

Minutes of the Abbotsford Homelessness Task Force meeting held Wednesday, April 2, 2014, at 4:04 p.m. in the Room 530 of Abbotsford City Hall

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Task Force Members Present: Councillor Ross – Co-Chair, Councillor Smith – Co-Chair, J. Burkinshaw, D. Froese, S. Kuperis, L. Loh, J. McElhoes, K. Matty, D. Murray, M. Welte and R. Van Wyk

Council Present: Mayor Banman, Councillor Loewen and Councillor Braun

Staff Present: G. Murray – City Manager, J. Rudolph – Deputy Manager, B. Flitton - Director, Legislative Services/City Clerk (part), R. Lucy – Deputy Chief Abbotsford Police and L. Ganske – Recording Secretary

Facilitator: C. Enns – Social Planning Consultant

Public Present: 3

1. CALL TO ORDER

Co-Chair Councillor Ross, called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

None.

3. BUSINESS OUT OF MINUTES

None.

4. DELEGATION

None.

5. REPORTS

- .1 Verbal Report, by the Deputy City Manager and Social Planning Consultant regarding an overview of strategies/initiatives approved by the City

Members felt the name of the task force should be shortened to Homelessness Task Force.

- .2 Inspiring Community Stories and Campaigns

Examples of collaborative communities working on innovative solutions to homelessness were cited. Federal government has a housing first approach. With designation, Abbotsford would be entitled to funding.

.3 Draft Terms of Reference

Members reviewed the Terms of Reference and amended the phrase:

"The Task Force will design and initiate a comprehensive community wide homelessness response plan working with our partners at BC Housing, the Fraser Health Authority, Provincial ministries, and the business community."

to read:

"The Task Force will design and make recommendations to Council regarding a comprehensive community wide homelessness response plan working with our partners at BC Housing, the Fraser Health Authority, Provincial ministries, the business community, service providers and the homeless."

Moved by K. Matty, seconded by R. Lucy, that the Terms of Reference be adopted as amended.

HTF01-2014

CARRIED.

The Terms of Reference will go to Council April 14, 2014 for approval. Alternates for members of the Task Force will be included in the Terms of Reference.

.4 Draft Work program

Members discussed prioritizing objectives.

The Social Planning Consultant advised that sixteen University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) students are available to assist the Task Force. The Mennonite Central Committee 2014 Homeless Report findings will be available in two weeks. The homeless, and those at risk of becoming homeless, should be considered in discussions. Approximately fifty percent of homeless won't go into shelter of any kind.

Easy wins and sub-committees to investigate further were cited:

.1 Consultation

- Homeless (put first) – follow up later (bring ideas/suggestions back to them before going to Council to insure complete coverage)
- Review Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) report
- Invite delegations (needed for healing breaches)
- Make offers in a way to obtain "yes"
- Spread throughout City (not all are in Jubilee Park)
  - Broad section of homeless
- Service Providers
  - Outreach workers
  - Salvation Army, MCC/FVRD, 5&2, Cyrus Centre

- They have the connections/rapport
- Business Community
  - Abbotsford Downtown Business Association (ADBA)
  - Chamber of Commerce

## 2. Best Practices

- Immediate solutions
  - Rent supplements - Salvation Army
  - Subsidies per diem - BC Housing/Fraser Health/Ministry of Child and Family Development (MCFD)
  - Rent bank - Mennonite Central Community
  - Supportive housing (clinical supports are embedded)
  - Boarding house five residents plus one support person (rezoning not needed)
    - Churches could sponsor
  - Group homes (pets allowed, outdoors accessible, easy win)
  - Continued supports crucial
  - Utilities additional challenge
- Daily-24/7 drop-in centre (no barrier)
- Safe Camps
  - Compassion Park
  - MCC is partnering with J. Wegenast
- Need to explain why we are asking for info again
  - We already know a lot of what they need
- Youth Centre (their priorities not ours)
  - Showers, laundry and safe adults they don't have to interact with
- Detox centre
- Active case management
  - Wrap around, community treatment teams
  - ACTC teams
- Unique solutions

## 3. Service Provider Ideas

- Sustained relationships for success (don't drop relationship after housing)
- Establish linkage with service providers for ongoing feedback
- Authority figure to pull together (like United Way funding - Gail Franklin type)
  - they know everything
- Elizabeth Fry might have room on their property for co-op housing
- Raven's Moon example cited

- Mortgages are easier to obtain than ongoing operating subsidies from BC Housing Community Partnership Initiatives ([www.bchousing.org/cpi](http://www.bchousing.org/cpi))
  - Financing for mortgages available
  - Project development expertise

Moved by D. Murray, seconded by J. Burkinshaw that the verbal report for items 5.1 through 5.1.5, be received.

HTF02-2014

CARRIED.

.5 Procedures for Task Force.

Members are to adhere to Council Procedure Bylaw. Matters of labour, law and land will be discussed in camera.

.6 Background Binder

Distributed.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- .1 Meeting dates and times were discussed. An electronic survey will be sent out to the Task Force.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

- .1 Email from Cyrus Centre replacing Les Talvio with Joyce McElhoes.
- .2 Email from Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness offer of assistance.
- .3 Email from Salvation Army offer of assistance.

Moved by Councillor Smith, seconded by J. Burkinshaw that the correspondence, be received.

HTF03-2014

CARRIED.

8. ADJOURNMENT


Moved by Councillor Smith that the April 2, 2014,  
Homelessness Task Force meeting be adjourned (6:02  
p.m.)


HTF04-2014

CARRIED.

The next meeting of the Homelessness Task Force is scheduled for May 6, 2014, at  
3:00 p.m. in 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Gallery of the Ag-Rec Building at Exhibition Park; 32470 Haida  
Drive, Gate 2.

Certified Correct:

  
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Co-Chair, Councillor Ross

  
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Recording Secretary, L. Ganske