Minutes
COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 5, 2008
4:00 p.m., Room 400E
City Centre, 4th Floor
77 James St. N., Hamilton

Present:
Co-Chairs: Councillor Pasuta,
Sarah Wakefield
Stakeholders: Karen Burson
Carolyn Cade
Melanie Golba
Tabaruk Jahan

City Councillors: Vicki Edwards
City of Hamilton Staff: Elizabeth Shaver-Heeney
Brian Kreps
Angela Parle
Adam Watson
Simon Taylor
Judy Scullion

Absent with Tina Moffat
Regrets: Councillor McHattie
Susan Coverdale

Also Present: Pamela Mitchell

1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA
No changes noted

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Copies of the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act were distributed to all present
community members.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(M. Golba / K. Burson)

3.1 Community Food Security Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes, dated October 1, 2008 were approved as presented.

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 N/A

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 Information brought forward from last meeting:

5.1a City of Hamilton Strategic Plan – Vicki Edwards

The Strategic Plan is not yet ready for release as the indicators are not finalized. Focus area #7, Healthy Communities, does identify access to food as a desired end result.

5.1b Public Works Strategic Plan – Adam Watson

An overview of the Strategic Plan was shared. Available at: http://www.myhamilton.ca/myhamilton/CityandGovernment/CityDepartments/PublicWorks/Strategic+Plan.htm. The emphasis is on the environment and its ties to transportation and overall performance; food is not mentioned.

5.1c Food Terminal

Friends of the Greenbelt are exploring a partnership with Niagara and Hamilton for a food terminal. They are meeting with Sue Coverdale who will keep us posted.

5.2 Continuation of discussion of possible identified priorities:

- Education regarding food
There is a need to connect some of the existing programs in Hamilton. Potential activities include developing a directory, a website, a display on community food security, sponsoring a speaker’s series, mapping of food services, or issuing a press release. The need for more cooking skills and classes to prepare local food, and transportation to food stores and community kitchens was identified.

- Enhancing emergency food services – Brian Kreps
Brian handed out ‘On Any Given Night’ and the 2007 ‘Hunger Count’ for Hamilton to provide some background on the critical need for emergency food.
Food recovery, donations, and limited amounts of purchased food are the sources for the food banks and hot meal programs. As the economy has tightened up, so has the food waste and donations from food producers. It was acknowledged that food banks are not the long term solution. Creative solutions such as gleaning, farm market waste and good food boxes could be explored.

5.3 Review Terms of Reference for Stakeholder Committee

The Terms of Reference were reviewed and possible changes to the membership and objectives sections were discussed. Possible additions include number of members to constitute a quorum and opening the meetings to the public. The review will continue at the next meeting.

Members were reminded that their membership ceases if three consecutive meetings are missed.

5.4 Striking of sub-committees

Other stakeholders in the community will be invited to participate in sub-committees. This item was tabled for the next meeting, when a possible framework will be circulated for discussion.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION & OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 Nutritious Food Basket – Vicki Edwards

Documents and links to the report were distributed via email with the agenda.

6.2 Eat Local, London Conference attendance planning

Karen Burson has registered, and will report back on the conference at the next meeting.

6.3 Internet Food Distribution Systems – Karen Burson

http://www.locallygrown.net/
There is one farmer in the area that is using this on-line marketing tool.

6.4 By-Law 84-191- Chickens in the City – Vicki Edwards, for Councillor McHattie

Councillor McHattie has been approached about the possibility of changing the current bylaw that prohibits raising poultry within the city limits, and asked the Committee for its comments.

Bylaws from other cities that permit urban chickens were mentioned. No consensus was reached in discussion – it was determined that, for the
Committee to make a firm recommendation, further information would be needed about the rationale for the current bylaw and other models.

6.5 Time and location of future meetings

The possibility of moving to a venue more open to the public was discussed. Finding a new but affordable venue has proven difficult. The group decided to hold the next meeting at Dundurn Castle if possible.

Moving to a new meeting format with presentations to the committee that also have public interest was discussed. Final decisions on meeting format was tabled for the next meeting.

December 3, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Location will be sent with the agenda.

7. ADJOURNMENT

(Liz Shaver-Heeney / Adam Watson)
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm. CARRIED