

THE CITY OF TORONTO

Clerk's Department

Minutes of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee

Thursday, April 23, 1998

The Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee met on Thursday, April 23, 1998, in Committee Room A, 2nd Floor, Metro Hall, Toronto, commencing at 9:45 a.m.

Members Present:

Councillor Gordon Chong, Chair
Councillor Elizabeth Brown
Councillor Olivia Chow
Councillor Rob Davis
Councillor Michael Feldman
Councillor John Filion
Councillor Joan King
Councillor George Mammoliti
Councillor Michael Prue

Regrets:

Councillor Raymond Cho
Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski
Mayor Mel Lastman

Also Present:

Councillor Jack Layton
Councillor Pam McConnell

Confirmation of Minutes.

On motion by Councillor Feldman, the Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee held on March 26 and 27, 1998, were confirmed.

55. Presentation by the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority.

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Mr. Rashmi Nathwani, Chair, and Mr. Peter Schafft, Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority gave an overhead presentation respecting the role of MTHA, and tabled the Ontario Housing Corporation Summary and Detailed Reports, entitled "Analysis of Building Condition Assessments", dated March 1998.

Councillor Pam McConnell, Don River, appeared before the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter.

Councillor Mammoliti moved that the appropriate staff be requested to invite representatives of the two local unions that represent the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority on-site workers, tenant representatives, and others who may be interested, to speak to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee.

Councillor Chong appointed Councillor Feldman Acting Chair and vacated the Chair.

Councillor Chong moved that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to report, as soon as possible, to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee on whether the capital funding details provided by MTHA in the aforementioned presentation included the \$200 million repairs highlighted by the Provincial Auditor in his 1997 report.

Councillor Chong resumed the Chair.

Councillor King moved that the foregoing motion by Councillor Mammoliti be amended to provide that appropriate staff, together with Councillor Chow and other interested Members of Council, develop a framework for such discussion.

Upon the question of the adoption of the foregoing motions by Councillors Mammoliti, Chong and King, they were carried.

The following is a summary of the action taken by the Committee:

“The Committee directed that:

- (1) the appropriate staff be requested to:
 - (a) invite representatives of the two local unions that represent the Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority on-site workers, tenant representatives, and others who may be interested, to speak to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee; and
 - (b) together with Councillor Chow and other interested Members of Council, develop a framework for such discussion; and
- (2) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to report, as soon as possible, to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee on whether the capital funding details provided by MTHA in the aforementioned presentation included the \$200 million repairs highlighted by the Provincial Auditor in his 1997 report.”

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services;
Mr. Rashmi Nathwani, Chair, Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority;
Mr. Peter Schafft, Chief Executive Officer, Metropolitan Toronto Housing
Authority; c. General Manager, The Metropolitan Toronto Housing Company
Limited - April 23, 1998)

(Clause No. 6(a), Report No. 4)

**56. Toronto District School Board - Pressures Resulting
from Provincial Restructuring of Education Finance.**

The Committee had before it a communication (April 6, 1998) from Mr. John Davies, Director - Executive Council, Toronto District School Board, requesting the opportunity to appear before the Committee to discuss a number of issues resulting from the Provincial restructuring of education finance which has created considerable pressure on the ability of school boards to deliver services to the community.

The Committee deferred the aforementioned presentation until its next meeting to be held on May 21, 1998, at the request of the Toronto District School Board.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Mr. John Davies, Toronto District School Board - April 23, 1998)

(Clause No. 6(b), Report No. 4)

57. Impact of Education Funding Changes on Programs for Children.

The Committee had before it a communication (April 15, 1998) from the City Clerk advising that on April 6, 1998, the Children's Action Committee recommended to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee that:

- (1) the Provincial Government be advised of Council's extreme concern that the Provincial Government's new education funding model will jeopardize the services currently provided in Toronto to children and their families;
- (2) the Provincial Government be requested to review its education funding allocation and broaden its definition of classroom and student needs to include the whole education community to ensure that there are adequate resources available to address children's needs such as: nutrition programs; childcare; adult education; after four programs; community use of schools; programs and services for newly arrived students and their families; additional staff and programs for inner City students; and other services that improve a student's "Readiness to Learn";
- (3) the Provincial Government be invited to appoint two MPPs from its caucus representing the Toronto Area to work with City and Toronto School Board officials to ensure that the programs listed in Recommendation No. (2) are protected; and
- (4) the Toronto School Boards be requested to continue their immigration settlement activities by creating a partnership approach which involves the Toronto School Boards, the City, and the Provincial and Federal Governments.

On motion by Councillor Chow, the Committee recommended that Council be advised of its concurrence in the recommendations embodied in the aforementioned communication and in Notice of Motion 9(i) by Councillor Chow, seconded by Councillor McConnell, on the Order Paper for the April 28, 1998, meeting of City Council.

(City Council - April 23, 1998)

(Clause No. 6(c), Report No. 4)

58. Emergency Shelter for Youth.

The Committee had before it a communication (April 9, 1998) from Councillor Jack Layton, Co-Chair, Advisory Committee on Homeless and Socially Isolated Persons, respecting the need for emergency shelter for youth; and recommending that, given that a number of the temporary winter facilities created by the Hostel Services Division during the winter of 1997/98 to address increased demand for daytime and overnight emergency shelter are scheduled to close on April 30, 1998, resulting in a significant reduction in overnight services for a minimum of 120 youth per night:

- (1) the City of Toronto Hostels Division recognize the need for expanded overnight services for youth as a high priority and continue to explore all possible options for meeting the needs of youth using the services at The Satellite, 60 Richmond Street, 11 Ordnance Street and the Out of the Cold programs, specifically:
 - (a) that existing youth shelters be surveyed to determine the potential for adding “emergency service” beds, funded at the current per diem rate; and
 - (b) given the success of the model utilized by Eva’s Place at The Satellite, that a high priority be placed on finding another facility to enable the program to continue to operate; and
- (2) the City of Toronto promote the creation of permanent housing for youth in recognition that emergency shelters are not an effective long-term solution to homelessness.

Councillor Jack Layton, Co-Chair, Advisory Committee on Homeless and Socially Isolated Persons, appeared before the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter.

On motion by Councillor Chow, the Committee:

- (1) recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned communication; and

- (2) directed that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to submit a progress report regarding emergency shelter for youth to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Councillor Jack Layton - April 23, 1998)

(Clause No. 3, Report No. 4)

59. Preventing Homelessness by Reducing Evictions.

The Committee had before it a report (April 9, 1998) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services responding to the request of the Committee on March 26 and 27, 1998, to report on a number of recommendations embodied in a communication from the Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee on Homeless and Socially Isolated Persons regarding "An Eviction Prevention Strategy for the City of Toronto" and recommending that:

- (1) a meeting between MTHA, MTHCL, Cityhome and representatives of the Advisory Committee on Homeless and Socially Isolated Persons be convened to discuss policies and procedures for working with tenants to avoid arrears and economic evictions;
- (2) the Commissioner of Urban Planning and Development Services report to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee on the matter of the proposal for a "Use it or Lose it" by-law as considered by the former Metropolitan Council at the time of adoption of the Report of the Metro Stakeholder Panel on Housing in September 1997;
- (3) City Council refer the report, "An Eviction Prevention Strategy for the City of Toronto", from the Advisory Committee on Homeless and Socially Isolated Persons to the Commissioner of Urban Planning and Development Services to be considered in their 1998 review of a uniform by-law for accessory apartment units and for a report back to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee as soon as possible;
- (4) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be authorized to undertake a proposal call for a rent bank pilot project as outlined in this report, and report back should authority for funding be required; and

- (5) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Chow, the Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report.

(Clause No. 4, Report No. 4)

60. Toronto Heritage Fund Grant Application - 45 South Drive.

The Committee had before it a report (March 31, 1998) from the Managing Director, Toronto Historical Board, advising that on September 18, 1997, Ms. Louise Mac Donald, Mac Donald Design Build Inc., acting for the owner of the property located at 45 South Drive, applied for a Toronto Heritage Fund grant for the restoration of the exterior of the building; and recommending that:

- (1) the Toronto Heritage Fund application for 45 South Drive for a matching sum of up to \$5,000.00 be approved;
- (2) the grant be conditional on the owner entering into a Restoration Grant agreement prepared by the City Legal Department, in consultation with the Managing Director, Toronto Historical Board; and
- (3) the owner ensure that the Board's support for the project is suitably recognized.

On motion by Councillor King, the Committee referred the aforementioned communication to the Municipal Grants Review Committee for consideration.

(Municipal Grants Review Committee - April 23, 1998)

(Clause No. 6(d), Report No. 4)

61. Provision of Dental Services to Social Assistance Recipients.

The Committee had before it a report (April 14, 1998) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services providing an update on recent Provincial announcements regarding the provision of dental services for social assistance recipients in Toronto, and on the larger review of changes in dental services provided by the municipality that is being undertaken jointly by Toronto Public Health and the Social Services Division; and recommending that the report be received for information.

The Committee received the aforementioned report.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services - April 23, 1998)

(Clause No. 6(e), Report No. 4)

62. Carefree Lodge Home for the Aged - Three-Year Accreditation Award.

The Committee had before it a communication (April 3, 1998) from the City Clerk advising that the Advisory Committee on Homes for the Aged on April 3, 1998, had before it a report from the General Manager, Homes for the Aged, indicating that the accreditation survey for Carefree Lodge by the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation was carried out from November 26-28, 1997, and that the Home received a three-year award.

On motion by Councillor King, the Committee received the aforementioned communication; and extended its congratulations to the staff, the Home Advisory Committee, and volunteers at Carefree Lodge.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services;
Administrator, Carefree Lodge; c. General Manager, Homes for the Aged
Division - April 23, 1998)

(Clause No. 6(f), Report No. 4)

63. Cheque Encashment Service Changes for Social Assistance Recipients.

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The Committee had before it a report (April 21, 1998) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services outlining the interim cheque encashment arrangement between the Bank of Montreal and the Social Services Division; indicating that, as a result of these arrangements, the administration costs for cheque encashment will increase by an average from \$48,000.00 gross, \$24,000.00 net, to \$60,000.00 gross, \$30,000.00 net, per month from May through December, 1998; noting that effective May 1, 1998, the Bank of Montreal will also limit the encashment of Social Assistance cheques to 13 locations; and recommending that:

- (1) the agreement with Bank of Montreal for social assistance banking arrangements be extended according to the conditions outlined in this report, until superseded by new City of Toronto banking arrangements;
- (2) as part of the negotiations with the single banking provider for the City of Toronto, Finance staff request that there be unrestricted and equitable cheque encashment for social assistance recipients in the City of Toronto banking contract; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Committee also had before it a communication (April 22, 1998) addressed to Mr. Eric Gam, Executive Director, Social Development and Management Services Division, Community and Neighbourhood Services, from Mr. Edward J. Zinger, Vice President, Government Building, Bank of Montreal, advising that cheque encashment will not be restricted to the 13 locations noted in his April 9, 1998, letter; that these are the primary branches now used; and indicating that cheques can be cashed at any branch.

Councillor Chong appointed Councillor Feldman Acting Chair and vacated the Chair.

Councillor Chong moved that the Committee recommend to Council the adoption of the report from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, subject to amending Recommendation No. (1) by deleting the words "according to the conditions outlined in this report", and inserting in lieu thereof the words "to December 31, 1998, under the existing terms and conditions", so that such recommendation reads as follows:

- "(1) the agreement with the Bank of Montreal for social assistance banking arrangements be extended to December 31, 1998, under the existing terms and conditions, until superseded by new City of Toronto Banking arrangements;"

which was carried.

Councillor Chow moved that a copy of the report from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be forwarded to the Corporate Services Committee for information, which was carried.

(Clause No. 2, Report No. 4)

Councillor Chong resumed the Chair.

**64. Proposed Redevelopment - North-East Quadrant,
North Regent Park, Don River Ward.**

The Committee had before it a report (April 7, 1998) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services advising that, in May 1997, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, on behalf of Ontario Housing Corporation, issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to the development industry for the redevelopment of the north-east quadrant of North Regent Park via a public/private partnership in the area comprising lands bounded by Gerrard Street on the north, River Street on the east, Oak Street on the south, and Sumach Street on the west; outlining the results of the RFP process; indicating that a team comprised of staff from various City Departments has been formed to deal with this Provincial/private sector proposal; noting that financial information on the proposal will be provided when details are further developed, but that there is no impact on the 1998 budget; and recommending that:

- (1) staff be directed to continue working with Provincial representatives, and with the Province's development partner, to further the proposed redevelopment, on the basis of the City goals and objectives set out in the body of this report;
- (2) staff be instructed to report back to Council when the redevelopment proposals are further advanced including all costs, revenues, and any contribution from the City, if required; and
- (3) staff be requested to report again in two months on the progress of negotiations between the parties, and the extent to which the City's goals and objectives are being satisfied.

The following persons appeared before the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Ms. Debra Dineen, resident of Regent Park;

- Mr. Mohammed Mohammed, resident of Regent Park;
- Councillor Pam McConnell, Don River; and
- Councillor Jack Layton, Don River.

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report, subject to amending Recommendation No. (1) to read as follows:

“(1) staff be directed to continue working with Provincial representatives, the Province’s development partner, the North Regent Park Working Committee and community representatives to further the proposed redevelopment, on the basis of the City goals and objectives set out in the body of this report;”

(Clause No. 5, Report No. 4)

65. Ontario Works Act Regulations.

The Committee had before it a report (April 21, 1998) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services providing an overview of the new Ontario Works Act regulations, highlighting the key changes, and providing an initial overview and impression of the cumulative impacts for Toronto; and recommending that:

- (1) the Chair of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee arrange a meeting with the Minister of Community and Social Services to discuss the implications of the new regulations for the City of Toronto;
- (2) the Province be urged to reconsider those regulatory changes that undermine and contradict the employment goals central to the Ontario Works program, and that constrain the Municipality’s capacity to effectively and efficiently manage the delivery system such that it is both fiscally responsible, and sufficiently flexible to meet the needs of Toronto residents;
- (3) this report be forwarded to the Minister of Community and Social Services; and
- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Committee also had before it a communication (undated) from Mr. Peter Clutterbuck, Co-Executive Director, Community Social Planning Council of Toronto, outlining their

concerns with the changes made to social assistance laws with the release of the regulations implementing aspects of the Ontario Works Act; attaching a copy of a newsletter from the Ontario Social Safety Network in regard thereto; and requesting that the Committee reserve space on its May agenda for deputations from members of the community on these issues and concerns.

Councillor Jack Layton, Don River, appeared before the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter.

Councillor King moved that the Committee:

- (1) recommend to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report;
- (2) directed that the Chair of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee be requested to report to the May 21, 1998, meeting of the Committee on the outcome of his meeting with the Minister of Community and Social Services; and
- (3) directed that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to report to the May 21, 1998, meeting of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee providing a more detailed analysis of the impacts of the Ontario Works Act regulations, in order that strategies can be developed to respond to such regulations.

Councillor Chow moved that part (3) of the foregoing motion by Councillor King be amended to provide that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services be requested to invite interested parties to submit their comments on the regulations.

Councillor Chong appointed Councillor Feldman Acting Chair and vacated the Chair.

Councillor Chong orally advised that he would be requesting that The Honorable Janet Ecker, Minister of Community and Social Services, and Mr. Frank Klees meet with him as soon as possible.

Councillor Chong resumed the Chair.

Upon the question of the adoption of the foregoing motions by Councillors Chow and King, they were carried.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Councillor Gordon Chong, Chair, Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee;

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Mr. Peter Clutterbuck, Co-Executive Director, Community Social Planning
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(Clause No. 1, Report No. 4)

The Committee adjourned its meeting at 12:10 p.m.

Chair.