



Meeting Notes
Ad-Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness
May 30th, 2018
3:30 PM
Council Chambers, Town Hall
105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior

Present:

David Reid, Mayor
Lee Dyck
Debbie Hudson
Josie Scott
Lyn Smith
Renee Coady

Also Present:

Maureen Spratt, Town Clerk
Oliver Jacob, CSSA Summer Student
Danielle Raymond
Liz McLaren

Absent:

Jennifer Remus
Dana Smith-Hisko
Nathalie Spratt
Clark Young
David Mitchell

1. Call to Order

David Reid, Interim Chair, called the Ad Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness Meeting to order at 3:35 PM and welcomed those present. Each new Committee Member introduced themselves.

Renee Coady shared that she lives in the Town of Arnprior and is currently working with United Way Renfrew County on assignment from the Government of Canada.

Liz McLaren shared that she works for the Renfrew County and District Health Unit.

a) Appointment of Chair

Resolution No. ADHOC-002-18

Moved by: David Reid, Interim Chair

Seconded by: Josie Scott

That Lee Dyck be appointed as Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness.

Further That Clark Young be appointed as Vice Chair of the Ad hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness.

Further That this resolution come into full force and effect immediately following the adjournment of this Regular Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness.

Resolution CARRIED

2. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution No. ADHOC-003-18

Moved by: Josie Scott

Seconded by: Lee Dyck

Be It Resolved That the Agenda for the Ad Hoc Committee on Child Poverty and Homelessness Meeting dated Wednesday May 16th, 2018 be adopted as amended with the addition of an Item 5(c) – Other.

Resolution CARRIED

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Notes

Resolution No. ADHOC-004-18

Moved by: Renee Coady

Seconded by: Josie Scott

Be It Resolved That the Meeting Notes from the Regular Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness dated Wednesday, May 16th, 2018 be adopted as amended.

Resolution CARRIED

4. Matters Tabled/Deferred/Unfinished Business

None

5. New Business

a. Amended Terms of Reference

David Reid, Interim Chair, reviewed the draft Terms of Reference, highlighting the changes that were made following the feedback from the last committee meeting.

Lyn Smith shared that it may be beneficial for the committee to have an end date written into the Terms of Reference.

David Reid, Interim Chair, shared that since the Ad Hoc Committee is a committee of Council, it will cease at the end of the current term of Council (November 30th, 2018);

however, the new Council will likely re-authorize the committee so that it can continue its work.

Lyn Smith shared that the objective should include some discussion of the importance of raising awareness about poverty and homelessness in the local community.

Renee Coady shared that a broad objective can serve as a good starting point and more specific objectives can be identified through the gaps analysis and existing service mapping that the committee would like to do.

Lyn Smith recommended adding “and other related services” to the second bullet-point under the “Responsibilities” section.

Lyn Smith recommended adding engaging with individuals affected by poverty and homelessness (including lived experience) to the first bullet-point under the “Responsibilities” section.

Danielle Raymond recommended adding a statement about building awareness to the “Objectives” section.

David Reid, Interim Chair, recommended adding Seniors Representative under the “Membership” section.

David Reid, Interim Chair, recommended that the “Meetings” section be amended to reflect the draft schedule of meetings (at least 8 before November 30th, 2018).

David Reid, Interim Chair, stated that the Terms of Reference can be finalized by staff following this meeting and would then be returned to Council for formal ratification.

Resolution No. ADHOC-005-18

Moved by: Lyn Smith

Seconded by: Renee Coady

That the draft Terms of Reference, attached as Appendix A and forming a part of these meeting notes, be adopted as amended.

Further That the Committee forward the amended Terms of Reference to Council for ratification.

Resolution CARRIED

b. Round Table Discussion

– Committee Meeting Schedule

David Reid, Interim Chair, outlined the draft meeting schedule. He noted one correction that the first meeting in June would actually be on June 13th, 2018, not June 6th, 2018. He also proposed the continuation of Regular Meetings until the end of the current Term of Council (September 19th, 2018, October 17th, 2018, and November 21st, 2018).

Resolution No. ADHOC-006-18

Moved by: Josie Scott

Seconded by: Renee Coady

That the draft Committee Meeting Schedule, attached as Appendix B and forming a part of these meeting notes, be adopted as amended.

Resolution CARRIED

– Crisis Accommodations (Temporary)

David Reid, Interim Chair, summarized the topic and the discussion that occurred at the last Committee Meeting. Currently, if an individual were to require emergency housing, there are no local facilities within the Town of Arnprior.

Renee Coady shared that the Grind Youth Centre in Pembroke has three (3) beds for temporary adult accommodations.

Lyn Smith shared that we need sustainable and reliable options for services for housing in the local area.

David Reid, Interim Chair, shared that he would check locally with Community Living and L'Arche Arnprior to see what services currently exist and what regulations are in place.

Danielle Raymond suggested the possibility of a transition house under the purview of the Renfrew County Housing Corporation.

David Reid, Interim Chair, shared that he will be meeting with Paul Morrow from the County of Renfrew and will bring forward any questions from this committee.

Lyn Smith asked if there are any local organizations that offer housing for low-cost, similar to those that exist in the City of Pembroke. She also asked if there is any housing units that are subsidized by the County of Renfrew.

Maureen Spratt, Town Clerk, shared that there are indeed low-income housing units in the Town of Arnprior, which receive subsidies from the County of Renfrew.

Danielle Raymond suggested that the Committee conduct an audit of housing services and then contact the Renfrew County Housing Corporation to partner to tackle homelessness.

David Reid, Interim Chair, note a couple of community groups and organizations that provide housing services including Community Living Renfrew County, L'Arche Arnprior, the Bernadette McCann Centre for Women, local hotels/motels, etc.

Lyn Smith noted that there are occasionally mandate restrictions that prevent some organizations from providing housing beds (i.e. Bernadette McCann House for Women).

Lyn Smith shared that the Phoenix Centre has a Safe Shelter Program for Youth which place troubled youth into safe and stable homes before moving them to stable housing options through the Renfrew County Housing Corporation.

David Reid, Interim Chair, shared that it could be a good idea to think of building a pot of funding to ensure sustainability in the project(s).

Danielle Raymond raised the possibility of establishing public-private partnerships with local developers (Campanale Homes, McEwen Homes, Olympia homes, etc.) that would allow for the creation of temporary housing units at affordable rates. This would be complimented with supports from outside agencies and community groups as needed.

Lee Dyck shared that it would be necessary to promote more community-based involvement in solving the issue of homelessness as this will allow for more clear long-term sustainability.

Lyn Smith mentioned a program that has been utilized in the United Kingdom where old buildings are purchased at inexpensive rates, renovated and then rented to low-income families at largely subsidized rates.

Danielle Raymond asked if the Galilee Centre could be approached to provide temporary housing units in the local community.

Lyn Smith explained that it would depend on the mandate of the organization as it may not be able to provide such services if it is dedicated to alleviating other forms of poverty in the community (i.e. mental illness, addictions, etc.).

Lee Dyck mentioned that the Christian Education Centre is currently being reviewed and several ideas under discussion include housing options for low-income families.

Debbie Hudson mentioned that there are currently two apartments attached to the NeighbourLink Fountain facility that could serve as temporary housing if their owner is supportive.

Committee members expressed a strong interest into looking into this possibility as it would allow for housing in close proximity to the helpful services of the NeighbourLink Fountain.

David Reid, Interim Chair, shared that he would be willing to speak with the property owner to see what the feasibility of the proposal would be.

Renee Coady shared that United Way Renfrew County would be running the fundraising campaign for community organizations and projects in the fall of 2018. One of her goals for United Way is to distribute more funding to the southern half of the region (Arnprior and Renfrew). Given that only charitable organizations are eligible to receive grant funding from the United Way, it would be necessary to identify a lead organization with a charitable organization number from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and identify how the project can fit into the focus areas and priorities of the United Way funding program(s).

David Reid, Interim Chair, shared that staff would look into the variables that are typically used in determining temporary accommodations in other jurisdictions (i.e. terms, conditions, agreements/contracts, etc.).

Lyn Smith asked if it would be possible for staff to look into grants from higher levels of government (County of Renfrew, Province of Ontario, and Government of Canada) to provide some guidance to the committee on opportunities for funding temporary housing.

David Reid, Interim Chair, shared that this is possible and that a report can be prepared on the findings for the next committee meeting.

On the subject of grant applications, Danielle Raymond asked if it would be possible to use the 360 Project data to support grant funding applications.

Lyn Smith shared that the report will not be ready until after the program finishes at the end of 2018.

– Planning a Public Event

David Reid, Interim Chair, shared that he had spoken with Michael Wildman, Chief Administrative Officer, about the possibility of receiving grant funding to hire a professional facilitator to lead a tabletop exercise. He spoke about the process that was followed when the Age Friendly Community Plan was developed in 2015/2016. He circulated a copy of the Age-Friendly Community Plan report, which will also be provided by email to Committee Members.

Danielle Raymond shared that she has worked with facilitation many times in the past and could help with the facilitation of the tabletop session if the town were unable to secure funding for a professional facilitator.

Lyn Smith shared that it may be beneficial for the Town to contact the Ontario Health Communities Coalition (OHCC) as they often have grant programs that support such public facilitation projects.

– Coordination of Resources

David Reid, Interim Chair, shared information about the Town of Arnprior and County of Renfrew Tax Deferral Programs, which allow residents to defer the payment of property taxes payable. These would then be collected at the time of sale with nominal interest charged on the amounts accrued.

Lyn Smith shared information from the County of Renfrew regarding their Ontario Renovates program which offers forgivable loans to low-income property owners to facilitate upgrades to their homes. She shared a couple of questions regarding how the income figures were arrived at for Renfrew County and whether insurance is required for participation.

David Reid, Interim Chair, shared that he will add these questions to his conversation with Paul Morrow from the County of Renfrew.

Lyn Smith also provided a number of CPAN documents which outline CPAN programs in the local community and their history of action to alleviate the impacts of poverty in Renfrew County.

David Reid, Interim Chair, shared that members of the committee can provide resources that they have or become aware of with staff who will maintain a file for future use.

– Advertising for the Committee

David Reid, Interim Chair, asked the committee what it would like to see in terms of advertising for the committee, its mandate and its work moving forward. He shared that when the amended Terms of Reference return to Council, he will point them out to the media.

Committee members discussed having committee meeting information accessible online (on the Town's website) and discussed the possibility of writing media releases and blog entries regarding the committee's work.

c. Other

Renee Coady shared that the United Way is current in the process of developing a report on services for vulnerable seniors. The Ottawa region already has such a report and it was extended to Renfrew County with an estimated completion date of December 2018 / January 2019.

Renee Coady asked if it would be possible to conduct a study similar to the Neighbourhood Study that was done for the City of Ottawa. This project recorded the poverty levels by neighbourhood and is now publicly accessible online.

Lyn Smith shared that it is not possible to conduct such a project in Renfrew County as Statistics Canada does not break down our rural communities in a manner that is conducive to this type of analysis. She recommended that Committee Members take a look at [Code Red](#) in the Hamilton Spectator newspaper.

Lyn Smith shared that CPAN would like to donate some soccer balls to the Town of Arnprior for the SENS Rink when it is constructed.

David Reid, Interim Chair, thanked Lyn Smith for her offer and shared that the SENS Rink is still not confirmed as the organizing group is in the process of fundraising for the community portion. The town, however, is committed to moving forward with the project when the community support is in place.

6. **Adjournment**

David Reid, Interim Chair, declared the May 30th, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Child Poverty and Homelessness to be adjourned at 5:08 PM.

The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Poverty and Homelessness will be held on Wednesday, June 13th, 2018 at 3:30 PM in Council Chambers (Town Hall) located at 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8.

Terms of Reference

Ad Hoc Committee on ~~Child~~ Poverty and Homelessness

Purpose and Scope

Tackling the issue of child poverty and homelessness in ~~the Town of Arnprior~~ Arnprior and surrounding areas will take the effort and support of elected officials, staff and residents of the Town of Arnprior, the County of Renfrew, the Child Poverty Action Network (CPAN), community organizations, and those individuals having lived or currently living in poverty.

Mandate

The mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee ~~on for Child~~ Poverty and Homelessness is to identify partners in the Town of Arnprior and at the County of Renfrew that can provide advice to appropriate mandated agencies on issues that impact and address poverty and homelessness in ~~the Town of Arnprior~~ Arnprior and surrounding areas and produce recommendations for agencies at the end of the ad-hoc committee's mandate.

Objectives

To meet ~~and engage with talk to~~ and engage with a wide breadth of groups to fully understand ~~and build awareness of the~~ underlying reasons for the existence of poverty and homelessness in our community and the challenges associated with delivering services to these individuals and families and offer solutions or feedback.

Responsibilities

The Ad Hoc Committee shall be responsible for:

- Being a sounding board to discuss ideas on poverty reduction ~~through engaging all stakeholders, including local residents affected by poverty and homelessness~~ through engaging all stakeholders, including local residents affected by poverty and homelessness;
- Identifying organizations/agencies ~~and other related services~~ and other related services that have a mandate to provide support for poverty and homelessness matters in the municipality ~~(Conducting a thorough categorized mapping of existing resources and evaluation of service gaps)~~ (Conducting a thorough categorized mapping of existing resources and evaluation of service gaps);
- Providing advice to ~~Arnprior local~~ Arnprior local Town Councils on matters pertaining to policies, practices and programs concerning *poverty and homelessness* in the municipality;
- Advocating on policy issues on behalf of those living in poverty;
- Providing advice and guidance to various agencies on the identification of initiatives, programs and policies that will help reduce poverty and homelessness.

Membership,

7- 11 Individuals across a range of sectors that interact with those living in poverty including:

- Elected Officials (local and upper-tier);
- Education;
- Municipal Service Providers (recreation, library);
- Health Services (**Renfrew County District Health Unit**);
- Social Services (County of Renfrew, Family and Childrens Services, CPAN);
- Community / Emergency Services (Food Bank, NeighbourLink Fountain);
- Churches;
- Police (**Ontario Provincial Police**);
- Businesses (**Greater Arnprior Chamber of Commerce**);
- Individuals having lived or currently living in poverty;
- **Indigenous Representative**;
- **Youth Representative**;
- **Seniors Representative**
- 1 staff representative from the Clerk's Department to record minutes.

Chair

At the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, the Committee shall select a Chair and may also elect a vice-chair, and adopt a schedule of meetings.

Quorum:

- A quorum shall be a majority of 50% plus one.
- If there is no quorum within fifteen (15) minutes of the time set for the meeting, and unless two-thirds of those present agree to an extension of up to an additional fifteen (15) minutes; the meeting shall adjourn until the next regular meeting and the Clerk's Office shall record same.

Meetings:

There shall be at least eight (8) regular meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee on **for Poverty and Homelessness before the end of the current term of Council on November 30th, 2018. scheduled in 2018.**

- If such a meeting falls on a holiday, the meeting will take place the next day which is not a holiday.
- The Clerk's Office will prepare and distribute agendas as well as take **minutes meeting notes** for all of the Ad Hoc Committee meetings. The official copy of the **minutes meeting notes** shall be filed in the Town Clerk's Office.
- Produce recommendations for agencies at the end of the ad-hoc committee's mandate.

- Unless otherwise stated in these Terms of Reference, Committees shall generally adhere to the Procedures stated in the Corporation of the Town of Arnprior's *Procedural By-law*, as amended.