

Scott Frederick

I support the provision of a Daytime Hub in Guelph as outlined in the staff report. Wraparound supports and access to washrooms, warming and cooling stations, showers and personal storage etc. are obviously sorely needed. Due to our uncertain social and economic future the need for these supports will probably be needed more, rather than less, in the near future.

It should be obvious that these supports should be downtown. Supports need to be where people are. Nobody is going to hike a long distance to use the washroom. I understand that some downtown businesses want to have this service somewhere out of the core, but simply excluding this site from downtown without an alternative is not a solution. Forcing services for unhoused people out of the core will only result in a NIMBY backlash in whatever area the daytime shelter is placed, and will result in a return to our downtown starting point.

Our unhoused neighbors are as much a part of our city as anyone else, and deserve to be included and not excluded from city life. The proposed Daytime Hub has the potential to help integrate marginalized people into civic life and should be supported.