



# Hamilton

## **Minutes**

### **FOOD & SHELTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, Sept 12, 2013 - 1:00 p.m.,**

**Neighbour to Neighbour Centre**

**28 Athens Street, Hamilton**

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**Present:** Vice-Chair: Medora Uppal  
Members: Carmen Salciccioli, Scott Jones, Denise Arkell, Larry Huibers, Don Jaffray and Katherine Kalinowski

**Absent with**

**Regrets:** Fernando Forero, Maria Christina Pelaez; Anne Wilson, Erika Reid and Laura Workman, Thayra Marting

**Also Present:** Amanda DiFalco, Manager Homelessness, Jennie Vengris, Senior Policy Analyst and Michele Attard (minute taker), Program Secretary/Housing Services Division; Carolin Anderson, Program Manager/Employment and Income Support Division, and Rob Mastroianni, Supervisor, Emergency Shelter Services

**Guests:** None

#### **1. WELCOME**

Medora welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

#### **2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

##### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**(Carmen Salciccioli/Denise Arkell/Carried)**

Agenda approved with the following changes – Discussion Items: 5) f – Budget for 2014.

Information and Other Business: 6) a – Attendance and membership (Jennie Vengris), b – Ontario Government Poverty Strategy (Don Jaffray)

#### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Declarations of Conflict of Interest)**

None

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**(Larry Huibers/Denise Arkell/Carried)**

Food & Shelter Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, dated May 9, 2013 were approved as presented. June meeting cancelled due to lack of quorum.

**5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**a) Leadership Change – Medora Uppal**

In Alex's absence Medora assumed the position of Chair.

Medora received a letter of resignation as Chair from Alex Ramirez. Medora read the letter to all members, mentioning that if anyone would like a copy of the letter to let her know.

It was agreed by members that a letter of thanks be sent to Alex in appreciation of his work on the committee.

There was a nomination that Katherine Kalinowski be Vice-Chair.

**APPROVAL OF THE LETTER OF APPRECIATION**

**(Larry Huibers/Carmen Salciccioli/Carried)**

Food & Shelter Advisory Committee will send a letter of appreciation to Alex on behalf of all members.

**NOMINATION OF VICE-CHAIR**

**(Denise Arkell/Carmen Salciccioli/Carried)**

That Katherine assume role of Vice-Chair with Medora stepping into the role of Chair person. Katherine mentioned that she would be honoured to take on the role.

Presentations:

**b) Housing & Homelessness Action Plan Presentation – Jennie Vengris**

Jennie gave an overview of the Homelessness Action Plan which is the 10 year plan for Homelessness.

The Action Plan for Phase II is going to Council on December 9<sup>th</sup> with details of the 5 outcome areas of focus. A video presentation will be given at the Council meeting.

Jennie will send out the plan for members to review before the next meeting which will be on the agenda for discussion. Jennie would appreciate support from the committee at the Council meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

There was some discussion of how could the Health sector be involved in the Action Plan.

**c) Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative – Jennie Vengris**

Jennie gave an overview of the Community Homelessness Prevention Initiative Review. Jennie mentioned that consultations have been conducted in the community with folks experiencing homelessness, emergency shelter providers and persons involved in the Domiciliary Hostels.

A report is going to council in the fall with recommendations for the Emergency Shelters and Domiciliary Hostels.  
Jennie will update members on the progress at the next meeting.

**d) Homelessness Partnering Strategy – Amanda**

Amanda mentioned that she has not heard any other information regarding HPS, other than their focus will be “Housing First” and that the funding will be for a total of five years. The “Housing First” represents a significant change, but the community-based approach will remain the same. Amanda will let everyone know the details when she is updated on the new approach after her meeting early October.

Amanda will inform members of any reports going to Council.

**e) December Emergency and Community Services Committee Presentation**

There was discussion of which topics to present at Committee, members asked about the food strategy.

Amanda will follow up in regards to the Food Charter for the next meeting.  
Jennie will include the presentation on the agenda for October meeting.

**f) Food and Shelter Budget for 2014**

Jennie informed members that the budget for 2014 has to be submitted to Council December 9<sup>th</sup>. Jennie asked members to think about how they can best use the \$ allocated. It was suggested that maybe we can inform the community of the work of this committee. Jennie will present three draft budget options for review at the next meeting.

**6 INFORMATION AND OTHER BUSINESS**

**a) Membership of Food Shelter & Housing - Jennie**

Jennie informed members that a survey was conducted to see what would work best for members, what would be the best time and location for the meetings to encourage attendance. But unfortunately it seems that citizen engagement is very difficult, maybe it is because of the topics of this committee or that they just are not able to attend the meetings. Jennie was not sure but the issue of not meeting quorum has to be addressed. It was suggested that maybe only two citizen members be on the committee instead of four, Jennie will follow up with Clerks office. It was decided that City staff will follow up with people who have not been attendance to determine their continued commitment.

It was suggested that a Councilor could be invited to attend a meeting in the future, but it was thought that maybe it was more important to look at the citizen membership first.

Jennie mentioned that Loretta Hill-Finamore will be attending in the place of Karen Brown as a representative of Street Youth Planning Collaborative.

Carmen mentioned that Carol Cowen, Chair of HESIC will be attending in the future; he is stepping down from his role.

Members thanked Carmen for his dedication, he will be missed.

**b) Ontario Government Poverty Strategy – Don Jaffray**

Don informed members of the event Friday, Sept 13<sup>th</sup> at McMaster Innovation Park from 1:00 – 4:00 pm where the Provincial Government is holding consultations to make a new Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Members can go to the website and submit feedback if they cannot attend.

You can also contact your local MPP or send an email to the government office for Poverty Reduction at [povertystategy@ontario.ca](mailto:povertystategy@ontario.ca)

The government has to update the strategy every five years and the five year deadline is on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2013.

**Updates from members:**

Caroline shared a copy of OW stats for June with members.

Denise mentioned that a Video will be shown at the September 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> Supercrawl regarding Invisible Insecurity in the Emergency Food System, and posters will be distributed at different locations.

Medora distributed pamphlets for WAWG Services; if anyone would like more copies they are available.

Katherine mentioned that there is still a crisis in the Women's Shelters, even though SOS program has been successful in moving women to homes, Mary's Place has been at full capacity.

**7 ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION of ADJOURNMENT**

**(Carmen Saliccioli/Denise Arkell/Carried)**

Meeting adjourned at 3:50.

**8 NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting October 10<sup>th</sup> at Neighbour to Neighbour and November meeting (November 14<sup>th</sup>) will be held at Good Shepherd Centres – 143 Wentworth St. S. Jennie asked members to let her know if they are not able to attend.