



Minutes of Homelessness Task Force

June 21, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

Electronic and In-Person Participation - Homelessness Task Force

The Corporation of the Town of Orangeville

(Chair and Secretary at Town Hall - 87 Broadway)

Orangeville, Ontario

Members Present: Councillor Andrews
T. Carter
E. Dunn
E. Goodyear
T. Grabb
Councillor Sherwood

Members Absent: R. Alvarez

Staff Present: T. Barry, Executive Assistant, Community Services
H. Savage, General Manager, Community Services

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. Disclosures of (Direct or Indirect) Pecuniary Interest

None

3. Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

2023-005

Moved By E. Dunn

That the minutes of the following meeting are approved: May 17, 2023

4. Presentations

4.1 Guest Speaker

Welcome Deputy Mayor Taylor to the meeting

5. Items for Discussion and Reports

5.1 Recreation Facility Availability

Since shelters do not have enough staff or funding to stay open 24/7, the organizations lean on the Town facilities to offer safe places for the residents to go. Currently recreation centres are open to the public until 11:00 p.m. and a suggestion to train staff, amend the R-Zone and provide other trained professionals on site at recreation centres be made available in order to assist those in need. It was noted that the library staff in Halton are all trained to deal with those that require assistance (food pantry, understanding how to deal with certain situations, etc.). Is this a budget item for the Town to consider - if there is a cost, this would be an advocacy piece for the Town to go to the County of Dufferin and ask for that support. The community also needs to be educated to explain what we are doing in our recreation centres and why.

Need to look at inventory or space in our facilities to assist the homeless and guide them away from general public for their safety. Suggestion of a safe space at the new transit hub. Also a suggestion of a shower pass program and free swim passes at the recreation centres which would allow the homeless to utilize a proper shower as opposed to having to use sinks in public washrooms.

If shelters were run 24/7, individuals would not be turned onto the street during the day. People would feel safe, individuals would have a sense of belonging somewhere and a sense of dignity. They also wouldn't run into the issues of being kicked out of establishments. The task force wanted to advocate that the shelter should be funded so that it can be open 24/7. Men's shelter does not have federal streams and the funds received from Dufferin are not taxpayers' money. Potential to look at assisting with fundraising.

Situation "task force" - OPP and other crisis centres are represented - need to have recreation represented there as well.

Action Items:

Description or inventory of space available; expertise to table to discuss how spacing could assist;

Find some form of collectible fundraising

Facility Needs Assessment will be conducted to see how our recreation centre/library are functioning and what changes may be necessary taking into account our community needs.

5.2 Community Safety and Well Being Plan (County vs. Town)

Through the Policing Act, every region was asked to look at homelessness, food, and other issues facing communities. Dufferin County then developed a Community Safety and Well Being Plan but advised the municipalities to develop their own. Town staff will recommend Orangeville Council adopt the County's Community Safety and Well Being Plan rather than duplicate efforts.

5.3 Work Plan 2023

H. Savage to formulate a high-level workplan and circulate for review/additions, etc. Decide what are our priorities for the workplan:

- Training for front line, inventory of available space (2023)
- Community outreach and support with a focus on advocacy (2023)

Decide what priorities for 2024

5.4 Community Outreach and Engagement

The Task Force needs to communicate over various means to provide education and community awareness. Presentations to Town Council is one way to educate the community.

E. Goodyear will go before Dufferin County Council to provide a presentation and members of the Task Force should be in attendance to show a strong team.

E. Goodyear to provide electronic information regarding the shelter.

Opportunities and events - shelter attends at all Town of Orangeville events; may get a table at the Farmers Market. The shelter is also developing a policy and procedures for volunteers.

5.5 Coordination of Alternative Housing Manufacturing Facility

Chair Andrews discussed an inquiry received from NRB modular homes. This organization supports alternative housing arrangements for communities that meet certain specifications. The facility is located in Cambridge and they have extended a standing invitation for the Task Force to take a tour of the facility. Jacqueline Evans is Director and is trying to establish an understanding of what they offer and they are looking at other municipalities to branch out.

The tour runs from 10:00 a.m. - noon with lunch provided.

Still need to implement the creation of Safe Beds here in Orangeville. This should form part of the Task Force's long term goals.

6. Correspondence

None

7. New Business

None

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be September 20, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm