Social & Public Health Services Committee
MINUTES
9:30 a.m.
Tuesday February 28, 2006
Council Chambers, 2nd Floor
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present: Chair B. Bratina, Vice-Chair S. Merulla
Councillors T. Jackson, B. Kelly, B. McHattie

Absent: Councillor B. Morelli (Illness)

Also Present: J. Priel, General Manager, V. Woodcox, C. Buffett,
D. Brodati, K. Extance, Community Services
J. Downey, Planning & Economic Development
I. Sturgeon, City Clerks

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE REPORTED TO CITY COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION:

1. Volunteer/Sub-Committee Minutes – For Information (Item 5.1)
   (Jackson/Kelly)
   That the following Volunteer Committee minutes be received for information:
   Tenant Advisory Committee Minutes of January 13, 2006
   CARRIED

2. Execution of Administration Agreement: The Strong Start Component of the Canada-Ontario Affordable Housing Program (SSC06002) (City Wide)
   (Jackson/Kelly)
   (a) That the City of Hamilton, through the Community Services Department, Housing Branch, deliver and administer Strong Start within the current budget and staff complement of the Branch; and,
(b) That the Mayor and City Clerk be hereby authorized and directed to execute the “Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Service Manager Administration Agreement”, attached as Appendix “A” to Report SSC06002, in a form satisfactory to Corporate Counsel.

CARRIED

3. Agreement with Health Canada—2006 Hamilton Funders Network (SSC06001)(City Wide) (Item 5.3)

(Jackson/Kelly)
That the City of Hamilton proceed with a memorandum of understanding with Health Canada to receive $10,000 in 2006 on behalf of the Funders Network.

CARRIED

4. Demographic Review of Residential Care Facilities HCS04021(a) (City Wide) (Item 7.3)

(Kelly/Jackson)
(a) That Council authorize the General Manager of Community Services to give priority to underserved wards with high occupancy rates in the consideration of new applications for Residential Care Facility (RCF) subsidies.

(b) That the “24 – Bed Rule” be amended to state that the General Manager of Community Services be authorized to award purchase of service agreements for a maximum of 24 subsidized beds in a RCF of any size.

(c) All existing subsidy agreements with current operators will be grandfathered at their subsidized capacity effective, June 1, 2005.

CARRIED

5. Pro-active Enforcement of Rooming Houses/Lodging Homes

(Merulla/McHattie)
That the issue of resuming a Pro-active Enforcement Initiative with respect to Rooming Houses/Lodging Homes be referred to the Building and Licensing Division Operational Review Sub-committee for further consideration.

CARRIED

6. Creating a New Supply of Off-Reserve Aboriginal Housing

(Bratina/Merulla)
(a) That the Mayor be authorized to correspond with the Prime Minister to request that the Federal Government accept responsibility for creating a new supply of off-reserve Aboriginal housing in the City of Hamilton;
(b) That copies of this correspondence also be forwarded to the area M.P.'s
CARRIED


(Kelly/McHattie)
That Report HCS04037(b)/PED06028, a status report respecting the Implementation of Keys to the Home: A Housing Strategy for Hamilton be received as information.
CARRIED

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) Changes to the Agenda

The Clerk advised that Ms. Suzanne Swanton and Mr. Mike Ollier have requested the opportunity to speak to Committee regarding Item 7.1, Update on the 1994 Roomers & Boarders Task Force Report.

Committee approved the changes to the agenda.

(b) Declaration of Interest

None

(c) Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the January 24, 2006 meeting were approved as presented.

(d) Update on the Roomers and Boarders Task Force (Item 7.1)

Ms. Judy Downey, Co-ordinator of Standards and Licensing provided an overview of the staff Information report.

Ms. Suzanne Swanton & Mr. Mike Ollier (Item 7.1.1)

Ms. Swanton and Mr. Ollier made a presentation to members of Committee on behalf of the Roomers Committee. Ms. Swanton advised that their Committee had reviewed the recent staff report and offered the following comments;

- Recommends that a comprehensive definition should refer to the number of units not the number of residents residing in the premises.
- Noted the importance of educating rooming house owners.
- Concern that there are a number of aspects of the by-law which are not being enforced.
- Suggested that proactive inspections should take place.
A lengthy discussion ensued and members of Committee raised the following questions and/or concerns; clarification regarding the actual totals of licensed and un-licensed rooming houses, obtaining access to conduct inspections, educating the owners and tenants regarding their responsibilities and rights, resuming a pro-active inspection initiative. The Committee approved a motion requesting further review of resuming pro-active inspections.

Councillor McHattie suggested that further discussions need to take place with Councillors, staff, and community agencies in order to identify additional operational issues and concerns regarding Rooming Houses/Lodging Homes. Chairman Bratina agreed to arrange a meeting.

(e) Demographic Review of Residential Care Facilities HCS04021(a) (City Wide) (Item 7.3)

Ms. Cathy Buffett, Director of Community Programs provided a verbal update to members of Committee regarding the proposed framework for awarding new subsidy agreements.

The Committee approved the staff report as presented.

(f) Status Report on the Implementation of Keys to the Home: A Housing Strategy for Hamilton (HCS04037(b)/PED06028) (City Wide) (Item 7.2)

Mr. David Brodati, Manager of Policy & Program Development, made a PowerPoint presentation to members of Committee. The presentation provided an update on the progress of the housing policy and plan following Council’s approval of the Terms of Reference in March 2003. A copy of the presentation was distributed to members of Committee.

Staff responded to questions posed by the Committee in regards to developing a process which ensures neighborhoods are included in the public process when new social housing programs occur and the position of the new Federal Governments with respect to housing issues.

Chairman Bratina relinquished the chair to Councillor McHattie in order to join in the debate and raise a concern with respect to the inadequate supply of off-reserve Aboriginal housing. On a motion moved by Councillor Bratina and seconded by Councillor Merulla, the Committee approved a motion recommending that the Mayor correspond with the new Federal Government regarding this matter.

Councillor Bratina resumed the Chair.
(g) ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor B. Bratina
Chair

I. Sturgeon,
Legislative Assistant
February 28, 2006