



ACTION

**Homelessness & Behavioural Issues Task Force
Minutes**

Wednesday, September 4, 2013

12:00 noon

City Hall Council Chambers

PRESENT: Councillor Louis Roussin
Councillor Rory McMillan
Mayor David Canfield
Dave Lucas, OPP Detachment Commander
Debbie Lipscombe, Treaty 3
Randy Seller
Karen Brown, CAO
Heather Lajeunesse, Deputy Clerk

REGRETS: Joan Schelske
Jack Martin

Councillor Roussin called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

A. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest & the General Nature Thereof:

1) On Today's Agenda

2) From a Meeting at which a Member was not in Attendance

There were none declared.

B. Confirmation of Minutes:

Moved by D. Lucas, Seconded by R. Seller & Carried:-

That the Minutes of the last meeting of the Homelessness & Behavioural Issues Task Force held June 17, 2013 be confirmed as written and filed.

D. Items:

1. Draft Work Plan Approval

Councillor Roussin indicated that since the last meeting of the Task Force much research information has been presented and perused. He thanked Karen for her hard work towards the creation of the Task Force's Work Plan. A draft Work Plan was sent in advance to members and the main purpose of the meeting is to approve the draft plan. It was asked if there were any comments or changes to the plan. Karen mentioned that there are some minor edits to the draft but it is essentially complete. She indicated that she has taken all feedback and suggested changes into consideration and has applied as many as possible to make the document complete, without changing the purpose of the plan which is focused on lobbying the provincial and federal governments for support. The plan must be approved by Council prior to going forward to KDSB and Treaty 3.

Karen reviewed the changes that have been made to the document since it was first distributed. There was a new section added about the history of the area as well as examples of behaviours that are common in Kenora. The report aims to put the onus back on the Provincial and Federal governments and it is hopeful that it will be a good action plan to help move things forward to build strategies and make a difference. The report shows that support is needed to do something different as what is in place now is not working.

There was discussion on how the report can capture the mental health aspects that contribute to behavioural problems. It was indicated that the report recognizes there is much information available but shows that the first thing needed is a system in place so that the research can be done. There was discussion of outside communities that do not have the support services in place for the people who return after requiring services in Kenora, as well it was mentioned that transportation is also an issue for those trying to return to these communities. It was asked that this specific information be added to the plan in order to advocate to the provincial and federal governments that they have a fiduciary responsibility to assist with creating those support services. Karen confirmed that she can identify this in the plan.

It was agreed that the Task Force caution against specifying too much in the report as to not lose the intent. Strategies are directions taken to help solve the problem and it was agreed that this is phase one and we cannot move forward until we have the support of the Provincial and Federal governments. It was noted that these levels of government are depending a great deal on what is coming to them from the DSABs. It is felt that the KDSB is waiting for this work plan and it is hopeful that they will help the City generate the support needed. It is believed that the City will still have to follow up and keep researching what the final action plan will be. KDSB will have time to review the Task Force's report and provide some feedback for the City to take to OGRA to present to the ministers. It is hopeful that the plan will be rolled out to the senior levels of government as a partnership between the City and Treaty 3.

It was clarified that items will be clearly and specifically identified where the City will ask for support from the Provincial and Federal governments. There is a key need to focus on getting a community coordinator in place to do a review of Kenora and the surrounding areas. This may help determine whether or not there is a need to integrate service agencies and avoid duplication. A cover report was suggested to go with the Work Plan as another tangible piece to go forward to the higher levels of government with. It was noted that KDSB will be putting their plan forward to the Province based on what Kenora has determined what the local issues are and what we think needs to be done.

It was questioned if the group feels ready to move forward with the document to Council to adopt with the suggested changes. All were in agreement that the plan go to Council for adoption at the Committee of the Whole meeting Tuesday, September 10th.

Moved by D. Lucas, Seconded by R. Seller & Carried:-

That the Homelessness and Behavioural Issues Task Force adopt the Work Plan as presented and amended and forward it to Council for approval; and

That the City of Kenora submit the Work Plan to the Kenora District Services Board; and further

That the City of Kenora ensure continued follow up on the items noted within the Work Plan and pursue a detailed implementation plan for the community of Kenora.

2. KDSB Homelessness Survey

KDSB has asked for the City to fill out their homelessness survey and it was agreed that this will be done with assistance requested from various departments.

3. Next Steps

It was questioned whether the Task Force should continue to meet or wait for feedback once the Work Plan has been put into action. Karen indicated that she saw the development of the plan report as the natural conclusion of this Task Force. Several City members of this committee will be sitting on the Kenora Substance Abuse and Mental Health Task Force's new Housing Pillar and there may not be a need for duplication as the Fifth Pillar's plan is to continue to move forward with the issue. It was suggested that it might be time for this group to conclude that their initial work is done and it is hopeful that the individuals will be available to take on a follow up committee in the future after the plan is put into play with the higher levels of government. It was suggested that this Task Force meet once more to conclude their mandate. Mid to late November was suggested as there may be some feedback by then from KDSB as well as follow up with Treaty 3.

4. Meeting Schedule / Next Meeting

To be determined

Meeting adjourned at 1:03 p.m.