

CITY OF HAMILTON

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
Healthy Living Division

Report to: Mayor and Members Board of Health	Submitted by: Elizabeth Richardson, MD, MHSc, FRCPC Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services
Date: February 4, 2009	Prepared by: Vicki Edwards ext 3632 Angela Parle ext 5753

SUBJECT: Community Food Security Stakeholder Committee BOH07031(b) (City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

- a) That the amended 2009 Terms of Reference for the Community Food Security Stakeholder Committee contained in Appendix A to Report BOH07031(b) be approved.
- b) That the Community Food Security Stakeholder Committee 2009 Workplan contained in Appendix B to Report BOH07031(b) be received for information.

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Medical Officer of Health
Public Health Services

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Community Food Security Stakeholder Committee for Hamilton, formed in 2008, is working on its mandate to develop a food continuum policy and strategic action plan with community input.

The Committee is recommending three amendments to the Terms of Reference to allow for increased engagement with the public and greater collaboration with stakeholders.

The Committee has identified priority areas for action in its 2009 Workplan:

- Education and Outreach,
- Creation of local co-ordination networks,

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- Enhancing Community Food Access and Services, and
- Development of a Local Food Policy/Food Charter.

In order to adequately address the workplan activities, it is important to expand membership on the committee and create opportunities for broader community engagement.

BACKGROUND:

In 2007, the Board of Health approved a recommendation by Public Health Services staff to form a Community Food Security Stakeholder Committee with a mandate to develop a food continuum policy and strategic action plan with community input. The Terms of Reference for the committee were approved on November 26, 2007, Appendix A to Report BOH07031(a).

The stakeholder committee, administered under Public Health Services, is co-chaired by Councillor R. Pasuta and local resident, Dr. S. Wakefield. It also includes representatives from the Board of Health, Councillors B. McHattie, and B. Bratina.

Following an open call for applications, in the spring of 2008, ten community members, representing various stakeholders (e.g. agriculture, the environment, social services, emergency food services, research, education, food industry and the faith community) were selected for the committee.

In addition to three Public Health staff, four employees from three City Departments (Planning and Economic Development, Community Services and Public Works), provide infrastructure support to committee activities.

ANALYSIS/RATIONALE:

Committee Terms of Reference (Appendix A)

The Committee recommends the following amendments to allow for increased engagement with the public and greater collaboration with stakeholders.

- Expand the number of community stakeholders from 10 to 12 potential members, by the addition of stakeholders from the food industry and those directly experiencing food insecurity,
- Add a category for corresponding members who wish to receive minutes and/or access committee information,
- Define a quorum for committee decisions.

2009 Strategic Action Workplan

The committee has developed a 2009 Food Policy and Action Plan (Appendix B). The plan has four components as follows:

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Education and outreach. The key intent of this priority is to raise awareness about food system issues among Hamiltonians (e.g. access, sustainability). The options identified for implementation include the development of collaborative websites, and special events in partnership with stakeholder representatives.

A press release and open house to publicly launch the Community Food Security Stakeholder Committee are planned for spring 2009 to inform the public and roll out the committee work plan. The committee has scheduled open monthly meetings at the easily accessible Dundurn Castle Hayloft, with free parking.

Creation of local co-ordination networks. This priority focuses on expansion of local food markets and enhancement of economic growth through the establishment of formal networks amongst producers, food processors, wholesalers, retailers, and institutional food service providers. One of the committee's tasks will be to provide consultation to the Friends of the Greenbelt and Region of Niagara on a Feasibility Study for a Food Distribution Centre in the greater Hamilton area.

Enhancing Community Food Access and Services. This subcommittee will identify barriers and suggest/research/explore innovative solutions that improve access to locally grown, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food. This may include support for community gardens, gleaning programs or good food box programs.

Development of a Local Food Policy/Food Charter. The sub-committee will develop a food policy and make recommendations for moving forward, using input from the above identified actions.

ALTERNATIVES FOR CONSIDERATION:

The terms of reference for the committee could stand as previously approved, however this would limit opportunities for community engagement.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Financial: N/A

Staffing: Existing staff complement provides infrastructure support to committee activities.

Legal: N/A

POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:

The work of the Community Food Security Stakeholder Committee aligns with:

- Public Health Services Strategic Plan, 2007-2010, (Report BOH07023). Goal statements include: Implement public health initiatives to improve local air quality; and maximize impact on community health by advocating for environments that support healthy behaviours. Initiatives such as advocating for sustainable agriculture and local food sourcing can improve air quality and access to nutritious food for all.

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- City of Hamilton Agricultural Economic Impact and Development Study (Appendix “A” to Report PED07255) which includes the Hamilton Agricultural Action Plan task: Develop a rural Economic Development program which encompasses a local food strategy. Develop a partnership with the "Eat Local Program" and Public Health Department to promote the consumption of local food and retention of local food productions as a positive contribution to healthy living.
- Public Works Strategic Plan Top Priority: “Being the leader in the 'greening' and stewardship of the city.” Actions that are focused on strengthening the local agricultural economy and achieved through collaboration across city departments and with the community contribute to the greening and stewardship of the City.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION:

The following staff have reviewed and/or contributed to the report:

- Elizabeth Shaver-Heeney, Public Health Services
- Adam Watson, Public Works
- Susan Coverdale, Planning and Economic Development
- Brian Kreps, Simon Taylor, Community Services

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:

The Community Food Security Stakeholder Committee Workplan aligns with the city’s strategic plan for economic growth through an increase in total gross farm receipts, environmental stewardship, and promoting a healthy community through adequate access to food.

By evaluating the “**Triple Bottom Line**”, (community, environment, economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. **Yes** **No**

Effective policies and programs that maximize food security contribute to a holistic community-based approach to public health nutrition. Improved access to local, nutritious food benefits the health of our citizens.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. **Yes** **No**

The promotion of a more localized food distribution system will contribute to cleaner air quality through reduced transportation of food.

Foods systems or how food is produced, distributed and purchased, affect the quality of the air, the water, the biodiversity and balance of the ecosystem and the vitality of the natural environment. Improving the sustainability of the food system improves the environment.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. **Yes** **No**

Strengthening local and regional food systems fosters community economic development and supports livelihoods for farmers and farm system workers.

Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines?

Yes **No**

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Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants? Yes No

A viable and sustainable food system, serving the needs of consumers and producers, contributes to a food secure city.

Appendix A to BOH07031(b)

Terms of Reference for the Community Food Security Stakeholder Committee

Mandate:

To develop a food continuum policy and strategic action plan that will move Hamilton towards being a place where all community residents obtain a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes self-reliance and social justice.

Objectives:

- Develop a comprehensive community and city-wide policy that leads to community food security
- Create multi-sector partnerships and networks, including councillors, public health, city departments, non profit organizations, farmers and the volunteer sector to develop the infrastructure needed to achieve sustainable food systems
- Recommend strategic actions and specific policy/by-law changes to support and enhance community food security
- Raise awareness about food system issues among Hamiltonians
- Ensure that a municipal economic development plan supports
 - land use policies that facilitate urban agriculture
 - local food businesses in low income neighbourhoods
 - increased community capacity for self-reliance for nutritious food
- Support local farmers with Eat Local initiatives
- Support Food Disclosure Systems in the food service industry
- Keep apprised of relevant monitoring and research initiatives and identify potential gaps
- Encourage innovation and community development by providing technical support to local organizations (e.g. research, grant writing)
- Advocate for an approach to physical planning that provides for sustainable agriculture
- Ensure that the perspectives of persons and communities who are experiencing food insecurity are taken into consideration
- Develop and maintain an annual work plan

Membership:

Stakeholders (10-12) representing, but not limited to:

- the agricultural community, preferably a member of the City of Hamilton Agricultural and Rural Affairs Advisory Committee

- local environmental groups including Eat Local Committee
- emergency food service providers
- social service advocates and/or providers
- Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction (corresponding member)
- researchers
- relevant labour organizations
- food industry (production, retail and/or food services)
- those directly experiencing food insecurity

City Councillors:

- Councillor Bratina
- Councillor McHattie
- Councillor Pasuta

City of Hamilton staff (6 – 8) non-voting members/technical support representing:

- Public Health Services (3-4 with expertise in nutrition, policy and health protection)
- Community Services (1-2)
- Planning Economic Development Department (1-2)
- Public Works Department (1)

Each stakeholder group will assign a member to sit on the committee. At maximum, membership term coincides with the term of City Council. A person's membership ceases if three consecutive meetings are missed.

In the event that there are more than 12 interested representatives from the stakeholders group, members will be selected through an application and interview process and approved by the Board of Health and Council.

Alternates may attend when necessary, with voting privileges.

Quorum will be reached when 10 members are present, five of whom are community stakeholder representatives (exclusive of the co-chairs.)

Sub-Committees and/or Work Groups will be struck and appointed by the Stakeholder Sub-Committee as per need to address specific topics, issues or questions (i.e., Eat local policy committee for the city, good food box work group.)

Chair:

The Committee will have two Co-Chairs, one a community representative and one a Councillor.

Minutes:

Minutes will follow the City of Hamilton template. Clerical support from Public Health Services will compile and circulate minutes to members within seven days of the meeting. Minutes will be included on the Board of Health agenda for information and any recommendations needing approval would be included in a report from the committee Chairs. Minutes will be circulated to interested corresponding members.

Reports to:

Board of Health

Frequency of Meetings:

Monthly, or at minimum quarterly and also at the call of the Chair.

No meetings to be held during the months of July, August and December unless called by the Chairs.

Work Group or Sub-committee meetings will be scheduled as required.

Review of Terms of Reference:

To be reviewed on an annual basis, at a minimum.

Approved on: November 26, 2007

Amended on February 23, 2009

Community Food Security Stakeholder Committee 2009 Workplan
(January 5, 2009)

Objectives:

1. Develop comprehensive community and city-wide policies that lead to community food security
2. Create multi-sector partnerships and networks, including councillors, public health, city departments, non profit organizations, farmers and the volunteer sector to develop the infrastructure needed to achieve sustainable food systems
3. Recommend strategic actions and specific policy/by-law changes to support and enhance community food security
4. Raise awareness about food system issues among Hamiltonians
5. Ensure that a municipal economic development plan supports
 - o land use policies that facilitate urban agriculture
 - o local food businesses in low income neighbourhoods
 - o increased community capacity for self-reliance for nutritious food
6. Support local farmers with Eat Local initiatives
7. Support Food Disclosure Systems in the food service industry
8. Keep apprised of relevant monitoring and research initiatives and identify potential gaps
9. Encourage innovation and community development by providing technical support to local organizations (e.g. research, grant writing)
10. Advocate for an approach to physical planning that provides for sustainable agriculture
11. Ensure that the perspectives of persons and communities who are experiencing food insecurity are taken into consideration

Alignment with objective #	PRIORITIES	ACTIONS
2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11	Creation of a local coordination network/hub	Establish a sub-committee to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore different models of coordination/networking (e.g., commercial vs. non-profit/not-for-profit vs. city-led? Virtual vs. actual?) • Consult with and engage Hamilton stakeholders (local farmers, city staff, key stakeholders in the community including food establishments, restaurateurs, and community and emergency food providers) • Contribute to the development of a network (or networks) to bring stakeholders together to achieve community food security goals • Initiate the development of procurement policies that promote local food purchases • Provide support to the Food Terminal initiative being explored by the City of Hamilton and Niagara Region • Investigate existing programs to assess their applicability to Hamilton (e.g., City-supported food markets, good food boxes, Local Flavour Plus, online markets, farmer support programs, food animators) • provide information and make recommendations to the CFSS committee
4, 7, 8, 9	Education and outreach	Establish a sub-committee to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore possible education and outreach activities (e.g., a directory, a website, a display on community food security, sponsoring a speaker's series, mapping of food services, cooking classes, issuing press releases) • Develop an "education and outreach plan" for the CFSSC, and work with city staff to implement plan • make recommendations to the CFSS committee
1, 6, 9, 10, 11	Development of a Local Food Policy/Food Charter	Establish a sub-committee to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review existing charters • Determine purpose/value of development and utilization of a food policy in Hamilton • Make recommendations to the CFSS committee on if/how to move forward with the development of a food charter
3, 8, 10, 11	Enhancing community food access and services	Establish a sub-committee to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify ways to prioritize and enhance access to adequate, nutritious, culturally appropriate food for all Hamiltonians that do not overlap with the mandate/jurisdiction of other city committees • Identify priority areas and areas needing further research • Explore creative solutions to access issues (could include gleaning, farm market waste, good food boxes, transportation to food outlets, community gardens/urban agriculture) • Develop recommendations and an action plan and bring back to the CFSSC