



Hamilton

**MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, December 6, 2013 – 10:00 a.m.
Rooms 192/193, Hamilton City Hall**

Present: Frank Brodnicki, Carolann Fernandes, Doug Fraser, John Kennard, Jeanne Mayo, Lorraine Meloche, Vi Morgan, June Noonan, Penelope Petrie, Bernice Price, Shirley Robinson, Mary Sinclair, Ron Smithson, Bob Thomson, Marj Wahlman, Emmy Weisz, John Winslow, Bill Wright

Regrets: Deirdre Chartrand
Mike Richards, Vicki Woodcox

Also Present: Carolyn Bish – Corporate Services (Customer Service, Access & Equity)
Bea McDonough – Public Health Services
Eleanor Morton – Recreation
Lisa Maychak (for Vicki Woodcox) – Lodges
Councillor T. Jackson

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Smithson welcomed the committee members and guests in attendance.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Additions to the agenda:

Under Item 5.1 – Updates on Hamilton Health Sciences AODA and ATS Eligibility Committee (M. Sinclair)

Under Item 5.1 – suggestion to Housing Subcommittee (E. Weisz)

Under item 7 – Handout (B. McDonough)

(M. Wahlman/P. Petrie)

That the December 6, 2013 agenda of the Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be accepted, as amended.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Emmy Weisz noted some typos which were forwarded to staff.

Mary Sinclair noted changes in item 6.1 (c) Housing Subcommittee. November date should be changed to December and December date should be changed to November.

(P. Petrie/M. Wahlman)

That the November 1, 2013 minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

5. BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

5.1 Committee / Subcommittee Updates

a) Age Friendly City Subcommittee

Jeanne Mayo advised that the next meetings are scheduled for January 2014 and therefore had no report.

b) Seniors Group Subcommittee

Bob Thomson advised that he had attended and open house the City had hosted regarding the web development project and completed the survey that was circulated. He stressed the requirements needed for seniors. Jeanne Mayo and Penelope Petrie advised that they had both completed the survey as well.

Bob also advised of a link on the Inform Hamilton website listing programs and services for older adults. Emmy Weisz suggested that members check out the Redbook on the Community Information Hamilton website.

In response to motions passed at the October meeting requesting that the Recreation Division broaden the scope of their programs and activities, particularly for ethno-cultural seniors, Eleanor Morton advised that she had met with her supervisor and they will be investigating ways to make the programs better. One of the ways will be having a blended seniors' rate for recreational programs and activities.

c) Housing Subcommittee

Carolann Fernandes advised that the notes from the November 21, 2013 meeting of the SAC Housing Subcommittee meeting were distributed with the SAC agenda material. She also noted that a Housing & Homelessness Action Plan presentation would be taking place at the December 9, 2013 Emergency & Community Services

Committee meeting and noted that it would be nice to see some of the older population present.

The Housing Subcommittee also submitted the following motion for discussion and approval of the Committee.

(C. Fernandes/M. Wahlman)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee write a letter to the Emergency and Community Services Committee stating that the Seniors Advisory Committee supports the importance of the Urban Hamilton Official Plan and the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan focus on complete communities, which include a mix and range of housing options for seniors, as well as a mix and range of incomes. The Seniors Advisory Committee is pleased to understand that this is a person-centered housing plan, regardless of age.

CARRIED

Discussion followed regarding Hamilton Housing, Social Housing (non-profit). Members requested that staff invite Gillian Hendry to a future meeting for clarification on how the process works.

Emmy Weisz advised that the City of Vancouver has changed its housing specifications. She would like the Housing Subcommittee to look into this for the City of Hamilton.

d) Transportation Subcommittee

Jeanne Mayo distributed information about the Pedestrian Mobility Plan (PMP) discussed at the November 20, 2013 SAC Transportation Subcommittee meeting. She provided some background on the PMP which is going out for public review with a 30-day response period. The SAC Transportation Subcommittee put forth a motion as the comments from the Seniors Advisory Committee for discussion and consideration of the Committee.

(J. Mayo/M. Wahlman)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee welcomes the Pedestrian Mobility Plan, whose purpose is to increase the walkability of Hamilton streets, with the following comments:

(a) The Seniors Advisory Committee urges Council to create the Mobility Advisory Committee (MAC) and recommends that a representative from the Seniors Advisory Committee be named as a member of this Committee.

(b) The Seniors Advisory Committee urges Council to allow the Mobility Advisory Committee to review all plans for reconstructed, upgrades, replacement and new development streetscapes and make

public any comments regarding any countermeasures that may be applied to any specific project.

(c) The Seniors Advisory Committee urges Council to include in the "Toolbox Solutions" the addition of more accessible public washrooms.

(d) The Seniors Advisory Committee urges Council to create an ad hoc committee to examine existing regulations and by-laws with regard to the use of mobility devices on sidewalks and make recommendations. The Seniors Advisory Committee also asks that one of its members be on this ad hoc committee.

CARRIED

Jeanne also advised that the City of Hamilton will soon install bicycle stations, which will allow people to borrow bicycles to ride. The SAC Transportation Subcommittee submitted the following motion for discussion and consideration of the Committee.

(J. Mayo/P. Petrie)

That, in order that older adults may take advantage of the shared bike program, the Seniors Advisory Committee requests that the City's Recreation Division offer courses to allow them to learn or relearn to ride.

CARRIED

Committee members welcomed Councillor Tom Jackson. Discussion took place with regard to pedestrian safety, i.e. two-way streets; formation of a safety committee for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists; improvements for pedestrian safety at Mohawk and Upper Gage; placement of bus stops. On behalf of Councillor Morelli and himself, Councillor Jackson ensured that the Seniors Advisory Committee has been very productive and has the ear of Council. He wished all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

e) ACPD Transportation Subcommittee

Mary Sinclair attended the meeting of November 26, 2013.

f) Seniors Award Event

Lisa Maychak advised that Michelangelo Banquet Centre on Upper Ottawa will be the venue for the Seniors Award Event on June 24, 2014. Nomination packages will be available in January 2014 via hard copy or on-line. They are also working on the sponsorship packages. The media will be brought on board to gather interest in the event. They are trying to keep the ticket price low, i.e. \$20.00. Councillor Jackson expressed his thanks to Lisa and staff for the work they've done to get this event together.

g) Hamilton Health Sciences AODA Committee

Mary Sinclair attended had a draft copy of the 5-year accessibility plan for Hamilton Health Sciences for anyone wishing to review it.

h) ATS Eligibility Committee

Mary Sinclair attended the ATS Eligibility Committee. Statistics for the period November 1, 2012 to October 31, 2013 were provided. Five wheelchair accessible taxis are now available, all belonging to Hamilton Cab. She advised that a bus shelter at the TransCab bus stop in Binbrook will not be installed this winter.

2.2 January, 2014 Meeting

Committee members decided that the next meeting would be held on Friday, January 10, 2014.

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION SHARING

7.1 The Committee welcomed David Christopherson, MP – Hamilton Centre, who attended to present the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal to Mary Sinclair.

7.2 Bea McDonough advised that one of her roles with the City is to promote a healthy lifestyle and, in light of the season of giving, she distributed a pedometer and flashing safety light to all members.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Members then joined together for some holiday refreshments, friendship and conversation.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, January 10, 2014, 10:00 a.m., Rooms 192/193, City Hall