

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Division

Minutes of the Community Services Committee

Meeting No. 4

Thursday, September 9, 1999

The Community Services Committee met on Thursday, September 9, 1999, in Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 9:40 a.m.

Members Present:

Councillor Brad Duguid, Chair
Councillor Norman Gardner
Councillor Irene Jones
Councillor Norman Kelly
Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski
Councillor Joe Mihevc
Councillor Michael Prue
Councillor Michael Walker

Regrets:

Councillor Olivia Chow
Councillor Peter Li Preti

Also Present:

Councillor Doug Holyday

Confirmation of Minutes.

On motion by Councillor Walker, the Minutes of the meeting of the Community Services Committee held on July 14, 1999, were confirmed.

4.1 Election of Vice-Chair of the Committee.

The Committee called for nominations for the office of Vice-Chair of the Community Services Committee for the term of office expiring November 30, 2000, and until a successor is appointed.

Councillor Walker moved that Councillor Jones be nominated as Vice-Chair of the Community Services Committee.

There being no further nominations, the Chair declared Councillor Jones duly elected as Vice-Chair of the Community Services Committee for the term of office expiring November 30, 2000, and until a successor is appointed.

(Councillor Irene Jones, Vice-Chair; c. Councillor Brad Duguid, Chair, Community Services Committee - September 9, 1999)

(Clause No. 3(a), Report No. 3)

4.2 Staff Presentation on Emergency Preparedness.

The Manager, Emergency Planning, Works and Emergency Services, gave an overhead presentation on the City of Toronto's emergency response abilities, in response to the request of the Community Services Committee at its meeting on July 14, 1999.

Councillor Korwin-Kuczynski moved that the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services be requested to report to the Community Services Committee, as soon as possible, on the necessary funding required to prepare a pamphlet for distribution to all citizens in the City of Toronto respecting steps that could be taken by citizens in regard to various emergency situations. **(Carried)**

Councillor Mihevc moved that:

- (1) the Emergency Plan include protocols, policies, and action plans for emergencies in Ontario, Canada, and internationally, and that the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services be requested to report thereon; and

- (2) the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services be requested to develop mutual aid strategies and report thereon to the Community

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Services Committee; and further that such report include a recommendation that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities be notified of the City's mutual aid strategies, and encourage other municipalities to enact similar strategies.

(Carried)

Councillor Prue moved that the following motion by Councillor Prue be referred to the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services for review and comment thereon in the report requested in Recommendation No. (3):

"That the information to citizens be disseminated through the media rather than by pamphlet."

(Carried)

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

“The Committee:

- (1) suggested that the Emergency Plan include protocols, policies, and action plans for emergencies in Ontario, Canada, and internationally, and that the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services be requested to report thereon;
- (2) directed that the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services be requested to develop mutual aid strategies and report thereon to the Community Services Committee; and further that such report include a recommendation that the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities be notified of the City's mutual aid strategies, and encourage other municipalities to enact similar strategies;
- (3) directed that the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services be requested to report to the Community Services Committee, as soon as possible, on the necessary funding required to prepare a pamphlet for distribution to all citizens in the City of Toronto respecting steps that could be taken by citizens in regard to various emergency situations; and
- (4) referred the following motion by Councillor Prue to the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services for review and comment thereon in the report requested in Recommendation No. (3):

‘That the information to citizens be disseminated through the media rather than by pamphlet.’”

(Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services; Mr. Kevin Roche, Manager, Emergency Planning, Works and Emergency Services - September 9, 1999)

(Clause No. 3(b), Report No. 3)

4.3 Qualification and Training for Entry-Level Primary Care Paramedics.

The Committee had before it a report (August 10, 1999) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services advising of changes to the academic curriculum provided by community colleges for the training of paramedics in Ontario; and recommending that the report be received for information.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Committee received the aforementioned report.

(Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services; General Manager, Ambulance Services - September 9, 1999)

(Clause No. 3(c), Report No. 3)

4.4 Radio Communications System - Toronto Police and Toronto Fire Services.

The Committee had before it a communication (July 20, 1999) from the City Clerk advising that the Policy and Finance Committee on July 20, 1999, had before it a communication (June 3, 1999) from the City Clerk, and a joint report (July 7, 1999) from the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services and the Fire Chief responding to the Audit Committee’s request for a six-monthly status report of the Integrated Police and Fire Services Radio Communications System; and that the Committee concurred in the recommendation embodied in the aforementioned joint report that such report be received and forwarded to the Community Services Committee for information.

The Committee received the aforementioned communication.

(Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services; Fire Chief - September 9, 1999)

(Clause No. 3(d), Report No. 3)

4.5 Funding for Homeless Services.

The Committee had before it a report (August 24, 1999) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services respecting funding for homeless services; and recommending that:

- (1) Council approve 1999/2000 City of Toronto Homeless Initiatives Fund (CT-HIF) grants totalling \$1,986,414.00 for 51 agencies, as described in Appendix A of this report;
- (2) Council approve a 1999 Long Term Housing Program (LTHP) grant of \$247,000.00 to Dixon Hall to provide a comprehensive program to help homeless people find and keep housing;
- (3) Council approve the 1999 Shelter, Housing and Support grants totalling \$61,260.00 for nine agencies, as described in Appendix C;
- (4) Council approve the 1999 Homeless Support Services Fund (HSSF) allocations totalling \$1,831,860.00 for 31 agencies, as described in Appendices D and E;
- (5) for 2000, the funds for the Long Term Housing Program, Shelter, Housing and Support grants and Homeless Support Services Fund be rolled into the CT-HIF and administered in the context of a consolidated program; and
- (6) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect hereto.

The Committee also had before it a communication (September 9, 1999) from Ms. Chiara Tassone, Executive Director, mens sana (Families for Mental Health), appealing the recommendation respecting their grant application.

The following persons appeared before the Community Services Committee to appeal the recommendations regarding funding allocations to their respective agencies:

- Ms. Pam Jolliffe, Fred Victor Centre (Grant Item No. 13);

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- Ms. Liz Bonanno, Syme-Woolner Neighbourhood and Family Centre (Grant Item No. 45);
- Ms. Nancy Peters, Massey Centre for Women (Grant Item No. 20);
- Ms. Kelley M. McKinnon, Chair, Board of Directors, Friends of Shopping Bag Ladies (416 Drop-In Centre) (Grant Item No. 14), and requested a deferral of their appeal until the next meeting of the Community Services Committee;
- Mr. Todd Kaighin, on behalf of Street Haven (Grant Item No. 43); and
- Councillor Doug Holyday, Markland - Centennial, who asked questions of staff.

Councillor Prue moved that the Committee recommend to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services. **(Carried)**

Councillor Mihevc moved that the appeals from the following agencies be referred to the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services for further review and report thereon to the next meeting of the Community Services Committee to be held on October 7, 1999:

- Fred Victor Centre (Grant Item No. 13);
- Friends of Shopping Bag Ladies (Grant Item No. 14);
- Massey Centre for Women (Grant Item No. 20);
- mens sana (Families for Mental Health)(Grant Item No. 21);
- Street Haven (Grant Item No. 43); and
- Syme-Woolner Neighbourhood and Family Centre (Grant Item No. 45).

(Carried)

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Mr. Chris Brillinger, Manager, Social Development Division; All Interested Parties - September 9, 1999)

(Clause No. 1, Report No. 3)

4.6 Amendment to By-law No. 1 of the Toronto Housing Company Inc. - Execution of Documentation.

The Committee had before it a communication (August 13, 1999) from the Corporate Secretary advising that the Board of Directors of the Toronto Housing Company Inc., on July 26, 1999, had before it a report (July 12, 1999) from the Chief Executive Officer wherein it recommended that:

- (1) subsection 9(2) of By-law No. 1 of the Toronto Housing Company Inc. be reworded by enacting the attached draft By-law No. 6;
- (2) By-law No. 6 as enacted be submitted for confirmation to the sole shareholder of the Toronto Housing Company Inc., the City of Toronto, through its governing body the City Council, no later than the next meeting of such Council at which proceedings take place constituting action by the City in its capacity as such shareholder; and
- (3) the appropriate officials of the Toronto Housing Company Inc. be authorized to take the necessary action to give effect to Recommendation No (2);

and that the Board adopted the aforementioned report and directed that it be forwarded to City Council for confirmation.

The Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the recommendation of the Board of Directors of the Toronto Housing Company Inc.

(Clause No. 2, Report No. 3)

4.7 Ontario Works Caseload Profile.

The Committee had before it a report (August 23, 1999) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services advising of important changes in the City's social assistance caseload through the 1990s, focussing on overall caseload growth and decline, and on key trends related to caseload composition and to changes in the length of time clients remain on assistance; summarizing the implications for the delivery of Ontario Works; and recommending that the report be received for information.

The Committee also had before it a communication (September 7, 1999) from Councillor Olivia Chow, Children and Youth Advocate, respecting the report of the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services on the Ontario Works Caseload profile; and recommending:

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- (1) that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services provide an action plan for Members of Council urging the Federal and Provincial Governments to invest in an extensive early childhood development program and that such a plan be presented at the upcoming Council meeting; and
- (2) that the Children and Youth Advocate report to the upcoming Council meeting on the result of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' meeting in Charlottetown.

The Chair appointed Councillor Prue Acting Chair and vacated the Chair.

On motion by Councillor Duguid, the Committee:

- (a) adopted the recommendations contained in the communication from Councillor Chow, subject to such recommendations being amended to read as follows:
 - (1) that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services provide an action plan for Members of Council urging the Federal and Provincial Governments to invest in an extensive early childhood development program, including the provision of child care services, and that such a plan be presented to the next meeting of the Community Services Committee; and
 - (2) that the Children and Youth Advocate report to the next meeting of the Community Services Committee on the result of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' meeting in Charlottetown"; and
- (b) received the aforementioned report of the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services;
Councillor Olivia Chow, Children and Youth Advocate; c. General Manager,
Social Services Division - September 9, 1999)

(Clause No. 3(e), Report No. 3)

Councillor Duguid resumed the Chair.

4.8 Retirement and Lodging Homes.

The Committee had before it a joint report (September 8, 1999) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and the Medical Officer of Health respecting retirement and rest homes; and recommending that:

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- (1) a Retirement Homes Advisory Committee be established, comprised of Councillors Ootes (Deputy Mayor), Johnston (Seniors Advocate), Fillion (Chair, Board of Health), Duguid (Chair, Community Services Committee) and Flint (Chair, Planning and Transportation Committee);
- (2) a Retirement Homes Action Team led by Public Health, be established with membership from Homes for the Aged, Municipal Standards and Licensing, Fire, Ambulance, Buildings, Legal Services, Shelter Housing and Support, Toronto Police, and Social Development. This team will immediately implement a short-term action plan to address complaints and concerns from the public regarding retirement homes;
- (3) the City of Toronto fully apply its existing legal powers to investigate complaints related to the health and safety of residents in retirement homes across the City;
- (4) the Commissioner of Community Services and the Commissioner of Urban Planning and Development, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health and City Solicitor, establish an interdepartmental working group comprised of staff from Police, Fire, Ambulance and Legal as well as other appropriate stakeholders. This working group will report back to the Retirement Homes Advisory Committee by November 1999, and by December 1999 to the Board of Health, the Community Services Committee and the Planning and Transportation Committee on the scope of the problem, issues related to the development and monitoring of mechanisms for ensuring quality and standards of care, and possible roles for the City, the Province and other stakeholders in this regard;
- (5) this report be forwarded to the Planning and Transportation Committee and the Policy and Finance Committee;
- (6) the estimated funding of \$527,500.00 required for the short-term solution be absorbed in the Community and Neighbourhood Services 1999 approved Operating Budget, and that a report be submitted to the Budget Advisory Committee on the details of this expenditure, and the underexpenditures in 1999 that may be reallocated for this purpose, as part of the 1999 Operating Budget Variance reporting process;
- (7) the funding implications of a longer-term solution be subject to a report to the Budget Advisory Committee, for consideration with the year 2000 Operating Budget process; and
- (8) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect hereto.

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The Medical Officer of Health gave an overhead slide presentation to the Community Services Committee on the issues with respect to retirement homes.

The Committee:

- (i) recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee, and Council:
 - (a) the adoption of the attached joint report dated September 8, 1999, from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and the Medical Officer of Health, subject to the recommendations being amended to read as follows:

"It is recommended that:

- (1) a Retirement and Lodging Homes Advisory Committee be established, comprised of Councillors Ootes (Deputy Mayor), Johnston (Seniors Advocate), Filion (Chair, Board of Health), Duguid (Chair, Community Services Committee), Jones (Vice-Chair, Community Services Committee), and Flint (Chair, Planning and Transportation Committee); **(Amended by Councillors Duguid and Mihevc)**
- (2) a Retirement and Lodging Homes Action Team, led by Public Health, be established with membership from Homes for the Aged, Municipal Standards and Licensing, Fire, Ambulance, Buildings, Legal Services, Shelter Housing and Support, Toronto Police, and Social Development. This team will immediately implement a short-term action plan to address complaints and concerns from the public regarding retirement homes; **(Amended by Councillor Mihevc)**
- (3) the City of Toronto fully apply its existing legal powers to investigate complaints related to the health and safety of residents in retirement homes across the City;

- (4) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and the Commissioner of Urban Planning and Development Services, in consultation with the Medical Officer of Health and City Solicitor, establish an interdepartmental working group comprised of staff from Police, Fire, Ambulance and Legal as well as other appropriate stakeholders. This working group will report back to the Retirement and Lodging Homes Advisory Committee by November 1999, and by December 1999 to the Community Services Committee and the Planning and Transportation Committee on the scope of the problem, issues related to the development and monitoring of mechanisms for ensuring quality and standards of care, and possible roles for the City, the Province and other stakeholders in this regard; **(Amended by Councillor Mihevc)**
- (5) this report be forwarded to the Planning and Transportation Committee and the Policy and Finance Committee;
- (6) the estimated funding of \$527,500.00 required for the short-term solution be absorbed in the Community and Neighbourhood Services 1999 approved Operating Budget, and that a report be submitted to the Policy and Finance Committee on the details of this expenditure, and the underexpenditures in 1999 that may be reallocated for this purpose, as part of the 1999 Operating Budget Variance reporting process; **(Amended by Councillor Kelly)**
- (7) the 1999 expenditures required to immediately implement the initiatives proposed by the Retirement and Lodging Homes Action Team be approved and further that the City seek 50/50 cost-sharing from the Province of Ontario to cover these expenditures; **(Amended by Councillor Duguid)**
- (8) the funding implications of a longer-term solution be subject to a report to the Policy and Finance Committee for consideration with the year 2000 Operating Budget process; and **(Amended by Councillor Kelly)**

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- (9) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect hereto.";
- (b) that all references to the Retirement Homes Advisory Committee and the Retirement Homes Action Team, referred to in the joint report, be amended to read Retirement and Lodging Homes Advisory Committee and the Retirement and Lodging Homes Action Team respectively; and **(Amended by Councillor Mihevc)**
- (c) that the focus of both the Retirement and Lodging Homes Advisory Committee and the Retirement and Lodging Homes Action Team include retirement and lodging homes where personal support is being provided on site; **(Amended by Councillor Mihevc)**
- (ii) directed that the Policy and Finance Committee be requested to expedite discussion of the aforementioned joint report from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and Medical Officer of Health to ensure consideration by Council at its meeting on September 28, 1999; and **(Amended by Councillor Duguid)**
- (iii) directed that the aforementioned joint report be forwarded to the September 13, 1999, meeting of the Planning and Transportation Committee for information, insofar as it pertains to municipal property standards, zoning and related issues, with a request that any comments thereon be submitted directly to the Policy and Finance Committee for its meeting on September 16, 1999. **(Amended by Councillor Duguid)**

(Policy and Finance Committee; Planning and Transportation Committee; Board of Health; c. Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Medical Officer of Health; Commissioner of Urban Planning and Development Services - September 9, 1999)

(Clause No. 3(f), Report No. 3)

The Committee adjourned its meeting at 12:30 p.m.

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Chair.