



Community Development and Recreation Committee

Meeting No.	2	Contact	Candy Davidovits, Acting Administrator
Meeting Date	Monday, February 19, 2007	Phone	416-392-8032
Start Time	9:30 AM	E-mail	cdavidov@toronto.ca
Location	Committee Room 1, City Hall		

The Decision Document is for preliminary reference purposes only. Please refer to the Committee’s Report to City Council or to the Minutes for the official record.

How to Read the Decision Document:

- *recommendations of the Committee to City Council appear after the item heading and any amendments by committee to recommendations appearing in staff reports are italicized;*
- *action taken by the Committee on its own authority does not require Council’s approval and is listed in the decision document under the heading “Decision Advice and Other Information” at the end of the item; and*
- *Declarations of Interest, if any, appear at the end of an item.*

Minutes Confirmed – January 22, 2007

Communications/Reports

CD2.1	ACTION		Transactional	
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Federal Homelessness Funding: Authority to Negotiate a New Federal Agreement and Manage the Transition to the New Program

(February 5, 2007) report from General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration

Committee Recommendations

The Community Development and Recreation Committee recommends that:

1. the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, in consultation with the City Solicitor, be authorized to enter into a contribution agreement with ServiceCanada or related entity for funding under the new Homelessness Partnering Strategy, and that the objectives, priorities and

allocation levels, substantially as outlined in the report and summarized in Appendix A, form the basis for the agreement, *subject to adding child welfare agencies to Appendix A;*

2. once the contribution agreement with ServiceCanada or related entity is in place, the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration be authorized to enter into agreements with other City divisions, project sponsor agencies, and/or private expertise to deliver projects in line with the terms and conditions of the federal agreement, other than new housing development projects, which will be approved through the Affordable Housing Committee and Council;
3. once the contribution agreement with ServiceCanada or related entity is in place, the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration be authorized to adjust funding between objectives as may be required to ensure maximum and appropriate use of available federal funds and to reflect input from community consultation, new Council directions/priorities or other changes which might occur in the future and result in adjustments being required;
4. any project currently funded under the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) program that is not completed by March 31, 2007, be approved as a priority for funding under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS);
5. in light of the results of the City's 2006 Street Needs Assessment, indicating that 16% of the homeless population is Aboriginal, that 20% (net of administration) of the City's HPS allocation be directed to projects that address Aboriginal homelessness;
6. the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration work directly with the Aboriginal community to develop priorities for the funds under the HPS program, identified in Recommendation 5;
7. in the event that the current SCPI funds are not extended beyond March 31, 2007 by the last day of the City Council meeting in March 2007, the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration be authorized to fund the existing SCPI funded service related projects delivered by community agencies, as outlined in Appendix B, for the three-month period April 1 through June 30, 2007, at a cost of up to \$1.6 million from the Social Housing Stabilization Reserve Fund;
8. if the Social Housing Stabilization Reserve Fund is utilised as recommended above, that the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration seek reimbursement for this expenditure from the federal government, under the new Homelessness Partnering Strategy with funds returned to source;
9. the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration report

directly to Council on any further financial implications relating to the transition between the SCPI and HPS programs, as required;

10. in the event that the current SCPI funding is extended beyond March 31, 2007, the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration be authorized to approve allocations of any unexpended SCPI funding to projects and initiatives that are in line with the objectives of the SCPI Community Plan, and to enter into any necessary agreements to give effect thereto; and
11. the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration report to Budget Committee on the financial implications of the Homelessness Partnering Strategy and possible extension of the current SCPI program once details are known.

Financial Impact

Entering into a contribution agreement with the federal government to administer the Homeless Partnering Strategy (HPS) allocation will have an impact on the 2007 budget. The impact will be dependent on the amount of the, yet unknown, allocation and on when the contract with the federal government is signed, as that will impact how much time remains in 2007 to expend the funds. If the City's allocation is similar to previous years, a total of approximately \$36 M is anticipated, spread over the two years. All eligible HPS expenditures will be reimbursed by the federal government at 100%, on a claims basis. Once the allocation and details are known and the contract is in place, the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration will report to Budget Committee on the financial implications including impacts on the 2007 Capital and Operating Budgets.

If the SCPI program is extended in a timely fashion beyond March 31, 2007, the additional draw of \$1.6 million from the Social Housing Stabilization Reserve Fund will not be required to maintain the projects from April 1, 2007 to June 30, 2007. If the program is extended, the expenditures will be funded from SCPI and continue into the second and possibly third quarters of 2007.

Recommendation 7 represents a contingency plan if SCPI is not extended in a timely fashion beyond March 31, 2007. Thus, funds of \$1.6 million from the Social Housing Stabilization Reserve Fund will be returned to source pending confirmation of the extension of the existing SCPI program and/or eligibility under the HPS program.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

Summary

The purpose of this report is to obtain the authority required for the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration to enter into a new contribution agreement with the federal government for funding under the Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS), a two-year program, effective April 1, 2007. Included for approval is a high level plan outlining the City's objectives and priorities for investing the funds. It also seeks the authority needed to manage a

smooth transition from the current federal homelessness program, Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative (SCPI) to the new HPS program. And finally, authority is being sought for the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration to approve projects in line with the objectives of the current SCPI Community Plan, if the SCPI program is extended beyond March 31, 2007.

The City is managing the transition between the old and new federal programs, despite having few details about the new program, the uncertain timing for the new contract and not knowing whether the current SCPI program will be extended. The report provides a new Plan for investing federal funds and transition strategies to accommodate the uncertain circumstances.

Background Information

2007-02-19 cd02-1APPC

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-1589.pdf>)

2007-02-19 cd02-1APPA

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-1588.pdf>)

2007-02-19 cd02-1APPB

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-1590.pdf>)

2007-02-19 cd02-1

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-1587.pdf>)

Declared Interests

Councillor Joe Mihevc - declared his interest in Recommendation 7 of the report (February 5, 2007) from the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, in that his spouse works with the East York East Toronto Family Resources.

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Community Development and Recreation Committee forwarded a copy of the report (February 5, 2007) from the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, to the February 23, 2007, meeting of the Budget Committee for its immediate consideration and transmittal of comments to the March 5 and 6, 2007, Council meeting for consideration with this item.

CD2.2	Information		Transactional	
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Impact of Income Testing

(January 31, 2007) report from General Manager, Children's Services

Summary

This report describes a regulation change under the Day Nurseries Act to the method of determining eligibility for child care subsidy. Effective January 2007, the Province introduced income testing as the method of determining eligibility for child care subsidy. Income testing will make more families eligible for child care subsidies, but will result in an estimated

annualized loss of \$15 million in revenue from parent fees. Options to mitigate the loss of revenue to Toronto's child care system are presented in the report. The Division will be consulting with parents and other stakeholders on the options and will report in June 2007 on the results of the consultation and a recommended strategy to address the lost revenue.

Background Information

2007-02-19-cd02-2

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-1566.pdf>)

2007-02-19 cd02-2APP2

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-1597.pdf>)

2007-02-19-cd02-2-APP1

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-1567.pdf>)

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Community Development and Recreation Committee received the report.

CD2.3	ACTION		Policy	
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Progress Report: Meeting Current Nutrition Needs of Toronto's Children and Youth

(January 29, 2007) letter from Board of Health

Committee Recommendations

The Community Development and Recreation Committee recommends that City Council endorse the Board of Health recommendations in having:

1. endorsed continued planned growth of student nutrition programs currently serving 1 in 16 youth to reach 1 in 8 youth by 2008 at an additional municipal cost of \$867,956.00;
2. endorsed 2007 municipal funding for the programs serving children in grades JK-8 of \$2,574,340, to restore the \$200,000 reallocated in 2005 to address youth programs, and the \$100,000 funding reduction from 2004 (a net increase of \$300,000);
3. requested the Minister of Children and Youth Services to contribute to program sustainability by increasing its support from 7% of total program costs to a level matching the municipal contribution level; and adjusting future funding to keep pace with current food costs;
4. reiterated its request to the federal government to provide core funding for a national universal student nutrition program, including funding allocated for monitoring and evaluation of the program; and

5. requested the Medical Officer of Health to approach the Toronto District School Board and the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to investigate opportunities for tying school gardens and allotment gardens into the Student Nutrition Program.

Summary

Letter from the Board of Health forwarding to the Budget Committee and the Community Development and Recreation Committee a copy of the report (January 15, 2007) from the Medical Officer of Health.

Background Information

2007-02-19-cd02-3-ATT1c

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-1571.pdf>)

2007-02-19-cd02-3-ATT1b

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-1579.pdf>)

2007-02-19-cd02-3-ATT1

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-1570.pdf>)

2007-02-19-cd02-3-ATT1d

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-1580.pdf>)

2007-02-19-cd02-3-ATT1a

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-1573.pdf>)

2007-02-19-cd02-3

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-1569.pdf>)

CD2.4	ACTION		Policy	
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Impact of Poverty on Children's Current and Future Health

(September 15, 2006) letter from Board of Health

Committee Recommendations

The Community Development and Recreation Committee recommends that City Council endorse the Board of Health recommendations in having:

1. requested that the Children's Services Advisory Committee, in consultation with key stakeholders, identify key municipal policy levers and strategies for action to reduce child poverty including exploration of local options to reduce or eliminate the National Child Benefit Supplement claw back;
2. requested the Medical Officer of Health to work with key stakeholders including other city divisions, community agencies, and coalitions to ensure that the serious consequences of living in poverty to the current and future health of Toronto children are considered in decision-making regarding programs and services, advocacy, policy, and research;
3. advocated to the Ontario Minister of Health and Long-Term Care that the

Mandatory Health Programs and Services Guidelines be revised to include specific objectives related to preventing poverty and mitigating the negative health impacts of poverty during childhood;

4. advocated to the Federal Minister of Health, Ontario Ministers of Children and Youth Services, Health Promotion, and Health and Long-Term Care and the Public Health Agency of Canada that a strategy be developed to monitor and report on disparities in child health outcomes;
5. urged the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health) to fund longitudinal research on:
 - a. pathways through which poverty during childhood exerts its effects on health; and
 - b. interventions to mitigate the impact of poverty during childhood on health;
6. requested that the Conference Board of Canada, Caledon Institute, and Canadian Policy Research Networks expand their research to study the health implications of key policies and strategies to prevent poverty during childhood and mitigate its negative effects on health;
7. forwarded the report to the Toronto Best Start Network, Child Health Network, Family Services Association, Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Jewish Child and Family Services of Toronto, Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, United Way of Greater Toronto, provincial Ministries of Children and Youth Services, Health Promotion, and Health and Long-Term Care, Ontario Public Health Association, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health), Canadian Institute for Health Information, Canadian Public Health Association, Campaign 2000, Caledon Institute, Conference Board of Canada, Canadian Pediatric Society, Canadian Policy Research Networks and the Public Health Agency of Canada; and
9. endorsed the recommendations for action outlined in the Canadian Policy Research Network report prepared for Toronto Public Health;
10. pressed its concern to the Premier of Ontario about the impact of poverty on children's health and wellbeing, and, as recommended by Campaign 2000, and urging the Ontario Government to:
 - a. increase the minimum wage to a level sufficient for an adult working full-time to reach Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-off;
 - b. eliminate the claw-back of the National Child Benefit Supplement as promised in the 2003 election;

- c. allocate the \$300 million in provincial funding promised for child care in the 2003 election;
 - d. meet its target of building 20,000 affordable housing units and providing 35,000 housing allowances as promised in the 2003 election; and
 - e. increase the social assistance and Ontario Disability Support Payments rates to reflect the real costs of living and index benefits to inflation.
11. decided to engage its Local Health Committees in the ongoing development and implementation of Toronto Public Health's response to the impact of poverty on child and family health;
12. requested Toronto Public Health to work with the Social Services Division in collaborating with community agencies and advocates on the upcoming campaign to end the provincial claw-back on social assistance, with adequate resources;
13. decided to advise all Boards of Health in Ontario of the Board's action in this regard for endorsement and encourage them to undertake similar actions;
14. in conjunction with other Boards of Health or Health Units throughout Ontario, requested a meeting before the next provincial budget with the Premier, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Community and Social Services and the Minister of Children and Youth Services, to call for the Government to commit to a Poverty Reduction Strategy for Ontario with targets and timetables that will substantially benefit the health and well-being of Ontario children and their families; and
15. acknowledged the important role the Toronto District School Board Parenting and Family Literacy Centres play in the continuum of services for parents and the early identification and development of young children and:
 - a. expressing its concern about the implications of potential budget cuts to these programs on children, their parents and the community;
 - b. urging the Toronto District School Board to maintain these Centres through ongoing funding; and
 - c. forwarding this concern to the Toronto Best Start Network for further discussion.

Summary

Providing an overview of the impact of poverty on children's current and future health.

Background Information

2007-02-19-cd02-4

<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-1582.pdf>

CD2.5	ACTION		Policy	
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Cost of the Nutritious Food Basket - Toronto 2006

(January 29, 2007) letter from Board of Health

Committee Recommendations

The Community Development and Recreation Committee recommends that City Council:

1. endorse the Board of Health recommendations requesting the Premier of Ontario to:
 - a. increase social assistance benefit rates so that the Basic Allowance includes a nutrition allowance which meets daily nutritional needs as determined annually by the cost of the Nutritious Food Basket, and that the remainder of the Basic Allowance be set to enable recipients to afford other basic needs including transportation, clothing, and personal care items;
 - b. publish annually the details of current social assistance rate components and how they are determined, including the nutrition allowance portion of the Basic Allowance;
2. reaffirm its decision of December 14 and 16, 2005, requesting the Social Services staff to ensure that social assistance recipients receive all the diet benefits related to their condition and that proper training is given to staff to ensure that Social Services staff do not eliminate any benefit to which a social assistance recipient is entitled;
3. in the spirit of natural justice and in recognition of government's basic role to protect those citizens in our society most vulnerable and in need, endorse provincial Bill 150, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act, 2000, which would raise the minimum wage to \$10.00 an hour;
4. petition Queen's Park to enact Bill 150; and
5. forward a copy of these recommendations to all municipalities in Ontario with a population over 50,000.

Summary

Letter (January 29, 2007) from the Board of Health submitting to City Council, through the Community Development and Recreation Committee, a number of recommendations for endorsement.

Background Information

2007-02-19-cd02-5-ATT1

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-1585.pdf>)

2007-02-19-cd02-5

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-1584.pdf>)

Communications

(February 19, 2007) memo from Councillor Joe Mihevc – CDMainCD2.5.1

(February 15, 2007) e-mail from John Clarke, Organizer, Ontario Coalition Against Provery – CDMainCD2.5.2

(February 15, 2007) letter from Anne Egger, RNEC, Health Providers Against Poverty – CDMainCD.2.5.3

(February 16, 2007) letter from Jonah Schein, Civic Engagement Coordinator, The Stop Community Food Centre – CDMainCD2.5.4

(February 19, 2007) letter from Janet Maher, Medical Reform Group – CDMainCD2.5.5

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Community Development and Recreation Committee requested the General Manager, Social Services, to:

- i. submit a briefing note to City Council on March 5, 2007, supporting the Toronto case for an increase to the minimum wage; and
- ii. submit a report to the Community Development and Recreation Committee in six months on how the policy referred to in Recommendation 2. is being implemented.

CD2.6	Information		Transactional	
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Impacts - Reduction in Permit Fees Policy

(February 5, 2007) report from General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Summary

To report on the impact of the Reduction in Permit Fees Policy in 2006.

The Harmonized Permit Allocation and Permit Rate Framework were designed to ensure equitable, accessible and consistent permit rates for facilities across the City. Even though the permit rates are financially reasonable and below the pricing charged by other communities and

organizations, there are still groups who experience financial hardships. The Reduction in Permit Fees Policy addresses these issues.

Background Information

2007-02-19-cd02-6

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-1586.pdf>)

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Community Development and Recreation Committee deferred consideration of the report (February 5, 2007) from the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, to its next meeting on April 2, 2007, for consideration and debate.

CD2.7	ACTION		Policy	
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Study of Recreation Curling Opportunities

(January 9, 2007) letter from Councillor Cliff Jenkins

Summary

Letter (January 9, 2007) from Councillor Cliff Jenkins requesting the Community Development and Recreation Committee to commission a study in regard to recreational curling facilities.

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Community Development and Recreation Committee referred the communication (January 9, 2007) from Councillor Cliff Jenkins to the General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation, for a report to the Community Development and Recreation Committee.

CD2.8	ACTION		Policy	
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Grace Carmen Senior Citizens Home Inc. - Reserve Fund Withdrawal and Approval of a Second Mortgage

(February 13, 2007) report from General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration

Committee Recommendations

The Community Development and Recreation Committee recommends that:

1. authority be given to the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, to:
 - a. withdraw \$296,000.00 from the Social Housing Federal Reserve Fund and lend these funds to Grace Carmen Senior Citizens Home Inc. at 180

Sheridan Avenue, for the replacement of elevators;

- b. negotiate, execute and deliver a loan agreement, collateral security and ancillary agreements and documentation, including a second mortgage and a general assignment of rents, subject to the following terms and conditions:
 - i. the loan will be non-interest bearing and not repayable until the earlier of the date (the “Commencement Date”)
 1. that the first mortgage is due to mature, or
 2. such mortgage is redeemed;
 - ii. starting on the Commencement Date the loan will bear interest at a rate equal to the prime lending rate charged by the City’s leading banker plus one percent and be subject to a repayment schedule that would amortize the loan over a period of 15 years, subject to the right of the housing provider to pre-pay its loan at any time without interest or penalty;
 - iii. the interest rate and repayment schedule will be renegotiable, subject to further Council approval; and
 - iv. such other terms and conditions that are satisfactory to the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, and in a form acceptable to the City Solicitor;
 - c. enter into an option agreement requiring the housing provider to provide rent supplement housing from and after the date the operating agreement is terminated, for a term of up to 15 years, provided that appropriate funding is received from the Service Manager;
 - d. consent, on behalf of the City of Toronto to Grace Carmen Senior Citizens Home Inc. mortgaging, charging or encumbering the Property in connection with the City’s mortgage, as required under the Operating Agreement being administered by the City of Toronto as Service Manager pursuant to the *Social Housing Reform Act, 2000*;
 - e. apply for the consent of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing in connection with the City’s mortgage, and accept such consent subject to the Minister’s standard conditions; and
 - f. apply for and accept such other consents and approvals as may be necessary or convenient from other third parties, including Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation;
2. the loan of \$296,000.00 be deemed to be in the interests of the City of Toronto

in accordance with subsection 83(1) of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, Chapter 11, Schedule A;

3. the 2007 Recommended Operating Budget for Shelter, Support and Housing Administration include \$296,000.00 gross and \$0 net funded by a withdrawal from the Social Housing Federal Reserve Fund for the loan to Grace Carmen Senior Citizens Home Inc.; and
4. any repayments of principal and interest on the loan be credited, as they are received, to the balance of the Social Housing Federal Reserve Fund.

Summary

Approval of this report would commit a loan of \$296,000.00 from the City of Toronto to a non-profit housing provider, Grace Carmen Senior Citizens Home Inc, in order to modernize elevators that have passed their useful life. The loan will be non-interest bearing and not repayable until the earlier of the date when the first mortgage on the property matures or the mortgage is redeemed. After that, the loan will bear interest over a 15 year period and can be prepaid by the housing provider without interest or penalty. The interest rate and repayment schedule will be renegotiable, subject to further Council approval. The housing provider will agree to provide rent supplement housing for a 15 year period following the repayment of its first mortgage.

The loan will be funded from the Social Housing Federal Reserve Fund which is an obligatory reserve fund set up to deal with the financial impact of the downloading of social housing to the municipal level. The loan must also be approved by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, as the guarantor of the first mortgage and by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, as the prior lender. The City will pursue these approvals after Council approval has been obtained.

It is important to proceed with this loan approval now so that the housing provider can act on tenders that are due to expire by March 31st. This will allow the housing provider to begin the required elevator modernizations in April 2007.

Background Information

2007-02-19 cd02-8

(<http://www.toronto.ca/legdocs/mmis/2007/cd/bgrd/backgroundfile-1703.pdf>)

Decision Advice and Other Information

The Community Development and Recreation Committee:

- i. forwarded a copy of the report (February 13, 2007) from the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, to the February 23, 2007, meeting of the Budget Committee for its immediate consideration and transmittal of comments to the March 5 and 6, 2007, Council meeting for consideration with this item; and
- ii. requested the General Manager, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration, to provide a briefing note to City Council on March 5 and 6, 2007, on the long term

maintenance agreement and the amount of funding currently in the Grace Carmen Senior Citizens Home Inc. annual budget for elevator maintenance.

Meeting Sessions

Session Date	Session Type	Start Time	End Time	Public or Closed Session
2007-02-19	Morning	9:40 AM	12:45 PM	Public