

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Division

Minutes of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee

Meeting No. 1

Thursday, January 14, 1999

The Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee met on Thursday, January 14, 1999, in Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 10:15 a.m.

Members Present:

Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, Chair
Councillor Raymond Cho
Councillor Gordon Chong
Councillor Olivia Chow
Councillor Joan King
Councillor Michael Prue

Regrets:

Councillor Elizabeth Brown
Councillor Rob Davis
Councillor Michael Feldman
Councillor John Filion
Councillor George Mammoliti

Also Present:

Councillor Anne Johnston

Confirmation of Minutes.

On motion by Councillor Chow, the Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee held on December 3, 1998, were confirmed.

1.1 Toronto Children's Charter.

The Committee had before it a communication (December 3, 1998) from the City Clerk advising that the Children and Youth Action Committee on November 23, 1998, recommended approval of the Toronto Children's Charter embodied in a communication (undated) from Councillor Olivia Chow, Child and Youth Advocate.

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

On motion by Councillor Korwin-Kuczynski, the Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the recommendation of the Children and Youth Action Committee embodied in the aforementioned communication from the City Clerk, subject to amending the Toronto Children's Charter by adding the following new provision as No. (10):

“(10) All Toronto children have the right to be protected from child abuse in or out of the home.”;

and renumbering the original No. (10) accordingly.

(Clause No. 2, Report No. 1)

Councillor Korwin-Kuczynski resumed the Chair.

1.2 Children and Youth Action Committee - Status Report on the Report Card.

The Committee had before it a communication (December 3, 1998) from the City Clerk advising that the Children and Youth Action Committee on November 23, 1998, recommended the adoption of the following recommendations contained in the report (November 19, 1998) from the Report Card Working Group:

- (1) that the Vision for Children be confirmed;
- (2) that the Report Card Conceptual Framework be adopted;
- (3) that program representatives be appointed by the appropriate sectoral officials to the Technical Working Group;
- (4) that sectors expedite access to their program's data by the Technical Working Group;
and

- (5) that the appropriate sectoral officials propose realistic benchmarks for programs under their jurisdiction.

On motion by Councillor King, the Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the recommendation of the Children and Youth Action Committee embodied in the aforementioned communication from the City Clerk, subject to adding to the recommendations of the Report Card Working Group the following Recommendation No. (6):

“(6) that the Report Card be submitted to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee, and Council, by April 1999.”

(Clause No. 3, Report No. 1)

1.3 Children and Youth Action Committee’s Summit on Child Poverty.

The Committee had before it a communication (December 2, 1998) from the City Clerk advising that the Children and Youth Action Committee on November 23, 1998, received a verbal report on the Committee’s summit on child poverty and had before it a number of communications in regard thereto; and further that the Children and Youth Action Committee recommended that City Council, in response to the Federal Minister of Finance’s statements in the Toronto Star on November 20, 1998, stating child poverty is “a national disgrace”, invite the Minister to work with the Children and Youth Action Committee to alleviate the disgrace of child poverty, and that the letter be copied to the Ontario Liberal caucus.

The Committee also had before it a report, entitled “Child Poverty in Toronto, 1998,” prepared by Metro Campaign 2000.

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

On motion by Councillor Korwin-Kuczynski, the Committee referred the aforementioned communication to the Chair of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee with a request that he discuss the issue of child poverty with the Toronto Members of the Federal Liberal Caucus.

(Chair, Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee; c. Councillor Olivia Chow, Child and Youth Advocate - January 14, 1999)

(Clause No. 8(a), Report No. 1)

**1.4 Suggested Amendments to the Spending Priorities
Included in the 1999 Children's Services Budget.**

The Committee had before it a communication (December 2, 1998) from the City Clerk advising that the Children and Youth Action Committee on November 23, 1998, had before it a report (October 21, 1998) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services respecting suggested amendments to the spending priorities included in the 1999 Children's Services budget; and that the Committee:

- (1) acknowledged the additional financial pressures outlined in the report (October 21, 1998) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, addressed to the Children and Youth Action Committee, and requested the Budget Committee to consider these pressures in the context of the Children's Services Division Budget;
- (2) reminded the Budget Committee of the draft Toronto Children's Charter released on November 20, 1998; and
- (3) requested that the article in the Toronto Star on November 4, 1998, by Mr. David Crane be forwarded to the Budget Committee highlighting Mr. Adam Smith's quote on "necessaries" as it relates to the well-being of children.

On motion by Councillor Chong, seconded by Councillor King, the Committee concurred in the recommendations of the Children and Youth Action Committee embodied in the aforementioned communication from the City Clerk; and directed that such communication be referred to the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services for submission

to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee, and Budget Committee, with the Department's 1999 Operating Budget.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Councillor Olivia Chow, Child and Youth Advocate; c. General Manager, Children's Services Division - January 14, 1999)

(Clause No. 8(b), Report No. 1)

1.5 Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Program.

The Committee had before it a communication (December 15, 1998) from the Secretary, Board of Health, advising that the Board of Health on December 8, 1998, had before it a report (November 25, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health respecting the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Program; and that the Board received the aforementioned report and directed that a copy thereof be forwarded to the Children and Youth Action Committee and the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee for information.

The Committee received the aforementioned communication.

(Medical Officer of Health - January 14, 1999)

(Clause No. 8(c), Report No. 1)

1.6 Healthy Parenting Program.

The Committee had before it a communication (December 16, 1998) from the Secretary, Board of Health, advising that the Board of Health on December 8, 1998, had before it a report (November 26, 1998) from the Medical Officer of Health respecting the Healthy Parenting Program; and that the Board received the aforementioned report and directed that a copy thereof be forwarded to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee for information.

The Committee received the aforementioned communication.

(Medical Officer of Health - January 14, 1999)

(Clause No. 8(d), Report No. 1)

1.7 Homes for the Aged - Uncollectible Accounts.

The Committee had before it the following reports from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services:

- (December 16, 1998) recommending that:
 - (1) authority be given to the Homes for the Aged Division to write-off the arrears accumulated on behalf of I.H. while she was a resident at Seven Oaks Home for the Aged; and
 - (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take necessary action to give effect thereto; and

- (December 16, 1998) recommending that:
 - (1) authority be given to the Homes for the Aged Division to write-off the arrears accumulated on behalf of M.C. while she was a resident at Cummer Lodge Home for the Aged; and
 - (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor King, the Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned reports.

(Clause No. 4, Report No. 1)

1.8 Appointment to the Advisory Committee on Homes for the Aged.

The Committee had before it a communication (December 18, 1998) from the City Clerk advising that the Advisory Committee on Homes for the Aged on December 18, 1998, recommended the adoption of a report (December 7, 1998) from the General Manager, Homes for the Aged, recommending that Mr. Willis Rudy be appointed to membership on

the Advisory Committee on Homes for the Aged, for a period of three years, with the provision for an extension of an additional term, as outlined in the terms of reference.

On motion by Councillor King, the Committee recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Homes for the Aged embodied in the aforementioned communication.

(Clause No. 5, Report No. 1)

1.9 Cummer Lodge - Accreditation Award.

The Committee had before it a communication (December 18, 1998) from the City Clerk advising that the Advisory Committee on Homes for the Aged on December 18, 1998, had before it a report (December 9, 1998) from the General Manager, Homes for the Aged, indicating that the accreditation survey of Cummer Lodge by the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation was carried out from October 25-28, 1998; and that the Advisory Committee:

- (1) directed that the report be forwarded to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee for information;
- (2) extended its congratulations to all staff, volunteers and the Home Advisory Committee at Cummer Lodge; and
- (3) suggested that future reports from the General Manager acknowledge the contribution of volunteers in the body of such reports.

On motion by Councillor King, the Committee:

- (1) received the aforementioned communication;
- (2) extended its congratulations to the staff, volunteers and the Cummer Lodge Home Advisory Committee; and
- (3) directed that the General Manager, Homes for the Aged, be requested to report to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee on the actions taken with respect to the three recommendations contained in the Accreditation Survey.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; General Manager, Homes for the Aged; Administrator, Cumber Lodge; - January 14, 1999)

(Clause No. 8(e), Report No. 1)

**1.10 Consulting Agreement with Doctors Hospital -
Operation of the Planned Long Term Care Centre.**

The Committee had before it a report (December 4, 1998) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services advising that, in May 1998, senior staff of the Doctors Hospital approached staff of the City's Homes for the Aged Division to explore the possibility of the two organizations working together to develop and support a proposal in response to the Ministry of Health's Request for Proposals for the construction of long term care beds in Toronto; that the bid by Doctors Hospital was successful and they were awarded 200 beds; indicating that staff of the two organizations will now begin detailed planning, including revisions to the draft budget, to support the operation of these beds; noting that, once the facility is opened in the year 2000, staff of the Homes for the Aged Division will provide the types of support outlined in the report; that there will be no net cost to the Homes for the Aged Division in providing this consulting service in that the requisite resources to provide the service will be fully funded by the fee paid by the Doctors Hospital; and recommending that the report be received for information.

On motion by Councillor Chow, the Committee:

- (1) received the aforementioned report; and
- (2) directed that the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services, and appropriate staff of the Homes for the Aged Division, be requested to:
 - (a) establish a Community and Neighbourhood Liaison Committee; and report to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee on proposed terms of reference for such a Committee; and
 - (b) develop a plan to consult with the community and neighbours in the vicinity of Doctors Hospital.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; General Manager, Homes for the Aged - January 14, 1999)

(Clause No. 8(f), Report No. 1)

1.11 Interim Report - Seniors' Task Force.

The Committee had before it a report (December 15, 1998) from Councillor Anne Johnston, Chair, Seniors' Task Force, providing information on the work to date of the Senior's Task Force and from the 39 public consultations held in October and November 1998; and recommending that:

- (1) City Council record the change of name for the task force from "Task Force to Develop a Strategy for Issues of Concern to the Elderly" to the "Seniors' Task Force";
- (2) City Council approve the extension of the time frame for completion of work undertaken by the Seniors' Task Force to Spring, 1999;
- (3) City Council receive the attached interim report of the Seniors' Task Force for information; and
- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary actions to give effect thereto.

Councillor Anne Johnston, Chair, Seniors' Task Force, appeared before the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee in connection with the foregoing matter.

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

(Clause No. 6, Report No. 1)

1.12 Renovations and Addition to Robertson House Shelter for Women.

The Committee had before it a report (December 22, 1998) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services advising that during construction of Robertson House renovations and additions many unanticipated defects were encountered, which

resulted in additional costs and extensions of time to the construction schedule; indicating that the value of Change Orders on the project exceeded the 10 percent contract amount by \$174,400.00; that with these changes the total construction cost will be \$4,783,400.00 and permit fees, soil tests, and architect fees will bring the total cost within the Capital Budget allocation of \$5,550,000.00 approved for Robertson House; and recommending that:

- (1) authorization to exceed the by-law limit of 10 percent of the contract value to 14.2 percent of the contract value be approved for Change Orders on this project; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

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

(Clause No. 7, Report No. 1)

1.13 The Review of the Use of Motels for Homeless Families.

The Committee had before it a report (January 4, 1998) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services providing a progress report on the review of the use of motels for homeless families; indicating that the work of the steering committee and its review to date has identified a number of areas which require attention, including the concentration of homeless families accommodated along Kingston Road, the impact of high student turnover on local schools, the number of newcomer families at-risk of homelessness, and the appropriateness of motel standards and practices; noting that an options paper will be reviewed by the steering committee at the end of January, and a final report is expected to be submitted to the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee in the Spring of 1999; and recommending that the report be received for information.

The Committee received the aforementioned report.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services - January 14,
1999)

(Clause No. 8(g), Report No. 1)

**1.14 Introduction of Private Sector
Placements in Ontario Works.**

The Committee had before it a report (December 31, 1998) from the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services advising of the provincial Minister of Community and Social Services' proposal to expand Ontario Works by introducing subsidized on-the-job training placements in the private sector; indicating that City staff will be working with provincial officials to obtain additional information with respect to this new program feature; and recommending that the report be received for information.

The Committee received the aforementioned report.

Subsequent to the meeting, a communication (January 18, 1999) was received from Mr. Colin Hughes, on behalf of SARA Watch, forwarding a written deputation on the aforementioned matter and was referred to the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and Members of the Committee for information.

(Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; Members of the
Committee - January 14, 1999)

(Clause No. 8(h), Report No. 1)

**1.15 Resolutions for the Upcoming FCM
National Board of Directors Meeting
or FCM Annual Conference.**

The Committee had before it a communication from Councillor Chris Korwin-Kuczynski, Chair, Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee, forwarding for approval FCM Draft Resolutions on:

- (a) Children's Issues;
- (b) Housing;

- (c) Homelessness; and
- (d) Immigration and Refugee Issues;

for debate at the March 3-6, 1999, FCM National Board of Directors meeting, or at the FCM Annual Conference from June 4-7, 1999.

On motion by Councillor Chow, the Committee:

- (1) adopted the aforementioned FCM Draft Resolutions, subject to amending item (a) on Children's Issues by:
 - (i) adding thereto the following:

“WHEREAS the federal government pledged in 1989 to eliminate child poverty by the year 2000;” and
 - (ii) adding to the operative paragraph the words “Child Care Programs” after the words “Community Action Program (CAPC)”;
- (2) directed that the Chair of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee be requested to forward the resolutions to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in order to meet its February 3, 1999, submission date; and
- (3) directed that Council be requested to concur in the action taken.

(Chair, Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee; Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services - January 14, 1999)

(Clause No. 1, Report No. 1)

**1.16 Update on Current Availability of
Hostel Beds Within the Shelter System.**

The General Manager, Shelter, Housing and Support Services Division, provided a verbal update on the current availability of hostel beds within the shelter system; and noted that, due to the winter storm conditions, Moss Park Armoury would be opened as a warming centre during the emergency.

On motion by Councillor King, the Committee received the aforementioned update; and directed that the Chair of the Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee, on behalf of its members, be requested to write a letter expressing appreciation to the hostels and agencies protecting so many vulnerable people during the current severe weather conditions.

(Chair, Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee; Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services; c. General Manager, Shelter, Housing and Support Services Division - January 14, 1999)

(Clause No. 8(i), Report No. 1)

The Committee adjourned its meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Chair.