

MINUTES
AFFORDABLE HOUSING WORKING GROUP
March 7, 2019 –12:00 p.m. – Conference Room A, 4th Floor, City Hall

Present Simone Lilly, Affordable Housing & Development Facilitator, Chairperson
Jill Snow, CMHC (Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation)
Gail Thornhill, Stella’s Circle
Hope Jamieson, City Council Champion
Judy Tobin, Manager of Housing
Ayon Shahed, Choices for Youth
Bruce Pearce, End Homelessness St. John’s
Grayson Kelly, Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation
Emily Timmins, Poverty Reduction, Government of NL
Doug Pawson, End Homelessness St. John’s
Dawn Evans, Legislative Assistant

Regrets Victoria Belbin, Canadian Homebuilders Association NL
Andrew Harvey, First Light

CALL TO ORDER/ INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

Simone Lilly called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved – Ayon Shahed; Seconded – Bruce Pearce

That the agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting of the previous Working Group, dated December 13, 2018 were tabled:

Moved – Bruce Pearce; Seconded – Jill Snow

That the minutes of December 13, 2018 be approved as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS ARISING

Introducing new Affordable Housing Working Group members including:

The following Affordable Housing Working Group members were welcomed and introduced to the committee.

Grayson Kelly replacing Madonna Walsh (retired)
Emily Timmins replacing Aisling Gogan
Doug Pawson replacing Bruce Pearce (retired)

- a. Update and discussion on affordable housing initiatives

NEW BUSINESS

Information Note dated March 7, 2019 re: Affordable Housing Update

CITY OF ST. JOHN'S HOUSING NEEDS STUDY UPDATE: A new consultant has been engaged to complete the housing needs study. It is anticipated that a report will be forthcoming this Spring and the Committee will be kept apprised of the progress in this regard.

LAND INVENTORY: The Legal Department has been working with Non-Profit Housing to identify parcels of City owned land for potential projects. Once the process of ownership is confirmed, affordable housing recommendations for each parcel will be presented to Council.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGY: The Chair anticipates that a working draft of prioritized strategies will be available for the Committee's review. These strategies were developed in consultation with the various staff leads in each City department.

CENTRAL HOUSING WAITLIST: Work with NLHC and the CRA continues in attempt to streamline the application process. More information is reflected in the Information Note dated March 7, 2019 included in this Agenda.

HOUSING CATALYST FUND: The review panelists have selected four Housing Catalyst recipients and have submitted them to the Committee of the Whole for approval and subsequent referral to a Regular meeting of council.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FORUM: The forum took place with keynote speaker, Natalie Volland of Gestion Immobiliere Quo Vadis Inc. The Committee expressed great enthusiasm about her presentation and her social innovation approach for development in Montreal. The Committee agreed the ideas expressed merit future consideration.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROJECT: The Chair updated the Committee on the Strategic Doing Workshop which brought together various stakeholders (including CNA, Economic Tourism and Development, NL Power), as well as residents. The Workshop

is working on two projects as follows:

1. to look at energy efficiency through a curtain system
2. to complete an energy audit of units

The Committee will be apprised accordingly, as updates occur.

SUCCESSFUL TENANCY INITIATIVES: The “Rights and Responsibilities as a Tenant” informational pamphlet is now updated and reflects the *Residential Tenancies Act, 2018*. A copy will be available on the City’s website.

Information Note dated February 7, 2019 re: Affordable Housing Social Marketing Strategy

Shelley Pardy, Communications and Public Relations Officer met with the Committee to discuss the above noted. She provided an overview of the social marketing strategy which will unfold over the next nine-month period. It will focus on increasing the awareness of affordable housing, promoting available units and profiling individuals who avail(ed) of affordable housing

Information Noted dated March 7, 2019 re: Rental Control Legislation - Advocacy

Affordable Housing Working Group discussed rent control legislation in St. John’s. Additional information is required to determine if a letter of advocacy should be prepared on behalf of the AHWG. In this regard, Ms. Timmins agreed to share available information from Service NL with the AHWG.

“Evolution of Housing in St. John’s Project

The Chair spoke to the proposed initiative and stated that currently there is not a comprehensive history on the evolution of the housing projects in St. John’s and such work would be beneficial for practitioners in the field. Ms. Snow with CMHC suggested that research funding may be available for this initiative should the Chair wish to investigate

ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

Simone Lilly
Chairperson