MINUTES:  Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee
Approved Thursday, Sept 10, 2009 - 2:00 to 4:00pm

Location: Good Shepherd Family Centre, 143 Wentworth St. S.,

PRESENT: GSC: Carmen Salciccioli, Salvation Army; Vaden Vincent,  Neighbour to Neighbour: Denise Arkell, St. Matthew’s House: Wendy Roy; A. Jones, Mission Services: Tom Heeney, McQueston Legal: Bob Wood,

REGRETS: G. Roman,  Wesley: Thom Davies, Housing Help Centre: Larry Huibers; Hamilton Food Share: J. Santucci; SPRC, Jeff Wingard,

Also Present: MCSS: Colleen Hardie; Housing Division: Betty Lou Purdon, Brian Kreps and Michele Attard,

Welcome: Ron welcomed everyone to the meeting

1. **ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**
   - Urgent items to bring forward: None
   - Additional items: None

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
   - June 11, 2009.
   - Approval must be 1st and 2nd by voting members who attended meeting of June 11, 2009.

   Minutes approved with the note that Bob Wood was present at the meeting of June 11th, moved by Denise Arkell and seconded by Carmen Salciccioli.
4. **CONSENT ITEMS**

4.1 **Impact of Rent Bank Changes on Social Housing Tenants**
Brian mentioned that there were concerns regarding the Rent Bank program changes where persons on rent to geared income are no longer eligible for rent bank assistance. City staff will be reporting back to the Ministry about the concerns and the implication of this.

4.2 **Relationship between FSHAC, EFAC and Community Food Security Stakeholder’s Committee**
Members thought that there should be communications between the committees’ for best practices, Denise and Carmen mentioned that they would be willing to sit on the Stakeholder’s committee or possibly have a member sit on FSHAC. Brian will check into this matter for the next meeting.

4.3 **MMAH Housing Strategy Consultation – Sept 10th**
Bob reminded members of the forum at 6:30 at the Ukrainian Church at 821 Upper Wentworth regarding views on Affordable Housing Solutions.

5. **BUSINESS/Standing ITEMS**

5.1 **Affordable Housing Flagship (AHF) – Jeff Wingard**
No updates

5.2 **Emergency Food Action Committee (EFAC)**
The Emergency Food Action Committee held a meeting yesterday, Sept 9th with Karen Smith. A report will be going to council in November. The 5 priorities discussed at the meeting were: funding, coordination, education, efficiency and standards. Brian mentioned that staff are working with Ontario Works clients to provide additional support in this time of crisis. There were also concerns for persons on EI and what supports are available for them when they are finished benefits. It was mentioned that there was an article in the Spectator that the Conservatives plan for better IE benefits for long-term workers. Brian will include the numbers of persons on EI in the report to council.

5.3 **Emergency Shelter Report**
Betty Lou mentioned that the Blueprint report is going to council October 21st. The program has been funded by the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS) and DOOR funding with the City of Hamilton until March 2011. Also stating that the Hostels to Homes (H2H) project is continuing to June of 2010.
There was some discussion regarding the two programs with Salvation Army; the Discharge Bed Program and Primary Health Care Clinic funded until the end of September through HPS. Captain Vaden is hoping to receive funding from LHINS but has not had a reply from them yet. The new program for the Discharge Bed Program would be different being a 24hr program and for men only.

5.4 Homelessness Partnering Initiative (HPI) –
City staff are in the process of conducting community forums with several different themes. Brian asked members if they had any suggestions of topics or suggestions for guest speakers to send him an email. The Community Advisory Board on Homelessness agreed to allocate funding for evaluation and planning. They are in the process of forming a group to discuss this, and they would appreciate any feedback from the FSHAC.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 City Housing/Housing Division Update
Brian informed members that there has been restructuring within the Housing Division of the City of Hamilton. Gillian Hendry whom is currently the Director of Employment & Income Support Branch will assume the position of Director of Social Housing and Homelessness affective October 1st and Keith Extance will assume position of Acting Director of City Housing Hamilton.

7. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Next Meeting
Thursday, October 8, 2009  2:00 – 4:00
Good Shepherd Family Centre, 143 Wentworth Street South
Topics for discussion:
Unities Assistance Program – Brian will get more information from Kerry Lubrick for discussion.