

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

BEAVERTON SUPPORTIVE HOUSING LIAISON COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 13th, 2023

A regular meeting of the Beaverton Supportive Housing Liaison Committee was held on Tuesday June 13th, 2023 at the Beaverton Town Hall and via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Brett Bloxam
David Ellins
George Hewitt
John Grant
Karen Hakonson
Lianne Megarry
Mary Beddows
Taylor Malcolm

Regrets: Courtney-Anne Croft
Mike Brown, Durham Regional Police Services
Todd Wilson, Durham Regional Police Services
Ingrid Svelnis
Johanne St. Louis

Staff

Present: Alan Robins, Director of Housing Services
Rachel Hirstwood-Judd, Adult Community Support Worker
Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services - virtual
Zefe Osime-Fakolade, Durham Region Transit

1. ADOPTION OF APRIL 11TH MINUTES

Moved by Mary, That the Minutes of April 11th be adopted. Seconded by Brett.

CARRIED

2. DISCUSSION:

As this was our first in person meeting everyone introduced themselves.

A. DRT – Zefe Osime-Fakolade, Program Mgr Com Eng & Chg Mgmt

- Zefe spoke about the Durham Region Transit (DRT) On Demand services available for north Durham residents. DRT is aware of the capacity issues and has recently received approval for an additional 8000 hours of On Demand. Zefe will get back to us on the breakdown of the 8000 hours. There is an educational component for users to learn how to book On Demand and DRT has a team that does educational outreach. There is also a mail out campaign going to all Brock Township residents.

Access to DRT fare media is via a staffed kiosk in Port Perry. Other options for fare media are cash or vendor accounts for single tickets or monthly passes.

- Gillespie Gardens held a workshop earlier this year to show residents how to purchase fare media through the app on an iPad.
- ODSP recipients' Presto cards are capped at \$45.50 per month.
- Specialized transit is available to provide an info session for those with disabilities or cognitive impairment.
- It would be helpful if Presto cards could be loaded at the supportive housing site.
- On demand service delivery is moving to a contractor in September.
- Another option for getting to appointments for those eligible would be through Community Care volunteers (OW or ODSP typically medical appt's). This service must be booked at least a week out.

Question:

- Will DRT be at the fall fairs?
 - Zefe will follow up.

B. Project Update

- The project has received funding for tablets, cellphones, bicycles, helmets, and vests for the residents.
- Representatives from Durham Regional Police Services (DRPS) were unable to attend this meeting however, they consulted during the design phase of the building to review for best practices The security personnel onsite will be Level 3 authorizing them to detain a person if required.
- Completion will be towards the end of July to mid-August. Landscaping will be done in the fall. Occupancy could start in September and be phased in. The process to select occupants includes priority to north Durham and those on the By-Name-List (BNL). There will also be direct referrals.
- The Service Provider will have 3-4 weeks prior to occupancy to set up and get familiar with the building. We anticipate selecting a provider by the end of June which will leave time for an open house and video. The contract term for the operator is 5 years.
- Phasing in occupancy will allow the operator and residents to adjust and establish case management priorities before the next cohort moves in.
- Alan toured the supportive housing project in Ottawa and noted that some of the residents entered into trust agreements with the operator. This allows the Operator to manage the resident's income to ensure money received at the beginning of the month will last the entire month. This is a voluntary agreement. The Ottawa model is not transitional housing but permanent supportive housing.

C. Site Works

- The building is GHG free operating solely on electric power. Rooftop solar panels provide additional electricity to the building. There is no gas coming into the building. There will be a fuel generator on the site to provide emergency back-up if necessary.

- The large rooms are completely furnished and include two induction heating elements with pots, fridge and microwave. The Port Perry Health Network is assisting with start-up by providing transportation funds, shower curtains and bedding etc. The HUB is beautiful on the inside and has a dining area, lounge, and electric fireplace. Everything was thought out, there is no fabric and all furniture is on legs to help manage pest control. The chairs in the units are not as comfortable as the lounge to entice residents to socialize. The hallways are large and there is plenty of storage space. Doorways are card operated. There is a First-Aid room and commercial kitchen.

D. Communication Plan

- Virtual tour
- Open House

Invitation list for Open House to be discussed at next meeting. Timing of both are dependent on completion of the project.

E. General Discussion

- The group would like to see regional representatives at the fall fairs to provide information on supportive housing and outreach. (Sunderland & Beaverton)
- A sponsor could provide admission tickets to the fair for the residents.
- The mandate of this committee ends with occupancy and then will morph into a group that will work with the operator. Once the new group is set up this committee will dissolve. The new committee may or may not include members of the current committee, although current members are encouraged to continue their involvement.

3. NEXT STEPS/ACTION ITEMS

- Minutes from the May 17th Communications meeting will be distributed.
- The August meeting to be scheduled based on DRPS availability.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- The next meeting is Wednesday August 23rd at 5:00 PM.

5. MEETING ADJOURNED

Moved by Karen Hakonson, Seconded by Rachel Hirstwood-Judd, That the Meeting be Adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by _____

Alan Robins, Chair