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SOCIAL HOUSING ADVISORY GROUP MINUTES OF MEETING

Meeting Date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021
Meeting Start Time and End Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:11 a.m.
Meeting Location: Microsoft Teams

In Attendance (22)

Alyssa Skan	Cornerstone
Amona Bisson	Sarah McDonald's Place
Beverly Kueper	Region of Durham
Brynn Harlock	Region of Durham
Christine McGee	Cornerstone
Corina Starve	Unity Village
Erin Valant	Region of Durham
Funmi Adigun	Prisma Non-Profit
Kathy Andreopoulos	Unity Village
Kevin Bradley	Ajax Municipal
Laura Lavoy	Region of Durham
Lisa Roy	Durham County Seniors
Lori Barber	Region of Durham
Narrah Thuraisingam	Ajax Municipal
Natalia Gunawan	Sunrise Seniors
Roberta Jagoe	Region of Durham
Sandra Smith	Inter-Org
Sherril Belille	Region of Durham
Stacey Leadbetter	Otter Creek
Suzanne Nobes	Community Living
Vera Bala	YWCA
Zoya Hafeez	Borelia Co-op

Regrets (1)

Ian McVey	Region of Durham, Sustainability
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Guests (2)

Michael Binetti	Durham Region Transit
Erin Valant	Region of Durham, Housing Services

Discussion Items

1. Welcome

2. Business arising from previous minutes

- None

3. Durham Region Transit (DRT) – On Demand Service

- Presentation by Michael Binetti, Supervisor, Durham Region Transit (DRT)
- In September 2020, Durham Region Transit (DRT) expanded On Demand services to all rural areas, replaced low ridership scheduled service in urban areas and introduced trip planning and booking mobile applications.
 - Transit App
 - The Transit App allows you to enter your start and end locations and provides you with nearby bus schedules and On Demand services.
 - DRT On Demand App
 - The DRT On Demand App allows you request transit based on your travel needs and provides customers with on demand rides available in their service area.
 - Alternatively, customers can call the Customer Information Centre at 1-866-247-0055 to book a trip or request trip planning information.
- On Demand services operates 7 days a week from early morning to late evening. Customers can expect wait times of under 30 minutes from trip request to pick up on most trips.
- DRT is looking to expand their services to 24 hours beginning in September 2021 in urban areas.
- Booking kiosks will be located at select seniors' residences and Ontario shores.
 - If you are interested in a kiosk or would like more information, please contact Michael Binetti at Michael.Binetti@durham.ca.
- For more details about the On Demand service in Durham Region, visit [Durham Region Transit](#).

4. Housing Outreach/Eviction Prevention

- Presentation by Erin Valant, Manager, Affordable Housing & Homelessness Initiatives – Region of Durham.
- There are several supports available for residents in Durham Region who may need help trying to find or keep their housing. A housing supports infographic will be made available on the Region’s website shortly.
 - [Renter’s Toolkit](#) is a self-service option intended to help search for housing or deal with issues that may come up in a tenancy.
 - [Housing Outreach and Eviction Prevention](#) is available to support those looking for rental accommodations, who may need support if their housing is at risk or to connect with other services they may require.
 - [Housing Stability Program](#) may be able to assist low income households secure rental accommodations or who may be behind in their rent and at risk of eviction.
 - [Extreme Clean Program](#) and [Hoarding Support Services](#) can help tenants/members clean and declutter their units if they are at risk of eviction.
- A new [Landlord Engagement and Support](#) pilot program was launched in partnership with Community Development Council Durham and North House to help strengthen communication between landlords and housing outreach workers in Durham.
- [RentSmart 101](#) is a certificate program to help tenants and community housing providers with successful tenancies.
- If you have any questions regarding any programs listed above, please contact Erin Valant at Erin.Valant@durham.ca.

5. Energy Retrofits Program

- Presentation from Ian McVey, Manager, Sustainability – Region of Durham to be deferred to the next SHAG meeting on October 20, 2021.

6. Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) – Round 2

- The Region of Durham has been allocated funding under Round 2 of the Rapid Housing Initiative (RHI) – City Stream. The purpose of the program is to create new housing units through:

- New construction, including modular and traditional forms of construction
 - Acquisition and conversion of residential units that are currently vacant, in disrepair, and not fit for habitation
 - Acquisition and conversion of non-residential units to rental residential units.
- The Region will be submitting an application under the City Stream for August 31, 2021 and is reaching out to Non-Profit partners for eligible projects.
 - If you have a project that might be eligible, please contact Cindy McCreight at Cindy.McCreight@durham.ca to set up an appointment with Alan Robins, Director of Housing Services Division.
 - Applicants who submitted an application in Round 1 have also been given the opportunity to resubmit their original application if they did not receive funding under the Project Steam in Round 1.

7. Canada-Ontario Community Housing Initiative (COCHI) – Update

- Communication was sent to all community housing providers in April 2021 requesting that they complete the COCHI Urgent Capital Repair Application by July 2, 2021. The Region received 40 applications.
- The Region will begin to evaluate the applications at the end of July-early August.
- An update will be sent to all housing providers who submitted an application in September to advise whether or not their request for funding was approved.

8. Standing Items

- Landlord and Tenant Board Cases
 - No discussion.
- Community Housing Renewal Strategy
 - MMAH technical working groups on EOM, income and asset limits, service level standards and coordinated access are ongoing. Technical tables are confidential.
 - Region staff are participating with other service managers on some of these tables.

9. New Business

- RGI Tool
 - An error was made in the RGI Tool which calculates minimum rent incorrectly. The error has been rectified. An updated version of the RGI Tool and Guidelines will be emailed to housing providers.
 - If you calculated minimum rent after July 1, 2021, you may want to revisit your calculation to confirm it is correct using the revised RGI Tool.
- Oshawa Library
 - The Oshawa Library received a grant to provide select residents of Oshawa with Internet Technology kits. The kit includes an internet hub and an iPad which can be used for up to 3 months at a time.
 - The purpose of the kits is to keep residents connected during the pandemic.
 - In order to be eligible, participants must not have internet access, an iPad or computer.
 - Please contact Jennifer Gardner at jgardner@oshawalibrary.on.ca regarding this program.

10. Next Meeting

- Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. | Microsoft Teams Meeting