

Task Force for the Elimination of Poverty Meeting
Monday, November 9, 2015 4:30 - 7:30 PM
Councillors' Boardroom, City Hall

MINUTES

Present:

Members: Mayor Don Iveson (Co-Chair), Councillor Ben Henderson, Councillor Scott McKeen, Jeffrey Bisanz, Kate Chisholm, Sarah Eadie, Eugene Ip, Sandra Huculak, Janice Melnychuk, Zahra Somani, Anne Smith, Fiona Cavanagh, Dr. Louis Hugo Francescutti, John Thomson, Dr. Daniel McKennitt (on the phone)

Regrets: Bishop Jane Alexander (Co-Chair), Mark Holmgren, Justin Archer, Yvonne Chiu, Joseph Doucet, Tiffany Linke-Boyko, Maria Mayan, Carman McNary

Guests: Rosey Dodgeman, Catrin Owen, Corinne Saad, Cody Spencer, Jay Freeman, Jan Fox, Rachael Putt, Lisa Weber

COE Staff: Lyall Brenneis, Kate Gunn, Mark Torjusen, Patricia Waisman, Walter Trocenko, Joshua Manego, Lucenia Ortiz, Kris Andreychuk, Dallas Dyson, Ward Antoniuk

Minutes

Discussion	Actions
<p>1. Call to Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mayor Don Iveson called the meeting to order at 4:10p.m. ■ The October 15 minutes and November 9 agenda were approved with changes in the sequence of the agenda moving the two presentations first before the discussion on the planning team and the What We Heard report. ■ Mayor Iveson ■ Mayor Iveson stated that the meeting tonight will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An Update on the creation of the Implementation Road Map Planning Team ▪ Presentation and discussion of the What We Heard Report 	
<p>2. Co-Chairs Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Low Income Transit - Council supported the expansion of the pilot to provide 500 more passes to at-risk youth; Council is working with the province to support the low income transit by exploring multiple sources other than property tax ■ Implementation Road Map Planning Team - the members of the Implementation Road Map Planning Team were presented to the Task 	

<p>Force. They include: Bishop Jane Alexander, Anne Smith, Maria Mayan, John Thomson, Lisa Weber, Rachel Venne, Gary St. Armand and Laura Templeton. This team will undertake the work of drafting the 10-year Road Map and reporting to Task Force for progress and feedback of their work. The team will start working in December.</p>	
<p>4. Community Engagement Presentation: What We Heard report</p> <p>Corrine Saad and Catrin Owen, EPE engagement consultant, provided an update of the engagement sessions held so far.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To date, nine sessions were completed with 289 participants attending. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Edmonton Chamber of Commerce - business ▪ Conversation café with U of A Faculty of Medicine -health ▪ Social Innovation Lab - young entrepreneurs ▪ Lived experience and front-line workers ▪ WAVE symposium - women ▪ City of Edmonton staff ■ The participants in these sessions gave a ringing endorsement of the EPE Strategy noting its broad scope, holistic strength-based approach and applauded its boldness in proposing the 28 priorities. There was eagerness for action. ■ Among the key pieces that the participants resonated with are: towards true reconciliation, broad definition of poverty, ending racism as a foundational action and addressing the urgent and immediate needs such as affordable housing, transportation and child care, livable income and navigation support. ■ Participants were also generous with advice on implementation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Addictions as an issue distinct from mental health and should be included ▪ Cultural wealth is as important as economic abundance ▪ Build on and capitalize on existing initiatives and innovations and incorporate them in the implementation plan ▪ Essential to engage people with lived experience ▪ Business be an important part of discussion on livable incomes ■ Twenty engagement sessions, including two online surveys are scheduled until November 7. <p>Motion: Task Force members unanimously approved the What We Heard Report.</p> <p>(For details of the presentation, please see Attachment 1)</p>	<p>The engagement report, "What We Heard" will be included as part of City Council Task Force report on December 15.</p>

<p>5. Presentation on the Affordable Housing Strategy</p> <p>Jay Freeman and Spencer Cody presented the Affordable Housing Strategy recently approved by City Council.</p> <p>The Strategy is roadmap to guide the City's involvement in affordable housing. It features new initiatives that aligns with housing priorities with EPE and includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ City will provide funding and land for affordable housing through an housing investment plan, new land dedication policies and fund development strategy ■ Work on developing the community development corporation ■ New eviction prevention strategy ■ Enhanced advocacy activities <p>(For details, please see Attachment 2)</p>	
<p>6. Presentation on Bissell Centre's Community Bridge: Prototyping an innovation in poverty prevention</p> <p>Mark Holmgren presented an innovative initiative at the Bissell Centre. The Community Bridge Program is a rapid response intervention that stops an imminent eviction and provides services and supports to ensure that the causes of eviction are addressed and prevent recurrence.</p> <p>The services and supports provided to individuals and families include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Bridge funding ■ System advocacy and navigation ■ Engagement with landlords, utility companies and service partners ■ Transitional case management ■ Re-housing (damage deposit, rent, hook-ups and moving help) <p>The program has helped 266 individuals - 139 adults and 127 children. To date, 85% of these individuals are still housed needing fewer supports than before. The Social Return on Investment is calculated at 3:1.</p> <p>(For details, please see Attachment 3)</p>	
<p>7. Towards a Movement Building Strategy</p> <p>Dallas Dyson presented a draft of a movement building strategy. This is the first iteration of the purpose, proposed approach and potential starting point actions to kickstart movement building. The Task Force provided some suggestions to incorporate in the next version of the strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Start documenting what people have done and provide specific examples 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Organize creative discovery sessions with selected people from the advertising industry and brainstorm ideas that people can engage in with a potential to unleash something bigger ■ Recognize that for some people what can be done in your neighborhood can be more appealing than city-wide efforts ■ Engaging people on what can be done in this work and build on this wisdom 	
<p>8. Wrap-Up and Next Steps</p> <p>Mayor Iveson reminded everyone that Task Force Report to Council is on December 15 where the updated EPE Strategy will be presented for approval. The project team will work with Task Force presenters on their presentation. He thanked everyone for the all their hard work and key accomplishments.</p>	
<p>9. Adjournment</p> <p>Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM</p> <p><u>2016 Task Force Meetings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January 21 ● February 11 ● March 9 	