

Minutes
Council's Response Committee on Housing and Emergency Shelter (CRCHES)
Committee Meeting
December 11, 2024 – 9 am
Council Committee Meeting Room, City Hall

Attendees: Councillor Gord Klassen, Councillor Trevor Bolin, Councillor Sarah MacDougall (virtual), Ryan Harvey, Bonnie McCue (recording secretary)

Guests: Christie Shilling

1. Call To Order:

9:00 am

2. Approval of the Agenda:

The agenda was approved by consensus.

3. Approval of the Previous Meeting Minutes:

The November 13, 2024 CRCHES meeting minutes were provided and will be included on the next Regular Council agenda.

5. Invited Guests/Presentations

Christie Shilling, Social Worker attended the meeting as an invited guest.

Discussions took place regarding:

The local situation of individuals in crisis following a change in circumstances including loss of stable employment, not being accepted as tenants when on income assistance perpetuates difficulties in obtaining housing. Solutions of providing incentives to guarantee rent and damages when tenants are in programs are challenging as rentals fall under the Rental Tenancy Act and Regulations. Stigma is a factor in providing units to individuals in crisis. The approach of an entire building providing housing to those in crisis was compared to single units across many buildings.

The need to continue developing housing solutions was expressed. Reduced vacancy patterns negatively impact the availability of appropriate housing.

Information about the Northern Health Intensive Case Management Team (ICMT) was provided, increased awareness of this service could benefit those in need. Human stories about individuals who are struggling can help public perceptions and acceptance. Building relationships is essential to meet people where they are, outreach is an important part of establishing trust.

Housing is not a municipal mandate, but can bring organizations together to serve this need.

Christie left the meeting.

4. Correspondence

- BC Housing and Situation Table Update

Received for discussion and information.

- Housing First Summary Report with Recommendations

Received for discussion and information.

6. Updates and Progress Reports:

- 2025 Committee Planning
 - Review of Committee Objectives and Deliverables.
- Communications Strategy:
 - Information Booklet prepared and presented at a COW in Feb 2025
 - Communication support for the Committee was supported – website, reports, purpose, and progress.

7. Ongoing Discussion Items

BC Housing Data – information is still not forthcoming, some progress is being made with the CAO's intervention.

A next step if the information is not provided is to recommend to Council that a letter be sent to BC Housing, copied to the MLA and Minister of Housing, and published publicly.

It was noted that the timeframes of any BC Housing vacancies are relevant information that should be provided.

8. New Business

None

9. Budget and Resource Planning

Grant opportunities for 2025 will be explored to fill gaps where needed. Staff will present grant application to the committee prior to submission.

10. Action Items

- Reschedule Car 60 representative to a future committee meeting.
- Schedule and prepare a COW presentation to Council.
- Prepare public document for local situation to be provided at COW meeting.

11. Adjournment

10:30 am