



PORT COLBORNE

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024 – 1 to 3pm

Port Colborne City Hall third floor committee room

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Chair Lori Kleinsmith, Bridges Community Health Centre

Vice chair Adrienne Harper, Niagara Region Public Health

Jeff Sinclair, Niagara Region Housing and Homelessness Action Plan Adviser

Joanna Mataya, executive director Community Living Port Colborne Wainfleet

Phil Licskai, District Commander Niagara Regional Police

Christine Clark Lafleur, executive director Port Cares

Kim Simons, Anchors Away

Regrets: Vicki Doidge, Niagara Legal Clinic

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT

Taralea McLean, Bridges Community Health Centre executive director

Judy Cassan, Bridges social worker

Councillor Tim Hoyle

Gail Todd, recording secretary

Regrets: Mayor Bill Steele, CAO Scott Luey

Sherry Hanson, bylaw services manager

Guest: Wendy Middleton, Niagara Transit

1. Chair called meeting to order 1pm
2. Approval of the agenda: moved by P. Licskai, seconded by J. Mataya.
3. Approval of the September minutes moved by J. Sinclair, seconded by P. Licskai.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

1. Fill position of vice chair

A. Harper will serve as vice chair of the committee.

2. Lodging bylaw update

Review of bylaw completed by legal. To be presented to city council at next available date.

3. Health services update

Health Services Working Group continues to meet with local health care professionals to deliver a made-in-Port-Colborne solution when Niagara Health closes the UCC and opens the South Niagara hospital in 2028. Port Colborne contribution suggested by NH is \$6.2 million, or about \$340 per person.

NEW BUSINESS

Niagara Region Transit Q & A with Wendy Middleton

W. Middleton, the new Client and Community Coordinator for Niagara Transit Commission, accepted the invitation to explain to the committee how public transit works. Members of the SDOH Advisory Committee said changes were difficult to navigate for them and more so for users without smart phones or computers, or with any intellectual challenges. She explained there was a major master plan study underway, to make transit simple and accessible for users.

There are three options of public transit: conventional bus, Micro-Transit (formerly On-Demand) and Multi-Modal transit.

A presentation is attached to the minutes.

ROUND TABLE COMMUNITY UPDATES

A. Harper reported Public Health continues to undergo significant restructuring, including setting foundational standards for health promotion.

C. Clark Lafleur reported food donations are way down while demand is way up. She is looking for support from groups, organizations. She and volunteers are baking up a storm for the Dec. 13 bake sale. The Chestnut Street apartment building should be finished mid-January, with occupancy in March. An open house is planned for February. The quality of the build is exceptional, she said with gratitude to Rankin Construction.

T. Hoyle said the Wave hockey association can do a Christmas skate and food drive to help the Port Cares Reach Out Centre.

K. Simons said Anchors Away received a \$15,000 Main Street grant for a new automated door and to upgrade computers.

P. Licskai said renovations to make the Port Colborne police station accessible were underway for the next three weeks. He said an additional police officer will join the team next year. Monthly walkabouts with the city CAO continue in the downtown core, to speak with business owners. Luckily, it's been quiet.

L. Kleinsmith said Bridges continues to accept new patients, and there is a guaranteed wait list of 80 people, who she's booking into the Spring. She said there are now two counsellors at each site (Port Colborne and Fort Erie) who offer professional mental health services with referral from a doctor.

J. Sinclair reported his team has been working with the City of Welland on a South Niagara shelter to accommodate 100 seasonal shelter beds tentatively by January 2025.

The Niagara Assertive Street Outreach team continues to be the best resource for people to call to report homelessness, their own, or that of others.

The monthly report on homelessness in Port Colborne attached to the minutes.

Next meeting

Thursday, Feb. 6 in committee room 3, third floor city hall, from 1 to 3pm

Adjournment at 3pm