

For Information Only

Hanmer Food Bank - Update

Presented To: Community Services Committee

Presented: Monday, Apr 03, 2017

Report Date Thursday, Mar 16, 2017

Type: Correspondence for Information Only

Resolution

For Information Only

Finance Implications

There are no financial implications for the City of Greater Sudbury.

HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The closure of the Hanmer Food Bank has been reviewed utilizing the Health Impact Assessment Screening Tool indicating that services are going to be negatively affected for people who are in a lower income bracket or are in need of food security.

Without the food bank located in Hanmer, clients from the area will have to access other food banks further away such as the one located in Valley East.

BACKGROUND

The Hanmer Food Bank (HFB) has been operating out of the top floor of the Fire Hall located at 4680 Lafontaine St., in Hanmer since pre-amalgamation on a rent free basis. The HFB had been operating under a volunteer driven model, and was open two days a month to the community. In the fall of 2016, Building Services issued an order to remedy an unsafe building based on a structural engineering report which identified issues around the loading of food in the building given the unintended occupancy of the HFB. Building Services also noted health and safety issues regarding means of egress for the HFB. The resulting impact of the order meant that the HFB would have to vacate the fire hall location. The City has been actively engaged and working with the HFB in an attempt to find them a new location in the Hanmer area.

Up until March 2017, the HFB has continued to operate, most recently out of the City owned Valley East Lions Club field house location at Lions Park on Regional Road 80 in Hanmer.

Signed By

Report Prepared By

Tyler Campbell
Director of Social Services
Digitally Signed Mar 16, 17

Health Impact Review

Tyler Campbell
Director of Social Services
Digitally Signed Mar 16, 17

Division Review

Tyler Campbell
Director of Social Services
Digitally Signed Mar 16, 17

Recommended by the Department

Catherine Matheson
General Manager of Community Development
Digitally Signed Mar 16, 17

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Ed Archer
Chief Administrative Officer
Digitally Signed Mar 16, 17

Locations Explored

The City has worked with the HFB to tour several sites including the former Desmarais Public Works depot and two schools in the area. The Desmarais site was deemed cost prohibitive given the large capital investment that would be needed, and the two schools sites could not meet the needs of the HFB.

One of the problems with attempting to find a location for the HFB is the fact that they have no budget available for lease costs. Even in a school setting, Boards are obligated to charge for cost recovery which would lead to a lease agreement worth several hundreds of dollars per month, which is currently not an option for the HFB. The HFB also needs to investigate insurance options and pay for a new policy for any new location that they will be leasing.

The City also discussed the possibility of locating a trailer on the Lions Club field house site in Hanmer. A trailer for food storage would have been accessible to the HFB who in turn could have accessed the Lions Club field house building on the two days a month that they offered services. The Lions Club ultimately decided that they would not be able to support the concept upon further discussion.

NEXT STEPS

The City will be working with the HFB to link existing clients to other food banks in the area, including St. Vincent de Paul and the Capreol food bank. Both of these food banks have indicated that they need more space to accommodate food and clients on a longer term basis. The Social Services Division will be assisting these food bank locations with ride cards for Greater Sudbury Transit to facilitate access on a temporary basis.

A report reviewing the overall food bank system will be brought back to the July 10, 2017, Committee meeting.