Systems-approach to reducing homelessness
- Creation of By-Name Priority List
- Creation of Coordinated Access
- Best practice homelessness interventions
- Homelessness Management Information System

**Components of Hamilton’s Homeless-Serving System**

- Assertive Housing-Focused Street Outreach

- Prevention and Diversion
- Emergency Shelters
- Transitional Housing
- Housing with Supports
- Rapid Rehousing
- Intensive Case Management

**Five Principles:**

- 1.Immediate Access to permanent housing with no housing readiness requirements
- 2.Consumer choice and self-determination
- 3.Recovery Orientation

- 4. Individualized and client-driven supports
- 5. Social and community integration

The committee's discussion included vacant home tax, role of regulatory bodies, prevention, and outreach.

Additionally the group talked about the impacts of the pandemic on services and on those experiencing homelessness.

(Leyland/ Nikolskaya)

**That the presentation respecting Housing First and homelessness, be received.  
CARRIED**

## **6. Discussion Items**

### **10.1 All Committee Meetings**

- Request from the City to have All Committee Meeting – approved by Council
- Discussion – Chair Presentation 5-minute overview
- 7 – 8 Advisory Committees
- Online meeting – tentative May – date is not set
- Cross-over / learn concerns / hear from other Committees
- How does the City benefit from Committees – value
- Member inquires by the end of the week to James

(Campbell/Leyland)

**That the information respecting the All Committee Meetings, be received  
CARRIED**

## **7. Motions**

### **11.1 Citizens Committee Report re: Building Fees**

**Recommendation** – bring additional Information to Come to the May meeting.  
(Leyland/ Crechiola) **CARRIED**

Motion: Recommendation:

That the City send correspondence to the **Premiere / Minister of Housing** requesting a change to legislation to allow municipalities to pay for relevant building fees associated with Affordable Housing through existing City funds.

Discussion – Rent Geared to Income / Affordable Housing  
– Waive – Defer – Subsidize

Non-Profit developers – Affordable – Non-Profit Developers

**8. General Information / Other Business**

- No April meeting – next meeting May 4<sup>th</sup>

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

(Leyland/Power)

That, there being no further business, the Housing & Homelessness Advisory Committee adjourn at 7:53

**CARRIED**

Next meeting, May 4th, 2021

**WebEx**

City Hall – Room 264 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

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

James O'Brien  
Senior Project Manager  
Housing Services Division