

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

BEAVERTON SUPPORTIVE HOUSING LIAISON COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 11th, 2023

A regular meeting of the Beaverton Supportive Housing Liaison Committee was held on Tuesday April 11th, 2023 via Microsoft Teams at 5:00 PM.

Present: Brett Bloxam
David Ellins
George Hewitt
Ingrid Svelnis
Johanne St. Louis
John Grant
Karen Hakonson
Lianne Megarry
Mary Beddows
Taylor Malcolm

***all members of the committee participated electronically**

Absent: Courtney-Anne Croft

Staff

Present: Alan Robins, Director of Housing Services
Rachel Hirstwood-Judd, Adult Community Support Worker
Stella Danos-Papaconstantinou, Commissioner of Social Services

1. ADOPTION OF FEBRUARY 13TH MINUTES

Moved by Mary Beddows, That the Minutes of February 13th be adopted. Seconded by George Hewitt.

CARRIED

2. DISCUSSION:

A. Project Update

- Due to limiting factors regarding the RFP process an Expression of Interest (EOI) is being used to identify a Support Service Provider. The EOI was released on April 3rd and closes on May 1st.
- Questions that arose:
- What type of Agency would typically apply to this EOI?
 - Non-profit agencies that already provide supportive housing services in Durham or other Regions. The EOI was distributed through the Durham Ontario Health Team to area agencies and shared with neighboring Ontario Health Teams to distribute to their member agencies.
- Has the Region approved funds to pay the service provider?

- A budget of \$800,000 was approved for 2023 (partial year of operation). There will be revenue from the occupancy charge that will be used to offset other charges such as grounds maintenance. Other supportive housing projects were consulted on details such as salaries and staffing models.
- How will residents be selected?
 - The intake process will involve the Support Service Provider, Regional Staff and Agencies who are already supporting potential residents. Residents will be selected from both the Durham By-Name List and referrals from area agencies for clients not on the Durham By-Name List with priority for those residing in the North or with connections to the North. The intake process matches client needs to the supports provided onsite and facilitates additional supports to address individual needs. Where the necessary supports are not available or cannot be leveraged the client would not be matched to this supportive housing project.
- What other 24/7 supportive housing units do we have in Durham?
 - Muslim Welfare Home, Cornerstone, Durham Youth Services, and VAW shelters operate 24/7 with supports. The Beaverton project is the first Regionally owned 24/7 supportive housing project.
- The EOI is for all 47 units (including the 10 congregate units). If the congregate units have special needs, then additional resources specific to those needs will be brought in. The EOI ranks experience very highly while cost is ranked much lower.
- What will the congregate setting look like?
- This space allows for additional supports and services to address specific needs of a given cohort of residents. All 47 residents will sign an Occupancy Agreement requiring participation in support services and be limited to a maximum of 4 years. Special needs such as addiction, pre and post treatment could be supported within the congregate section.
- Will police checks be done on individuals prior to move-in?
 - A criminal record doesn't preclude someone from housing however, a history of violence will be taken into consideration. If the necessary supports aren't available for an individual, they will not be considered for occupancy.
- Occupancy and Participation Agreements will be signed by all residents. The purpose of transitional housing is to provide the supports necessary to reach a level of independence that will lead to permanent tenancy under the Residential Tenancies Act (RTA). We are being very clear that this is a transitional model which is exempt under the RTA. This is the same model used at the Region's micro-home site in Oshawa.
- There are restrictions that can be included in an occupancy agreement but not in a lease, such as more stringent guest policies. The group would like to have access the occupancy agreement.
- There was discussion regarding the role of the committee members. The role of committee members is to share information and concerns, not to be the "go to" for complaints when the project is completed. A formal communication protocol will be developed, that will include the Support Service Provider when the project is complete. The mandate of the Community Liaison Committee (LC) is, "to share and disseminate information, identify issues and concerns that impact area

residents, develop ongoing communications protocols between the community and the Region as well as the Supportive Housing Operator and identify risk and risk mitigation strategies.” As per the Terms of Reference, The LC will be in effect during project development and until such a time that a Community Liaison team is established for project operations. Prior to occupancy, the Supportive Housing Operator will establish a community liaison group to maintain community relations which may or may not consist of the same members as those sitting on the LC.

- There was a comment that the meeting minutes do not include all discussion details. The purpose of the minutes is to capture the essence of the discussion rather than the specific dialogue. If members feel that an issue was not adequately represented in the minutes, it should be brought up and addressed prior to the minutes being approved. Meeting minutes are reviewed by both Committee Chairs prior to distribution.

B. Site Works

- Site work is underway from 7 am – 7 pm.
- A question was raised regarding de-watering on the site.
 - The planning process, consultants and Brock Township have acknowledged that appropriate measures are in place for run-off and screening. Ingrid will check to see if there will be long term dewatering.
- Brock Township would like to know when emergency services (Fire, RDPS and DRPS) can do a walk through and who it should be arranged with. This would let residents know that an emergency plan is in place.

C. Funding and Budget Update

- Regional Council approved the 2023 budget of \$800,000 for the project.
- A question was asked to provide more detail of what makes up the \$800,000 budget, for the sake of transparency. Alan questioned the purpose of this level of detail and noted that for the sake of transparency the Region is committed to the successful operation of this project and will fund accordingly. This has been the message from the start of the project.
- The Region continues to seek additional funding from upper levels of government.

D. Communication Plan

- It was decided to schedule a meeting in May to discuss communications.
- There was a brief discussion on holding an Open House which will be discussed further in May.

E. General Discussion

- It was noted that services for GO Bus in Beaverton were cancelled April 1st. Regional staff will follow up with Durham Regional Transit.
- A question was asked regarding what will be done with residents who leave the supportive housing project (voluntarily or non-voluntarily). Warm handoffs to appropriate support services will be facilitated and will include transportation when necessary.

- An incident was discussed regarding a person who got dropped off at Gillespie Gardens with an inflatable mattress and nothing else and clearly needed additional supports. This is an example of why supportive housing is necessary and the challenges those with high support needs face in securing housing.
- A question was asked regarding DRPS representation on the committee. Alan has reached out to DRPS and will follow up.

3. NEXT STEPS/ACTION ITEMS

- Discuss an Open House or Year in Review that includes agencies, Brock Fire and DRPS.
- Schedule a virtual meeting in May to discuss communications.
- An in-person meeting will be scheduled for the June 12th meeting.
- Alan will follow up with DRPS for representation on the committee.
- Alan to follow up on whether the occupancy agreement can be shared with the committee.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- A communications meeting is to be scheduled for May.
- The next regularly scheduled meeting is Monday June 12th at 5:00 PM, in-person pending confirmation of the venue.

5. MEETING ADJOURNED

Moved by David, Seconded by Brett, That the Meeting be Adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by _____

Alan Robins, Chair