



MINUTES

Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee – Everyone Matters

Thursday, September 5, 2019

1:00 p.m.

**Committee Room 3, City Hall
66 Charlotte Street Port Colborne**

Attendees:

Co-Chair Lori Kleinsmith, Bridges CHC
Co-Chair Angie Desmarais, Councillor
Jay McKnight, Niagara Regional Police
Jeffrey Sinclair, Niagara Region
Susan Therrien, Director of Library Services
Ryan Pearson, Niagara Community Legal Clinic
Scott Lawson, Deputy Fire Chief
Casey Forgeron, Public Member

Regrets:

Christine Clark-Lafleur, Port Cares
Joanne Ferraccioli, Acting Health Services Coordinator
Scott Luey, Chief Administrative Officer
Bill Steele, Mayor
Sherry Hanson, Manager of By-law Services
Judy Cassan, Bridges CHC
Tara McKendrick – CMHA

Minutes:

Nancy Giles, EA to Mayor and CAO

Co-Chair Angie Desmarais called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Introductions were made around the table.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by C. Clark-Lafleur
Seconded by B. Steele

That the agenda for the September 5, 2019 meeting of the Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee – Everyone Matters as amended be approved.
CARRIED.

2. Approval of the June 6, 2019 minutes

Moved by L. Kleinsmith
Seconded by J. Cassan

Tara McKendrick should be CMHA. That the minutes for the June 6, 2019 meeting of the Social Determinants of Health Advisory Committee – Everyone Matters be approved as amended.

CARRIED.

3. Business Arising

Affordable Housing Report to Council – A copy of Report 2019-101 was provided to the committee. This report was presented to council on June 24, 2019 and it was received for information. Jeff Sinclair shared some comments. What are next steps? Need to gather stakeholders. Hopefully this fall, but the Planning Department needs a planner so this may stall this. No rush to get it done, but must be inclusive. Jeff Sinclair shared some numbers (provided to everyone). We have a region-wide comparison and similar situations to Port Colborne. Single people are most at need. We need to be pushing the decision makers with these numbers. The affordability chart shows \$484 per month is what they can afford and there are no homes for this dollar amount.

Living Wage for city of Port Colborne employees – Angie advised that she presented the following motion to council on August 12, 2019:

Whereas more and more people working for low wages are facing impossible choices such as whether to buy food or heat the house, whether to feed th children or pay the rent. The results can be spiralling debt, constant anxiety and long-term health problems. In many cases the adults in a family are working long hours, often at two or three jobs, just to pay for basic necessities, and

Whereas the living wage is the hourly rate of pay that enables wage earners living in a household to:

- Feed, clothe and provide shelter for their family
- Promote healthy child development
- Participate in activities that are an ordinary element of life in the community
- Avoid the chronic stress of living in poverty, and

Whereas the living wage for the Niagara Region has been calculated to be \$17.99 per hour (The Niagara Poverty Reduction Network – Calculating the Living Wage in the Niagara Region 2018), and

Whereas we, the Corporation of the City of Port Colborne strive to make decisions and take actions that have a positive impact on our community, our staff, and the people we serve.

Therefore Be It Resolved That:

The Corporation of the City of Port Colborne becomes a Living Wage Employer at the Supporter Level immediately;

And that Council directs Chief Administrative Officer Scott Luey to work with responsible departments to achieve Leader Level status at the time of the 2020 budget deliberations.

The recommendation passed by council was as follows:

That consideration of the motion by Councillor Desmarais re: Living Wage Employer be referred to the Chief Administrative Officer to address the implications and cost of becoming a Living Wage Employer; and That the Chief Administrative Officer report back with recommendations before the 2020 budget process.

Lori understands why they asked for this report. It had an impact in the Region and got a lot of press in social media. A couple of local supporters attended the meeting.

Let`s Talk Series – The next one on September 26th is Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention. It will be held at the Library. In November 27th, Bridges is working with the Library and bringing “Supports for Family Members and Loved Ones with Mental Health Issues.” Hopefully Susan can report on the future of this series at the next meeting.

4. New Business

Lodging By-law – The area CAO’s are meeting tomorrow and they will be reviewing the next draft of the lodging by-law. It has been reviewed by Niagara Falls’ lawyer and they have provided comments. Once approved by the CAOs, this will then go to all municipalities. Biggest impact: accountability – food, money, medications.

Community Safety and Well-Being Plan – In January 2019 a new legislative requirement under the Police Services Act mandated municipalities across Ontario to develop Community Safety and Well-Being plans, to be completed no later than December 31, 2020. It recommended that in case of two-tier municipalities, the coordinator of planning occurs at the regional level where the existing boundaries of service delivery for police, health education and community services are defined. The Niagara Region, through their Community Services Department provided a memo to Regional Council on July 18, 2019 which to the creation of a plan. A copy of the memo was provided to members.

Christine would hate to see our situation table swept up into a bigger group. Does this table need to write to the Regional Chair – leading and transformative activities in Port

Colborne. It was agreed that a letter should be sent. Needs to build along side in Niagara. Christine is going to draft the letter. The Mayor suggested using the paragraph from their reports which talks about working with other groups. Port-All is continuing to evolve. We now have CASO, Regional Mental Health, Ontario Works. Jay is getting calls from the NHS now. We need to protect what we have. This model should be replicated. This is an investment in the community. Mental health calls are down 55% from last year to the Police.

Jay mentioned that recent legislation – communication that takes place among organizations about situation tables is going to be downloaded to the Region. Police are going to have to participate. They expect people to reach out to see how Port Colborne’s situation table works. The Mayor stated that this has not come to the Region or Police Services Board.

Christine asked if there has been any resurgence of issues - Angie said there is an increase in drug activity in the East Village since August. She noticed there is also activity on Main Street. Police are aware of this situation. Police would like to encourage them to phone in. Police can stop and identify people if they have a report. They need a description called in.

There is some concern about motorcycle gangs.

Concerns about people living in trailers and tents on properties. By-law has been dealing with this. Landlords are trying to evict their tenants to raise the rent. Jay asked that he be notified so he can get help for these people. They approach them very differently and usually have good results in getting them help.

Travis asked about holding an open house to bring in experts. We are planning a talk about secondary units in house. This is for landlords as well as tenants. This is about the community coming together. Might be a good conversation for the “Let’s Talk” series. Susan will be advised.

Vacant Home tax is coming to council – Angie will pull this and ask for a report. There are too many vacant homes in the community.

Lori – passed around the Here and Now flyer for youth mental health with services around the Region.

5. Community Updates

None.

6. Action Items

Christine to create letter to be sent to Regional Chair.
Follow up with Susan for the “Let’s Talk” series.

7. Next Meeting

Thursday, November 7, 2019 1 p.m.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.