MINUTES: Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee
Approved Thursday, October 08, 2009 - 2:00 to 4:00pm

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

PRESENT: GSC: Carmen Salciccioli, Neighbour to Neighbour: Denise Arkell, St. Matthew’s House: Wendy Roy; McQueston Legal: Craig Foye, Wesley: Thom Davies,

REGRETS: G. Roman, Housing Help Centre: Larry Huibers; Hamilton Food Share: J. Santucci; SPRC, Jeff Wingard, Salvation Army; Vaden Vincent, Mission Services: Tom Heeney, Allison Jones

Also Present: Community Service: Kerry Lubrick, Special Supports Program Manager; Housing Division: Brian Kreps and Michele Attard

Welcome: Ron welcomed Kerry Lubrick and Craig Foye to the meeting

1. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA
   Urgent items to bring forward:
   Additional items: Craig Foye requested 2 items: The Regal Rooming House and Bed Bugs.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
   September 10, 2009.
   Approval must be 1st and 2nd by voting members who attended meeting of September 10, 2009.

   Minutes not approved, deferred to next meeting.
4. **CONSENT ITEMS**

4.1 **Gillian Hendry, Director of Social Housing Administration and Homelessness Introduction**
Gillian was not able to attend the meeting.

4.2 **Relationship between FSHAC, EFAC and Community Food Security Stakeholder’s Committee**
Ron mentioned that Joanne had a meeting with Sarah regarding the mandate of the committee; they are looking at better communication and next steps.

4.3 **Utility Arrears Program**
Kerry gave an overview the Utility Arrears Program that assists OW, ODSP and Low Income clients. The number of clients served in comparison to the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2008 has increased by 15% in 2009. City staff assists all clients that can not be helped by other funding sources, there is no waiting period, it is important that clients are helped before the heat or hydro is disconnected.
Kerry mentioned that there is a variety of support programs to assist residents which is available on the Hamilton website.
A new program available since 2008 is the Affordable Transit Pass Program, which is for employed low income residents between the ages of 18 and 64. This program has been very beneficial to clients; this is a pilot project ending December 2009. City staff will be presenting a report to council the end of October for continuation of the program in 2010.
Members asked Kerry if there was assistance regarding deceased residents, to put the Obituaries in the Spectator, especially for persons that are unclaimed. Kerry mentioned that usually the Hamilton Spectator charges the City for notices; she will contact the Spectator to inquire if the Obituaries can be covered in this situation.
Kerry mentioned that if anyone has further questions she would be happy to answer them, just send an email.

5. **BUSINESS/Standing ITEMS**

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

5.2 **Emergency Food Action Committee (EFAC)**
Members would like to look at the next steps for the committee; they may look at changes in membership and possibly changing the name for a broader membership.

5.3 **Emergency Shelter Report**
Emergency Shelter Report will be presented to council in November.
5.4 Homelessness Partnering Initiative (HPI)
Brian mentioned that the consultation on Federal Housing and Homelessness is due October 15th. This plan is for the period of April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2014. Members mentioned that the administrative process should be reviewed for the new plan.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Christmas Hamper Request
Brian mentioned that a report will be presented before council in November which includes a request for funding and an Emergency Food Plan.

6.2 Homelessness Strategic Planning
City staff will be reviewing Everyone has a Home, this will the priority when Molly returns in November. There was a suggestion that there should be a request for $ to support Emergency Food in 2010. FSHAC support the request, Ron will draft a letter to be presented to council to support this.

6.3 The Regal Rooming House
Craig informed members of the issue regarding the renovation of the building which is now called “Cottage Life” (corner of Bay and King) where tenants were given less than 30 day notice. Tenants should have been given at least 3 months notice; none of the tenants came to the legal clinic, the concern is where have these tenants gone.

6.4 The Bed Bugs Issue
Craig asked members if they have experienced problems with the bed bugs explaining that he has a client that needs assistance. Brian suggested that Craig contact Good Shepherd they have experience dealing with the problem.

7. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Next Meeting
Thursday, November 12, 2009  2:00 – 4:00
Good Shepherd Family Centre, 143 Wentworth Street South