

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 5-2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on February 21, 2005, commencing at 3:10 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Chair; Partington, Regional Chair; Almas; Baty; Casselman; Gabriel; Marshall; Rigby.

Staff: Mr. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Mr. Ventresca, Acting Commissioner of Community Services; Ms. Reilly, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-time: Ms. Heidebrecht, Director, Children's Services; Mr. Hunter, Acting Director, Seniors Services; Mr. Hutchings, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities; Mr. Pelette, Manager, Housing, Hostels and Homelessness; Ms. Schiffl, Education and Quality Improvement Manager.

PRESENTATION

40. Expansion of Hostel Services for the YWCA, St. Catharines

Cathy Pead, Interim Executive Director and Diane Marino, Operations Director, Shelter, YWCA, attended to apprise Committee of the demand for shelter services for women and children in Niagara Falls. Representatives of the YWCA have been working with the United Way of Niagara Falls and other community agencies and local citizens to explore the feasibility of opening its former Culp St. Building as an emergency women's shelter. Ms. Pead advised that in November 2004, the YWCA of St. Catharines was able to acquire the building and property as well as funding for repairs and renovations from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Branscombe Family Foundation and assistance from the City of Niagara Falls. The shelter is anticipated to open in the Spring of 2005 and would provide 20 emergency shelter beds and provide numerous services including personal and employment counselling, child minding and children's activities. Committee was asked to support the request that hostel services, under the current hostel agreement with the YWCA of St. Catharines, be expanded in order to provide short-term emergency housing for women and children in Niagara Falls.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

41. Expansion of Hostel Service for the YWCA of St. Catharines

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 22-2005, February 21, 2005, respecting Expansion of Hostel Services for the YWCA of St. Catharines, be received; and

That Hostel services under the current hostel agreement with the YWCA of St. Catharines be expanded to include 40 hostel beds.

Carried.

42. Joint Homelessness Housing Pilot Project

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Regional Chair Partington

That Report COM 23-2005, February 21, 2005, respecting Joint Homelessness Housing Pilot Project, be received for information.

Carried.

43. National Child Benefit Plan 2005

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 24-2005, respecting National Child Benefit Plan 2005, be received; and

That the 2005 National Child Benefit expenditures plan be approved.

Carried.

44. Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Casselman

That the Regional Chair write to the Provincial Government requesting information on how the Province reinvests its 80 percent share from the National Child Benefit Plan.

Carried.

45. 2004 Year-End Report
Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities

Moved by Councillor Marshall
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report COM 25-2005, February 21, 2005, respecting 2004 Year-End Report Social Assistance and Employment Opportunities, be received for information.

Carried.

46. Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report
Fourth Quarter – October 1 – December 31, 2004

Moved by Councillor Baty
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report COM 26-2005, February 21, 2005, respecting Seniors Services Quality Improvement Report Fourth Quarter – October 1 – December 31, 2004, be received for information.

Carried.

47. New Purchase of Child Care Service Agreement
Turtle Club Day Care Inc.

Moved by Councillor Rigby
Seconded by Councillor Gabriel

That Report COM 27-2005, February 21, 2005, respecting New Purchase of Child Care Service Agreement Turtle Club Day Care Inc., be received.

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary documents to enter into a Purchase of Service agreement with Turtle Club Day Care Inc.

Carried.

48. Ontario's Child Care System

Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 28-2005, February 21, 2005, respecting Ontario's Child Care System, be received for information.

Carried.

(The schedule of dates Children's Services is presenting highlights of the three year plan "Investing in our Future 2004-2007" to local Councils will be distributed to all members of Council for information.)

MINUTES

49. **Report 9-2004**

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report 9-2004, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Ontarians with Disabilities Act meeting of November 30, 2004, be received.

Carried.

50. **Report 1-2005**

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That Report 1-2005, being the minutes of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Ontarians with Disabilities Act meeting of January 18, 2005, be received.

Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS

51. **Supporting Communities Partnership Initiatives (SCPI)**

Councillor Rigby referred to the resolution from the City of Brantford regarding the delay in SCPI funding and related the similar concerns of Niagara's community agencies that are waiting for a commitment on these funds.

Mr. Hutchings advised there were 13 applications submitted to HRSDC for funding and the information he has received is that one was rejected as it did not get submitted in time; three were approved outright and five were awaiting clarification.

Following discussion, it was:

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Rigby

That staff prepare a resolution regarding SCPI funding that reflects Niagara's requirements for consideration at the Council meeting on March 3, 2005.

Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

52. Moved by Regional Chair Partington
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That this Committee do now meet in Closed Session for purposes of receiving information of a confidential nature relating to a personnel matter.

Carried.

53. Personnel Matter

Mr. Trojan, C.A.O. provided an update on a personnel matter – Community Services Department.

Moved by Councillor Gabriel
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That a written report regarding the personnel matter be referred to the Closed Committee of the Whole Council meeting of March 3rd, 2005.

Carried.

54. Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That this Committee do now rise with report.

Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 5:20 p.m. to meet again on Monday, March 7, 2005, at 3:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters Building.

Jill Hildreth
Chair

Gail Reilly
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk
/Associate Director of Corporate Strategy