



MINUTES OF THE MEETING
November 10, 2009

PRESENT: Paul Armstrong, Mayor Paul Ayotte, John Bennett, Kathy Blackwood, County Councillor Brian Bartlett, Gayl Hutchison, John Martyn, Rosemary O'Donnell, Melinda Rees, Linda Saunders

STAFF: Susan Bacque, Cheryl Lyon, Linda Mitchelson, Chris McDonald, Dorothy Olver, Sally Samis

REGRETS: Christine McKay,

GUESTS: Kathy Neill, Anne Knellan (John Howard Society), John Kristensen (Tabernacle Court Apts), Glenn Moloney (Moloney Developments), David Johnston (Swirl in Motion), Walter Johnstone, Roy Brady,

1. Welcome ~ John Bennett, Chair

Introductions made around the room

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Consensus

Rosemary O'Donnell handed out an email from Carol Winters for attendees to read for today's meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES ~ October 13, 2009

M. John Martyn **S.** Gayl Hutchison

Carried

4. Delegations

None

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

5.1 Report on Provincial Housing Consultation to Council (time critical)

Cheryl gave update and history. There were consultations held around the province and a number attended the Lindsay session and MPP's session. This document will become the Council's official response to the Province.

Members put various amendments/additions forward.

Motion that AHAC endorse the document as presented by the Housing Division as amended.

M. John Martyn **S.** Linda Saunders

Carried

6. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES / WORKING GROUPS

Service Committee ~ 10 minutes

- Terms of reference handed out re: Property Standards Working Group.
- They have held two meetings
- Would like to bring three points forward from the Terms of Reference:
 1. AHAC seek representation from the City ~ Building Division - Kathleen Williamson and Dean Findlay.
 2. Also looking for representation from Fire Dept., Kawartha Native, Health Unit and Syd Green, Landlord Representative.
 3. Goals
 - To identify actions to improve enforcement of the existing property standards bylaw in rental accommodation within the City of Peterborough
 - To recommend a process within the County of Peterborough to make similar improvements in townships
 - To identify resources needed to implement recommended actions.
 - To demonstrate the depth of the problem through a needs assessment.

Motion to approve the allocation of a budget of \$12,000 and request letter go out on AHAC letterhead requesting Planning dept provide stats.

M. Melinda Rees S. Rosemary O'Donnell

Carried.

7. NEW BUSINESS

AHAC and the future

John Bennett explained the main reason for today's meeting and the invitation to a broad spectrum in the community, with good representation from the community in attendance.

- Where do we see AHAC going?
- What can we do to increase the energy?

John B. commented on the work of the CEWG regarding the Housing is Fundamental publication being one of the best educational tools in the province.

Councillor Eric Martin agreed that there were positive things coming out of AHAC, but he is concerned about the disconnect on the Supply side of AHAC. He suggested that a quarterly or biannual report be made to Council. He is interested in where it is going and encouraged committee to keep on with the work.

John B asked for reason on what attracted attendees to the meeting today. The John Howard Society commented that initially clients need transitional housing and currently is not available. Men who are charged with domestic assault are not allowed to return home for six months and because there isn't a place for them they house surf, etc. Also clients coming out of institutions may not have access to housing. There is a need for something for adult men. The numbers fluctuate between 6-15 who are in need of housing.

Cheryl Lyon gave a brief history of AHAC and it's beginnings in 1999. It was an initiative of the Mayor's office. A citizen voice was called for and met at Westdale United Church. There was a lot of excitement around housing and authenticity coming from the Mayor, much like the Poverty Action Committee of today. Ten years before that it was Peterborough Housing Advisory Committee (PHAC).

Susan Bacque asked what were the highlights for the people who were on the committee for that many years.

Highlights offered were:

- That the Supply committee produced a lot of printed work. But in 2003 we were faced with Canada-Ontario Affordable housing program. There has been a loss of energy at Supply table because so much energy going into AHP.
- There has been an excellent opportunity with the amendment to the Official plan with AHAC's input to the Housing Strategy. Out of the strategy will come a significant amount of work and it opens the door for establishing and developing 10 year plan and secondary suites. AHAC had a voice at the provincial consultation and has a voice on the Steering committee.
- That the two main aspects for housing are to keep people in housing and secure. Policy and Issues committee became the Services committee. AHAC funded a study on energy poverty, 2004, which has been recognized all over the country and has been a template for many. AHAC still has a role and to deal with the issues.
- Advocacy is most important role. Activities of AHAC including HIF have become the voice of AHAC.
- Susan B. and Linda M. commented on the effect of advocacy on the staff role. Can be joint advocacy, (AHAC, volunteers and staff).
- AHAC created to bring the voice together of people and government.
- Mayor noted that advocacy is something Council can deal with.
- Would also like to see move to strong advocacy. Advisory role is valuable. Would like to see AHAC look to recommendations in HIF and follow up on the research down on previous studies, i.e. Seniors paper.

John Bennett asked what should the work of AHAC be?

- Should shift to advocacy from advisory?
- HIF data is platform for very substantial advocacy
- Official Plan and secondary suites ~ input to City
- AHAC has provided important sounding board for city policy.

8. Motion to Adjourn

M. Mayor Paul Ayotte

9. Next Meeting December 8, 2009 ~ 2:30-4:30pm ~ Sutherland Room