



Minutes of the Men's Homelessness Committee

August 12, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

Electronic Participation

Members Present: Mayor Sandy Brown
Councillor Debbie Sherwood
Councillor Joe Andrews
Anthony Carnovale
Christopher Sheehan
James Jackson
Louis Sapi
Margo Young
Michael Demczur
Nolan Bentley
Terrance Carter

Staff Present: Andrea Shaw

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m.

2. Disclosures of (Direct or Indirect) Pecuniary Interest

None Stated.

3. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Recommendation: July 22, 2021

Moved by Councillor Joe Andrews

That the minutes of the following meeting are approved:

Carried

4. Presentations

4.1 University of Guelph Research Team

Meghan Wrathall and Karen Nelson from the University of Guelph Research Team presented the process for the Needs Assessment Study. The drafted public survey's have been provided to the committee members as part of the agenda package. The Research Team provided the components of the workplan, the goals, objectives and research design, and data analysis of the assessment study. The surveys are anticipated to be released in mid September and the final report to be completed end November. Ms. Wrathall and Ms. Nelson will continue to update and request assistance from the committee.

4.2 Delegation - Sylvia Bradley

Ms. Bradley provided a personal experience story on homelessness. The failures, challenges and issues with the programming and assistance to the homeless.

4.3 Delegation - Randy Narine, Chair of Choices Shelter

The committee welcomed Randy Narine, Chair of Choices Shelter. Mr. Narine presented to the shelter model and programs offered. Choices Shelter recently announced that they are now accommodating and have a few beds available for homeless men. Unfortunately, due to COVID protocols, only half the amount of beds available can be offered to these men. There is a lot of demand for beds for homeless men that many are turned away. Choices Shelter is working with S.H.I.P for programs. Secured continuous funding is the struggle for Choices Shelter to be able to continue with the men's homelessness shelter.

4.4 S.H.I.P. Delegation

The committee welcomed Louise Kindree and Lina Termini from Services and Housing in the Province (SHIP). Ms. Termini is the Director of Operations for SHIP and shared experiences and key areas for the committee to consider during this process. Advice received to consider are the ultimate goal - transitional program vs. emergency shelter and taking a housing first approach prior to programming, and ensuring sustainability of funding is achieved. Ms. Termini is excited to see this committee and is welcome to assisting and providing further information.

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

5.1 Mission Statement, Vision and Values

The draft of the mission statement, vision and values was circulated to the members. Suggested updates and changes are requested. As the Cambridge Bridges Shelter text was the basis for the statement the committee seeks to contact them for their permission and would like them to delegate at a future meeting.

5.2 Electronic Committee Sharing Site

The committee members have requested the option of an electronic sharing site. Clerks have advised that a document sharing site may be set up for the committee but for public transparency a chat or messaging function can not be supported as all committee decisions must be transparent during the public committee meetings. Staff will discuss the option of a SharePoint document site with the IT division and report with the final product once set up.

6. Correspondence

7. New Business

7.1 Boston Pizza Donation of Event Funds

Moved by Terrance Carter

That Boston Pizza be requested to donate the funds to Choices Shelter directly.

Carried

7.2 Sub-Committees

Mayor Brown presented the concept of sub-committees to divide up tasks required. Potential sub-committees are funding, site selection, external liaisons, plus potentially others. Committee members are requested to consider their skill strengths and/or other potential sub-committees that may be required for the next committee meeting.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Moved by Margo Young

That the Men's Homelessness Committee meetings are scheduled bi-weekly, Wednesdays at 7 p.m. commencing August 25, 2021.

Carried

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.