



## Hamilton

**MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee**  
**Friday, February 7, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.**  
**Rooms 192/193, Hamilton City Hall**

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**Present:** Frank Brodnicki, Deirdre Chartrand, Carolann Fernandes, John Kennard, Jeanne Mayo, Vi Morgan, June Noonan, Penelope Petrie, Shirley Robinson, Mary Sinclair, Ron Smithson, Bob Thomson, Emmy Weisz, John Winslow, Bill Wright

**Regrets:** Bernice Price, Marj Wahlman

**Also Present:** Mike Richards, 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  
Trish – DARTS

**1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Smithson welcomed the committee members and guests in attendance.

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Additions to the agenda under Item 6:

- Heat Committee, Emergency Response (J. Mayo)
- Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (M. Sinclair)
- Mail Delivery (E. Weisz)
- Volunteer Committee Evaluation Tool (C. Bish)

Additions to the agenda under Item 7:

- News Items (E. Weisz)

**(P. Petrie/J. Noonan)**

That the February 7, 2014 agenda of the Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be accepted, as amended.

**CARRIED**

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None declared.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**(J. Mayo/S. Robinson)**

That the December 6, 2013 minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved, as amended. **CARRIED**

**5. BUSINESS / DISCUSSION**

**5.1 Update: Seniors Strategy / Older Adult Plan**

Mark Weingartner, Project Lead, attended to advise that during February and March they will be holding 3 conversations with seniors and stakeholders – social participation, aging place and communications & access to information. The first will be held on Friday, February 28, 2014 at 9:30 am at St. Peter's . The goal is to submit their report to the E&CS Committee and Council in September 2014.

**5.2 Tammy Partito, Director, Senior Homecare By Angels**

The Committee welcomed Tammy Partito and Brandi Barlow from Seniors Homecare By Angels, a private company that provide personal homecare for seniors. They discussed the services they provide and responded to questions from committee members. On request, they distributed a copy of their pamphlet.

**5.3 Committee / Subcommittee Updates**

**a) Seniors Award Event**

Lisa Maychak advised that the Seniors Award Event is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at Michelangelo's. The nomination packages are now available in both hard and electronic format. The deadline for nominations is March 31, 2014. Lisa had copies available at the meeting for distribution. Sponsors include Cable 14, Chartwell, Investors Group and Hamilton Municipal Health Care Credit Union.

**b) Age Friendly City Subcommittee**

No report – information covered by Mark Weingartner.

**c) Seniors Group Subcommittee**

Bob Thomson advised that this group has not met since November and are seeking direction from the Seniors Advisory Committee with suggestions on topics to research.

**d) Housing Subcommittee**

Carolann Fernandes advised that the Housing Subcommittee had met with Suzanne Brown from the City's Neighbourhood and Community Initiatives Division. They are meeting with different neighbourhoods and developing a strategy. D. Chartrand advised that she has a copy of the McQueston Neighbourhood plan.

Carolann also advised that discussion took place regarding the recent cold weather and the strike by elevator maintenance workers during the summer 2013. The following two motions were proposed and passed.

**(C. Fernandes/D. Chartrand)**

That the Seniors Advisory Committee respectfully asks that Council of the City of Hamilton include elevator maintenance in the vital services by-law as quickly as possible so that people with special needs who live in the community do not have to put their lives at risk.

**CARRIED**

**(C. Fernandes/J. Kennard)**

As a result of the ice storm on December 22, 2013 which left many people without hydro, the Seniors Advisory Committee respectfully asks that Council of the City of Hamilton make it mandatory for landlords, especially for vulnerable tenants, to maintain an emergency generator to meet their needs, i.e. respirators, dialysis and suction equipment.

**CARRIED**

Councillor Jackson informed the committee that the E&CS Committee would probably refer these motions to staff for a report and suggested that an invitation be sent to Building Department staff requesting that they attend a future meeting.

**e) Transportation Subcommittee**

Jeanne Mayo advised that comments were submitted and received regarding the Pedestrian Mobility Plan. The Walking Trails project is going ahead with meetings being held in March and June 2014. Snow removal will be the focus of the next SAC Transportation Subcommittee meeting with a representative from Public Works attending. Discussion also took place regarding a change of the signage on the front of HSR buses for Routes 1 and 5 and the following motion was proposed and passed.

**(J. Mayo/J. Noonan)**

That a letter be sent to Transit (HSR) requesting that the signage on the front of the buses for routes 1 and 5, including the letters indicating the leg of the route, be increased so that they are more visible and compliant with the AODA standards.

**CARRIED**

Discussion then turned to snow removal. Councillor Jackson commented that crews have been doing their best to keep up with this year's Canadian style winter. He expressed disappointment with the Snow Angels Program. He also advised that there is currently a motion before Council for the City to clear sidewalks similar to what Ancaster currently has.

Councillor Jackson then commented on the 2014 budget being deliberated by Council; Councillor Morelli and thanks to the Seniors Advisory Committee for their contribution in his memory to the SPCA; Bob Morrow filling in as Ward 3 Councillor for the remainder of this term.

**f) ACPD Transportation Subcommittee**

Mary Sinclair advised that Transit held public meetings were held in October. Annual meetings are a requirement of the AODA. ATS has received 4,000 applications since November 2012 in response to the new ATS Eligibility Criteria. It is felt that more public education is needed regarding TransCab.

**g) Hamilton Health Sciences AODA Committee**

Mary Sinclair advised that Hamilton Health Sciences has submitted their accessibility plan to the Province. Mary has a copy for anyone wishing to see it.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

- 6.1** Jeanne Mayo commented on the City's Heat Response Committee and the recent ice storm experienced by Hamilton. City staff and residents need to be prepared. Council needs to have an Emergency Response Committee and a member of the Seniors Advisory Committee should sit on this committee. Staff will invite staff from the Emergency Management Team to a future meeting.
- 6.2** Mary Sinclair that McMaster University is involved in the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging which is a national long-term study following men & women ages 45 to 85 for 20 years with the aim of finding ways to improve health of Canadians by understanding the aging process. More information can be found at [www.clsa-elcv.ca/](http://www.clsa-elcv.ca/). Discussion followed. It was noted that many studies seeking interested participants are posted on the bulletin boards at seniors centres and advertised in the newspaper.
- 6.3** Emmy Weisz requested that, in light of Hamilton becoming an age-friendly city, the Seniors Advisory Committee ask Council to write a letter requesting that door-to-door mail delivery be continued. It was suggested that this would better be handled through the consultation process for the Older Adult Plan.
- 6.4** Staff distributed copies of an evaluation form for Volunteer Committee sent out by the City Clerk's Office which will be used to assist Council in their deliberations to determine which committee will remain in effect and which will be disbanded. Comments received from Committee members will be incorporated into one submission.

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION SHARING**

- 7.1** Emmy Weisz advised that she is a member of the Ward 1 Southwest Hamilton Seniors Committee and she will be the liaison with the Seniors Advisory Committee.
- 7.2** Emmy Weisz has a letter from the Law Commission of Ontario. People can submit ideas to make changes to laws until March 21, 2014.
- 7.3** Ron Smithson has been a member of a McMaster program called "CanDrive". The final report has been issued.
- 7.4** June Noonan advised that there are 2 80-year olds and 5 90-year olds still volunteering at the senior centre she attends.

- 7.5 Vi Morgan advised that Bernice Price wants to see the City's Safety Committee resurrected.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

**NEXT MEETING**

**Friday, March 7, 2014, 10:00 a.m., Rooms 192/193, City Hall**