

Task Force for the Elimination of Poverty Meeting
Wednesday, March 18, 2015 4:00 - 7:30 PM
Office of Councillors, City Hall

Minutes

Present:

Members: Mayor Don Iveson (Co-Chair), Bishop Jane Alexander (Co-Chair), Councillor Ben Henderson, Councillor Amarjeet Sohi, Justin Archer, Tiffany Linke-Boyko, Yvonne Chiu, Carman McNary, Dr. Joseph Doucet, Janice Melnychuk, Sarah Eadie, Zahra Somani, Dr. Louis Francescutti, Anne Smith, Mark Holmgren, Eugene Ip, Brenda St. Germain (ART Co-Chair), Sandra Huculak, Fiona Cavanaugh (IRRT Chair)

Guests: Chief Randy Ermineskin (Ermineskin Cree Nation), Tanis Liebrich, Catrin Owen, Corrine Saad, Brian Lee, Katie Soles, Sue Heuman, Gloria Chambers, Laura Templeton

Regrets: Minister Heather Klimchuk (Alternate: Gord Johnston), Daniel McKennit Jeffrey Bisanz, Kate Chisholm, Maria Mayan

CEO Staff: Lyaal Brenneis, Lucenia Ortiz, Patricia Waismann, Ward Antoniuk, Walter Trocenko, Kate Gunn, Bin Lau, Joshua Manego, Mark Torjusen

Minutes

Discussion	Actions
1. Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mayor Don Iveson called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. ■ Mayor Iveson welcomed Chief Randy Ermineskin and expressed his gratitude that the Chief could join the Task Force. ■ The February 18, 2015 minutes and the agenda items were approved. 	
2. Welcome and Greetings from Chief Randy Ermineskin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mayor Iveson noted that today marked the one year anniversary of the creation of the Task Force. He provided a brief history and accomplishments to date since its inception. ■ Chief Ermineskin expressed gratitude for the opportunity to be involved, offering to provide as much experience or knowledge as possible in the process of developing the EndPovertyEdmonton Plan. ■ Chief Ermineskin emphasized that the solutions need speak to our daily problems and as portable as the First Nations Edmontonians are mobile. ■ Chief Ermineskin articulated his excitement to work with the Mayor enjoyed the open discussions with the City. 	
3. Update on Process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bishop Jane Alexander opened with acknowledging the great body of work that has been completed by the Working Groups and the Round Tables through the recommendations. She is aware of the difficulty of bringing all of it together into one complete document. 	

She further noted it is a crucial turning point, and that the Task Force is challenged with coming up with new, innovative, and great ideas. All the work that has been done must now be captured and articulated in a meaningful way that gets people interested and involved.

Presentation of Initial Sort of Recommendations

- Katie Soles provided an overview of the Working Group Recommendations and how it was sorted and organized. The Working Groups generated 89 recommendations and 400+ actions within those recommendations. Many of the actions items could form the essence of the recommendations. These recommendations were developed through extensive consultations, speaking to Edmontonians with lived experiences of poverty. The sorting process involved looking at overlapping recommendations noting that they are not necessarily duplicating but cross-cutting and emphasizing their importance.
- Sue Heuman presented the initial organization of the recommendations under the following headings: Leadership, Changing the Conversation, Advocating for Systems Change, City of Edmonton and Community. She noted that the original wording of the recommendations was maintained as directed at the Working Group Co-Chairs meeting last March 13.

Discussion

- The discussion included comments and questions on the content of the recommendations and the process for further distilling the recommendations.
- Focusing on “who should do what” at an early stage would limit the conversation and prevent the Task Force from determining what things need to be done. On the other hand, it is important that authority, accountability and responsibility should be incorporated at the beginning to ensure that somebody or an entity has to be held accountable for expectations in the plan.
- Ensure that the recommendations focus on foundational elements, things that are essential and transformational to ending poverty in the city of Edmonton. It should answer the question: what needs to happen or change to eradicate poverty? What are the recommendations that will truly bring transformation and systemic change?
- There is value in specific and actionable items, reducing it to top 4 or 5 key things that are easier to grasp and engage people. However, there is also danger in oversimplification and focusing on short-term actions. There should be good balance of actions that are resonant and digestible and those that we can deliver in the long-term such as prevention or changing systems.
- Noted are the number of recommendations which are identified as City responsibilities. It will be helpful to identify City role i.e. service provider, funder, convenor, advocate etc. This allows the City room for collaboration.
- It was mentioned that a form of expert review would provide due diligence to examining the recommendations as it relates to best

A discussion for an in-depth conversation looking at leadership and accountability should be planned in subsequent Task Force meetings.

<p>practice. Given that the working groups felt they were not provided sufficient time to take on that research. However, engaging with additional experts outside the Task Force might delay the project and may provide no real assurances to its outcomes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Always ensure that the lived experience of poverty is anchors the recommendations noting that addressing racism and discrimination does not seem to figure significantly in the recommendations. ■ The groupings initially determined by the Task Force, which created the working groups, might be an appropriate sorting system as the working groups had already undergone much work in determining which areas were crucial to ending poverty in Edmonton. ■ The sorting process should look at intersections among the recommendations. ■ It became apparent that a larger discussion on the framework or platform would be necessary to provide context for the sorting of recommendations. ■ Many recommendations boil down to the concept of activism. In many cases, organizations and policies are already in place but not going far enough. The recommendations speak to a need of action, in both existing and new areas that challenges the status quo. ■ As a final note to the discussion, it was emphasized that the Task Force cannot fail on this work and that it would do a great disservice to the people if the plan cannot address the fundamental issues to poverty. 	
<p>4. From Recommendations to Transformation</p> <p>The previous discussion set the context for the conversation about advancing the recommendations to transformation. It focused on the need to have a coherent framework which would have key elements to embed the recommendations.</p> <p><u>Discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mayor Iveson explained how this process is essentially “as far as it can get” from the beginning. It is now time to funnel down from an immense and diverse body of work into something that is digestible and invigorating while recognizing that it will be messy and difficult and filled with grey areas. ■ “Do Whatever It Takes”: this idea was present in much of the discussion, driving home the need for the Task Force to truly come up with aspirational ideas to end poverty in Edmonton within the generation. ■ Task Force members contributed potential ideas that could be further explored in building the framework: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ART’s four-directions (mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual) were noted as being a strong framework to reference. An individual needs those four areas in balance to be a healthy person. ▪ A person-centred approach is one that puts the individual at the heart of solutions and actions; grounds the plan with their unique experience and 	<p>The two round tables (ART & IRRT) and the Project Team work on 3-5 frameworks that will be presented in the April 22 Task Force meeting</p>

<p>stories in their lives. Useful to identify archetypes that might represent these unique experiences and illustrate the issues and the actions needed to address those issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The framework could be a road map that represents an Edmontonians journey through life. This journey could define points of assistance and nurturing support. <p>■ In developing the framework, Task Force members also suggested the following considerations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify foundational facilitating and enabling elements ▪ Putting people at the center, looking at whatever is needed to allow people to succeed in life- was considered to be transformational thinking. ▪ Review demographic lenses and describe what can make a difference ▪ Ensure that when changing an individual's experience, it should also include how this could be replicated 100,000 times; a "passage plan for all" defined in people's lives ▪ The framework reflects those that we know the answers already i.e. housing and transportation; persistently from the people through numerous consultations i.e. first point of entry navigation and support and new territories that we can pursue in the long-term ▪ Use the poverty definition and address the problems within the community that damages people's lives ▪ Be aware that actions to end poverty must consider power and politic as they are important frames ▪ It was further noted that people need more than just housing, and need help along every step of the way. They need someone to journey with them as they overcome barriers and challenges in their lives and with the system. ▪ There was a concern that the four colonial structures described by the ART (economics, education systems, political systems, and religion) would permeate into the framework determined by the Task Force, which would then miss a significant purpose of the project. ▪ Allow the framework to be a "living project" where progress can be monitored and elements can be changed moving forward if necessary. 	
<p>5. Wrap-Up and Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ On April 22, the TF reviews and comes to consensus on a framework, it may be a hybrid one, or one presented. ■ TF needs to pull stand out recommendations, to highlight and feature priorities and foundational actions. ■ Consultation will happen May - Mid June. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ August report will be done for September to City Council <p><u>Closing Words</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bishop Alexander ended the meeting with a quote from a prayer from Oscar Romero "It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. No statement says all that could be said." There is a sense of liberation realizing that we cannot do everything. ■ Incredible work has been done by many passionate people, and it is truly appreciated and valued. ■ Expect a longer and intensive gathering at the next Task Force Meeting. 	
<p>6. Adjournment</p> <p><u>2015 Task Force Meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ April 22 ▪ May 19 ▪ June 25 ▪ July 23 ▪ Sept. 2 <p>Important dates:</p> <p>September 14, 2015 - Community Services Committee Meeting September 22, 2015 - City Council Meeting</p>	