

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

BEAVERTON SUPPORTIVE HOUSING LIAISON COMMITTEE

Monday August 12th, 2024

A regular meeting of the Beaverton Supportive Housing Liaison Committee was held on Monday August 12th, 2024 via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Brett Bloxam
David Ellins
George Hewitt
John Grant
Karen Hakonson
Lianne Megarry
Mary Beddows
Taylor Malcolm
Alex Cheng, Blue Door
Leanne Everson, DRPS
Michelle Willson, Township of Brock

Staff

Present: Erin Valant, Director of Housing Services
Rachel Hirstwood-Judd, Adult Community Support Worker
Cindy McCreight, Administrative Assistant

1. DISCUSSION:

Beaverton Heights Name Change: Erin shared that the name on the front of the building has been changed from Beaverton Supportive Housing to Beaverton Heights so that it is more inviting and fitting with the community, highlighting the importance of a welcoming name for the residents and the community. The practical benefit of the name change also allowed for the repurposing of most letters from the old sign to minimize any cost.

Liaison Committee Tour: The Committee chose a date and time to tour Beaverton Heights prior to occupancy.

Community Engagement Sessions: Erin proposed using the Community Hub space at Beaverton Heights for drop-in information sharing sessions to engage the community and gather input on activities or programming they would like to see in this space, emphasizing the importance of community involvement and feedback. The sessions would be designed to provide a platform for community members to voice their ideas and ask questions, ensuring that the hub's offerings align with local interests and needs. Scheduling the sessions would take place mid to late October, allowing residents living at Beaverton Heights to settle in before opening the hub to the broader community, showing consideration for the residents' comfort and privacy.

Update on Durham.ca Content: Erin shared draft content to update the information on Durham.ca and sought input from Committee Members. Information to be included in the updated content in discussion with the Committee:

- **Transitional Housing Program Explanation:** The goals and expectations of the transitional housing program at Beaverton Heights were clarified, emphasizing the importance of program participation and engagement for residents' occupancy.
- **Program Participation:** Occupancy at Beaverton Heights is based on active engagement and participation in the program, which includes setting and working towards personal goals in health, education, and employment.
- **Support Services:** Residents will receive case management and support services to assist them in overcoming barriers to permanent housing, with a focus on improving their overall well-being and self-sufficiency. The Committee discussed the importance of explaining what support services can look like and to highlight this positively.
- **Housing Benefit Explanation:** The Committee provided feedback that more information should be provided to show how residents at Beaverton Heights will be able to move into permanent housing. There should be information about housing benefits for ongoing affordability, showcasing the program's commitment to long-term stability for participants.
- **Community Liaison Committee Testimonials:** Committee members shared that they would like to provide testimonials for Durham.ca and were encouraged to share their experiences, aiming to document the evolution of their views on the project and the impact of community involvement on its development.

Committee Perspective Shift: Members shared their experience and shift from initial skepticism to positive support for the project, illustrating the transformative effect of increased understanding and involvement. Members highlighted the importance of continuing discussion to learn from this experience to improve for future projects.

Environmental Concerns: There were concerns about a dead tree on the site. Erin advised that she has heard this concern and is following up. There may be environmental considerations that delay its removal but assured it would be addressed.

2. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- To be advised.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by _____

Erin Valant, Chair