



# Committee Minutes

## Affordable Housing Task Force March 17, 2022 – 9:30 AM

The Affordable Housing Task Force met on the above date through electronic means with the following members in attendance:

Present: Warden Hicks, Councillors McQueen, Burley, Keaveney, Soever and O'Leary

### Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Anne Marie Shaw, Director of Community Services; Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO; Savanna Myers, Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Culture; Scott Taylor, Manager of Planning Services; Liz Buckton, Senior Planner; Aaron Whitney, Manager of Facilities and Operations – Housing; Becky Hillyer, Planner; Heather Morrison, Clerk; Tara Warder, Deputy Clerk/Legislative Coordinator and Olivia Yale, Digital Communications Specialist

## Call to Order

Chair McQueen passed the chair over to Vice Chair Burley who called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

## Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations made.

## HDR-AF-05-22 Update Supportive Housing Project – 14<sup>th</sup> Street West, Owen Sound

Anne Marie Shaw provided an outline of the process to date, noting that Grey County purchased a property at 396 14<sup>th</sup> St West in Owen Sound for supportive housing units. A Request for Proposals was issued in January for an architect for plans to convert the building into supportive housing units. The selected bidder was Allan Avis Architects Inc. who has experience in affordable housing projects and are familiar with typical project requirements for upper tier municipalities.

Anne Marie Shaw then outlined the anticipated timelines with respect to concept designs and drawings and site plan approvals.

The Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has a funding stream called SEED funding for pre-construction costs. It can be used towards site surveys, planning fees, preliminary design, environmental site assessments, etc. In order to apply, the County needs certain analysis work completed and once this is done an application will be submitted.

AF03-22      Moved by: Councillor Keaveney      Seconded by: Councillor O'Leary

**That staff report HDR-AF-05-22 pertaining to an update on the 14<sup>th</sup> Street West supportive housing project be received for information.**

Carried

## PDR-AF-09-22 Public Lands for Housing Project

Liz Buckton presented the above noted report. She noted the need for more affordable housing. The Surplus Public Lands for Affordable Housing Project is one component of the broader workplan that is being undertaken by staff, as directed by the task force, to achieve this goal.

She noted that the tone of communications sets an intention for what is to be accomplished. The hope is to shift the conversation about affordable housing to a more positive tone, and to view housing as community infrastructure.

The initial component of the project is the project hosting component. It was noted that the "Housing for All" website is currently available online and further, a GIS tool is in the works which will be used for screening of properties to see if they are suitable for affordable or attainable housing. Process mapping and public educational materials will be on the website as well as a link to the GIS tool in the future.

She then spoke to the communication component, which will include messaging and educational materials, articulation of a tangible target informed by local statistics and specific housing needs.

The roundtable and liaison component will provide opportunity to get in touch with the member municipalities to have conversation around what lands are surplus.

The overall intention is to move forward with the workplan as outlined by Ms. Buckton and start looking at public lands throughout the County that may be surplus and could be used for housing. This first phase will commence over the next few months, and additional phases will continue after that.

Questions were addressed regarding partnerships with others, ways to respond to hesitancy from the community around affordable housing, resource and financial needs, the official plan, inclusionary zoning, and steps that municipalities are taking to assist in creating more affordable and attainable housing, among others. It was noted that housing is a complex issue that will require careful planning and messaging, as well as coordination with stakeholders.

*AF04-22* Moved by: Warden Hicks                      Seconded by: Councillor Soever

**That Report PDR-AF-09-22 regarding use of surplus public lands for affordable housing be received; and,**

**That regular updates be provided back to the Affordable Housing Task Force.**

Carried

## Next Meeting Dates

To be determined.

On motion by Councillors Soever and McQueen, the meeting adjourned at 10:44 AM.

Dwight Burley, Vice Chair