Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-Committee
MINUTES 09-001
Thursday, March 5, 2009
2:00 p.m., Room 250A
Hamilton City Centre
77 James Street North
Hamilton, Ontario

Present: Mayor F. Eisenberger, Ex-officio
T. Cooper (Chair)
Councillor R. Powers (Vice-Chair)
Councillors B. Clark and M. McCarthy
J. Dolbec and J. Wingard

Absent with
Regrets: Councillor B. Bratina, City business
M. Chamberlain, previous commitment

Also Present: T. MacLeod, Chambers of Commerce
T. Tollis, Director, Budgets and Finance Division
D. Barr-Elliott, Director, Healthy Living
M. Devorski, Mayor’s Office
I. Bedioui, City Clerk’s Office

Call to Order

1. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

The Clerk advised that the following information which was submitted by Councillor Powers with respect to Item 4.5 has been distributed:

(a) A document from AMO entitled “Fiscal and Service Delivery Review – Frequently Asked Questions"

(b) A Hand-out of an AMO presentation entitled “Report of the Provincial-Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review”

(c) A copy of staff Report FCS08110(a) entitled Provincial and Municipal Fiscal and Service Delivery Review – Update (Approved by Council November 26, 2008)
(McCarthy/Powers)
That the agenda be approved as amended.  
CARRIED

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
(Clark/Wingard)
That the Minutes of the November 12, 2008 meeting be approved as presented.
CARRIED

The Committee agreed with the Chair’s suggestion to change the order of the agenda while waiting for the Mayor’s arrival.

4. DISCUSSION
(a) Update on physician recruitment issue. (Item 4.3)

The Clerk advised that staff from Jane Walker’s office (the Physician Recruiter) have met with Minister McMeekin. Minister McMeekin indicated that he did not receive the letter sent by Council on October 29, 2008 requesting his help in addressing the City’s shortage of family physicians because it was sent to his ministry office and not his constituency office. Staff have since faxed a copy to his constituency office.

John Dolbec and Councillor Clark requested a copy of the letter. A discussion followed with respect to the letter’s content.

Councillor Margaret McCarthy has indicated that she, Councillor Ferguson, and Jane Walker will be meeting with Minister McMeekin. John Dolbec indicated that he would like to attend also.

It was noted that staff were waiting for instructions on what data to upload onto the Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Committee web site.

The Mayor indicated that the recent change in leadership at the Ontario Medical Association may provide some opportunity. The Mayor’s office will follow-up with this issue and report back at the next meeting of the Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-Committee.
(b) **Children in Need of Treatment (CINOT) Update BOH09005 (City Wide)** (Referred from the February 23, 2009 Board of Health meeting.) (Item 4.4)

Dorothy Barr-Elliott addressed Committee and explained the program’s expansion and the financial impact on the City.

The mandated program will initially be 100% covered by the Province and in 2010, the City will be required to cover 25% of the cost which will be $214,000. Furthermore, the cost share for the increase in general anaesthesia will be difficult to forecast as the demand is increasing as is the demand for CINOT up to grade 8 students.

**(Powers/Eisenberger)**

(a) That the Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-Committee endorses the position taken by Council that the Province should provide 100% funding for the mandated CINOT program including the expanded services and extended general anaesthesia coverage;

(b) That the CINOT issue be explained and uploaded onto the Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Website.

**CARRIED**

(c) **Impact of federal budget / infrastructure requests & City’s ability to pay. (Item 4.1)**

The Mayor and Tony Tollis updated the Sub-Committee respecting the proposed federal budget particularly the funds which the Federal Government will allocate to the Provinces for infrastructure and how the Province will administer those funds. The Mayor indicated that he has met with Minister Baird, the Federal Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities and was advised that there will be a two year time limit.

The Sub-Committee was advised that the criteria have not as yet been established. There are actually four Federal funds – Built Canada, Economic Stimulus, Pan Am and P3. The City is ineligible for all four.

The Mayor indicated that he has spoken with Michael Ignatieff and he indicated that he is in favour of accelerating the cash flow.
(d) Issues surrounding economic downturn – Ontario Works fiscal pressures & Employment Insurance denials. (Item 4.2)

Staff reported that there were 11,160 Ontario Works caseloads in February which is 100 more than January. The Province will probably offset any large imports with respect to OMPF– i.e. anything greater than a 20% increase.

(e) Updates respecting the Provincial budget and the City’s request for a loan to offset downloaded social services. (Added information Items) (Item 4.5)

The Mayor indicated that he is optimistic that the Province will come through with funds for Hamilton. He is requesting a grant and invited the Jobs Prosperity Collaborative and the Chambers of Commerce to support the request.

He indicated that the Province is aware of Hamilton’s financial needs and the City’s proposal for a loan had provided the Province with options.

(Powers/Dolbec)
(a) That the Committee reconfirms its request for financial help from the Province, particularly in light of recent economic events;

(b) That the Jobs Prosperity Collaborative, the Hamilton Chambers of Commerce and other groups be encouraged to weigh in on Hamilton’s request for Provincial funding.

CARRIED

A discussion followed and it was decided that the Mayor would send a letter to the Minister of Finance and copy the Premier, Minister McMeekin and Sophia Aggelonitis, M.P.P. He will also forward a copy to John Dolbec and Jeff Wingard, etc.

5. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS LIST – DUE DATE UPDATES

Tony Tollis indicated that he will provide updates with respect to the Outstanding Business List items at the next meet.
6. ADJOURNMENT

(Powers/Wingard)
There being no further business, that the meeting be adjourned at 3:05 p.m.
CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Cooper, Chair
Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-Committee

Ida Bedioui
Legislative Assistant
Fairness to Hamilton Campaign Sub-Committee
March 5, 2009