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THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

REPORT 17-2005

Minutes of a meeting of the Community Services Committee held in Committee Room 4, Regional Municipal Building, Thorold, Ontario, on November 14, 2005, commencing at 3:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Committee: Councillors Hildreth, Chair; Regional Chair Partington; Bailey; Baty; Casselman; Katzman; Marshall; Mastroianni.

Staff: Messrs. Trojan, Chief Administrative Officer; Hutchings, Commissioner, Community Services; Ms. Pilon, Legislative Assistant.

Staff

Part-time: Messrs. Ventresca, Director, Seniors Services; Bousfield, Manager, Property & Facility Management; Pelette, Manager, Housing, Hostels and Homelessness; Ms. Pennisi, Director, Social Assistance & Employment Opportunities.

Others: Councillor Timms.

PRESENTATION

167. Status of Hospice Niagara

Ms. Judith Barker, Executive Director, Hospice Niagara, provided the Committee with a presentation on the status of Hospice Niagara focusing on sustainability.

Hospice Niagara is designed to meet the needs of an individual and his or her loved ones when the curative approach is no longer appropriate. The goal of care is to optimize quality of life through symptom management, while optimally meeting the emotional, social and spiritual needs of the individual and his or her loved ones. Hospice Niagara's belief is that the family unit, if available, is the primary care giver and that trained, compassionate hospice volunteers can augment care, enabling the family to maintain as much direct involvement with the care of their loved one as desired.

The Visiting Volunteer Program is Hospice Niagara's oldest program, it began over ten years ago, which averages sixty to seventy-four individuals in their own

homes, at any given time, being cared for; the Day Hospice Program allows the individuals to get out and socialize, it is a happy place.

Ms. Barker noted that Hospice Niagara is now focusing on the Residential Hospice portion of their service, with a planned twelve-thousand square foot, ten private bedroom hospice, which will also house enough space for their other programs on the Linhaven Home for the Aged site.

Ms. Barker provided the Committee with the economic benefits of a Residential Hospice, noting that a stay in a Niagara Health System facility is \$721.00 per day and that same stay in a Residential Hospice is \$256.00 per day.

The building of the Residential Hospice has been budgeted for \$2.7 Million, which includes all costs associated with the building, from fees for the architect to furniture for the rooms and the special equipment that will be required. Hospice Niagara has commenced the fundraising initiatives and will continue to fundraise to sustain the operating costs of the centre.

Ms. Barker noted that Hospice Niagara with their expertise in fundraising, hospice experience, staff competences and solidity of the Ministry of Health Long-Term Care relationship ensure success!

Ms. Barker advised the Committee that the number of beds ensure a home feel rather than an institutional facility feel to the Residential Hospice.

The Committee was advised that the individuals who will be cared for at the Residential Hospice will be referred from the CCAC, their doctors and self referred. The individual's stay at the hospice is short term, usually in their final weeks and they are admitted following an assessment by Hospice Niagara's Registered Nurse, with the individual with the greatest need being accommodated first. Individuals cared for are eighteen years of age and older.

Moved by Councillor Mastroianni
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the Ms. Judith Barker, Executive Director, Hospice Niagara, respecting the Status of Hospice Niagara, be received with congratulations.

Carried.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

168. Hospice Niagara - Approval of Plan and Lease of Land

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Baty

That Report COM 91-2005, November 14, 2005, respecting Hospice Niagara – Approval of Plan and Lease of Land, be received; and

That the plan be approved to situate a Hospice Palliative Care Centre comprising a residential hospice, day hospice, and Visiting Volunteer program, which will be completely funded, constructed and operated by Hospice Niagara, on a portion of the property in front of Linhaven, in the City of St. Catharines, subject to a minor variance approval; and

That the Regional Chair and Clerk be authorized to execute the lease agreement with Hospice Niagara for the lease of sufficient land area to accommodate the construction of a Hospice Palliative Care Centre on the Linhaven site for a term of twenty (20) years, at a rental rate of one dollar (\$1.00) per annum, with an option to renew for an additional ten (10) years, subject to negotiation of all terms and conditions.

Carried.

169 Long-Term Supportive Shelter Model Proposal

Moved by Councillor Casselman
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That Report COM 92-2005, November 14, 2005, respecting Long-Term Supportive Shelter Model Proposal, be received and approved.

Carried.

(Refer to Staff Directions)

OTHER BUSINESS

170. Session on Domestic Violence

The Committee members were invited to attend one of the two half day sessions (8:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m.) that have been planned for the Community Services Department staff on November 15, 2005 at Club Roma.

171. Support for Long Term Care Facilities

Councillor Hildreth advised the Committee that she, Regional Chair Partington and Mr. Ventresca would be meeting with MPPs in Toronto on November 21, 2005 to discuss the issue of not enough support for the Long Term Care Facilities subsidy.

172. Day and Time of Meetings – New Committee 2006

The Committee members discussed the challenge some of the Committee members will have in attending some of the newly formed Committees, and requested that this Committee begin at 3:00 p.m. to accommodate the members that work full-time, it was therefore;

Moved by Councillor Katzman
Seconded by Councillor Bailey

That the new Committee consisting of the Public Health Services Committee and Community Services Committee meet at 3:00 p.m. on Mondays; and

That the time is subject to change if the Committee members feel that the 3:00 p.m. start time is unmanageable.

Carried.

173. New Committee Name

Moved by Councillor Bailey
Seconded by Councillor Mastroianni

That the new Committee consisting of the Public Health Services Committee and Community Services Committee, be named the Public Health and Community Services Committee.

Carried.

174. YWCA – Niagara Falls

The Committee congratulated everyone who was involved in the opening of the YWCA in the City of Niagara Falls it is a wonderful facility.

STAFF DIRECTIONS

Staff was requested to:

- include in the charts on pages 5 & 6 of Report COM 92-2005, in the box labeled Independent Rental Housing "(Niagara Regional Housing & others)". (Refers to Minute Item 169)

ADJOURNMENT

Committee adjourned at 4:13 p.m. to meet again on Monday, December 5, 2005, at 3:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Regional Headquarters Building.

Jill Hildreth
Chair

Janet Pilon
Legislative Assistant

Pam Gilroy
Regional Clerk