

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

BEAVERTON SUPPORTIVE HOUSING LIAISON COMMITTEE

Wednesday May 17th, 2023

A special meeting of the Beaverton Supportive Housing Liaison Committee was held on Wednesday May 17th, 2023 via Microsoft Teams at 5:00 PM to discuss Communications.

Present: Brett Bloxam
Ingrid Svelnis
Johanne St. Louis
Lianne Mcgarry
Mary Beddows
Taylor Malcolm
***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: Courtney-Anne Croft
David Ellins
George Hewitt
John Grant
Karen Hakonson

Staff

Present: Alan Robins, Director of Housing Services
Rachel Hirstwood-Judd, Adult Community Support Worker
Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services

1. DISCUSSION:

A. Communications

- Community comments/concerns can be emailed directly to Alan.
- Building completion scheduled for mid-July.
- The Expression of Interest (EOI) for the Support Service Operator (Operator) has been extended to ensure all relevant organizations were aware of it. By the end of the month, we should know if there are any additional parties interested in submitting an EOI.
- When the project is complete, we will have a videographer do a virtual tour and post it on the website. This will let the public see the layout and functionality.
- It is expected that resident will not start moving into the building for approximately three to four weeks after completion. This is to allow the Operator's staff to familiarize themselves with the building and prepare for occupancy.
- Once the building is operational a community liaison group will be formed that will work closely with the Operator. The Region will still be represented at this group. Terms of Reference (TOR) will be developed for this group and membership may or may not be the same as the existing liaison committee.
- Question

- The community has no awareness of security or supports available, how do we get the broader message out to the community and let them know how it will be managed?
- Answer
 - Q&A's will provide answers on supportive housing processes and how supportive housing systems work through a strength-based lens.
- To help educate people about the benefits of housing in a supportive environment, Alan will look for a testimonial from someone that has been successful from the Oshawa Microhomes.
- It was noted that key messaging needs to explain the difference between a shelter and supportive housing. The Beaverton project is not a shelter.
- It is important to relay to the public that this project is an investment in Brock Township and individuals in north Durham have priority.
- Local community services could be instrumental in raising awareness in the community.
- The United Way did a great campaign we could mimic, "Where does homelessness come from, where does an addict come from?"
- Pets will not be allowed.
- Volunteer opportunities will be managed by the Operator.
- Given the site layout there is a great opportunity for a community garden.

B. Open House

- An Open House to demystify the building and let key representatives from north Durham tour the facility will be scheduled. This is not a political open house due to funding protocols.
 - Potential invitees:
 - Community Liaison Committee
 - Buildings right beside that have been disrupted by the construction (only single-family homes so this could be a challenge)
 - Lakeview Manor family liaison group and senior staff
 - Gillespie Gardens, select number of residents
 - Brock Community Health Centre
 - North House
 - Nourish and Develop
 - Churches in the area – leaders of local churches (help with directory – Taylor-Sunderland, Johanne-Cannington)
 - Lions Club (Rotary in Uxbridge)
 - Rep's from Scugog and Uxbridge (serving north Durham)
 - Community Living Durham North
 - Libraries
 - Brock Township Recreation Dept. (Director or Programmer)
 - Food Bank
 - Brock Food Bank (Sunderland/Beaverton) and Nourish & Development Foundation (Cannington)
 - Scugog (Operation Scugog), Uxbridge (Loaves and Fishes)

- The Community Liaison Committee will review the list to keep numbers to a manageable level.
- Timing for the Open House is after completion but before residents start to move in. This will probably be some time in August.

2. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- The next regularly scheduled meeting will be a hybrid format on Tuesday June 13th at 5:00 PM. The location is the meeting room at the Beaverton Town Hall.

3. MEETING ADJOURNED

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by _____

Alan Robins, Chair