

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

- *Update to Area Municipalities and follow up (Sarah Hamulecki)*
 - Sarah is continuing to pursue endorsement of the Inclusion Charter with Tillsonburg, Norwich, East Zorra-Tavistock and Blandford-Blenheim.
 - Sarah sent a follow-up letter to Tillsonburg and Blandford-Blenheim requesting endorsement of the Charter. Tillsonburg will not be endorsing until a staff report has been presented to Council. No response has been received from Blandford-Blenheim.
 - East Zorra-Tavistock is presenting a report to Council on November 19. Norwich considered a report on October 22. Norwich deferred a decision and discussed the possibility of establishing its own inclusion charter. Sarah and Warden Ryan plan to propose a meeting with the Norwich CAO for further discussion.
 - Warden Ryan commented that it could be problematic for a single comprehensive Safe and Well Oxford Plan if a municipality adopts a separate charter. The wording in the Plan regarding the Inclusion Charter was reviewed and determined that one Charter is meant to be created for all area municipalities.
 - It was discussed that some large private sector companies are drawing back on DEI initiatives. The Action Coalition Charter addresses many of the concerns other companies are dealing with. It was suggested that clarification on what the Charter does and does not cover would be helpful.
- Grant Funding Model/Criteria (Sarah)
 - The Grants deadline was October 15. 16 applications were received, 7 of which broadly fit within the Safe and Well Oxford mandate. Other application themes were Food Insecurity and Seniors. A preliminary review of applications has taken place, leaving 2-3 applications for SWO to consider. Most applications cover operational costs, which are not generally covered by the policy, deeming many applications ineligible by County staff. The Steering Committee approved Sarah reviewing the applications on behalf of SWO given the tight timeline for grant approvals as she would not be recommending approval or denial, but rather commenting on alignment.
 - Randy commented that he found the policy criteria to be vague and without specific scope. The policy does not specifically state that ongoing operational costs are not eligible. Warden Ryan commented that it was intentionally

broad to allow for a variety of applications. A review of the Policy is scheduled before the 2026 County Budget.

- Summit - Planning and Agenda Update (Sarah)
 - Panel members are confirmed – 4 speakers from 3 other CSWB Plans – Pre-planned questions will be answered by each.
 - Action Coalition updates will be presented on placemats at each table.
 - A group exercise will take place to help inform the next Plan.
 - Wrap up may include a discussion regarding the Grant Policy.
 - Screens have been purchased and audio experts have been engaged based on feedback from last year and the inability to see and hear the presentations.
 - Attendance response is lower than expected. If the spaces are not filled by mid-week, the Committee will be advised to extend the invitation for open spaces accordingly.

5. Action Coalition Updates (Round Table):

- Oxford Housing Action Collaborative (*Randy Peltz*)
 - The Committee has been paused until the Housing and Homelessness plan is complete.
- Oxford Mental Health and Addictions Action Coalition (*Randy Peltz*)
 - No update.
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Action Coalition (*Ayesha Sajid*)
 - The DEI Action Plan will be developed by Ayesha and then input will be sought from community stakeholders. The first draft is planned for November.
 - DEI Action Coalition Webpage is being developed for the Safe and Well Oxford website, including possible training opportunities and resources.
- Domestic Abuse Resource Team (*Amy Maddess*)
 - Working on Femicide Prevention through the Leadership Table – applied for a grant for \$1.2 million over 3 years to fund the development of the Table
 - 16 days of activism planning is underway for November/December

6. Next Steps & New Business:

- a. Website Update & Communication Plan – ongoing (*Sarah Hamulecki*)
 - The Communications team will attend the Summit to take photos.
 - Bernia commented that Duane Kumala-Thomas, Operations Manager for the Downtown Woodstock BIA, might have some photos. Amy to provide contact.

