



Hamilton

**Amended
MINUTES:**

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

Present: Deirdre Chartrand, 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, Emmy Weisz, John Winslow, Bill Wright

Regrets: Mike Richards

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

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Smithson welcomed the committee members and guests in attendance.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Additions to the agenda under Item 7 requested by Emmy Weisz, Jeanne Mayo and Carolann Fernandes.

(P. Petrie/D. Chartrand)

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

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mary Sinclair advised that the Seniors Advisory Committee's annual report was presented at the February 10, 2014 Emergency & Community Services Committee and expressed disappointment that members had not seen a copy of the presentation.

NOTE – presentation is attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

(J. Mayo/J. Noonan)

That the February 7, 2014 minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved. **CARRIED.**

5. PRESENTATIONS / DELEGATIONS

5.1 Update: Older Adult Plan

Mark Weingartner, Project Lead, advised that an Information Report had been sent to Council as an update with timelines for the Plan and the consultations. He circulated a sheet and asked members to provide contact information for organizations they are affiliated with to be invited to the consultation meetings. Mark also advised that they are working at creating an Older Adult Plan logo.

Jeanne Mayo commented that she, Carolann Fernandes, Penelope Petrie, Mary Sinclair and Bob Thomson attended the session held on March 5, 2014 at St. Peters. It was well attended.

The next consultation session will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2014 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm at the Hamilton Public Library, Central, Wentworth Room.

5.2 Vital Services By-law - Elevator Maintenance and Emergency Generators

Committee members welcomed James Buffett, Superintendent of Municipal Law Enforcement who attended to discuss various City of Hamilton by-laws. The Vital Services By-law covers electricity and gas. The City of Hamilton will be notified 30 days prior to notice of a pending disconnect of these services and, if necessary, will pay for these services and go after the property owner.

Elevators used to be covered under the Property Standards By-law. However, they now follow the guidelines of the Fire Department. Low floor buildings are not required to have elevators. Buildings with 7 or more stories are required to have one working elevator. It was suggested that the SAC Housing Subcommittee discuss having elevators put back into the Property Standards By-law and bring back recommendations. Mr. Buffett agreed to attend meetings as required.

In response to the query regarding the elevator maintenance workers labour disruption, this is outside the jurisdiction of Municipal Law Enforcement (MLE) – if an elevator isn't working and there is a strike by maintenance workers, they can't go in.

Mr. Buffett responded to questions from committee members and was thanked for his attendance.

5.3 DARTS Survey

Committee members welcomed Don Ikeno, Audit Services. Council has ordered a review of the DARTS operation by Audit Services. Audit Services will be

conducting a survey of 11 stakeholder groups, including the Seniors Advisory Committee. Mr. Ikeno briefly described the survey, expectations and important features, and deadline date of March 21, 2014. He responded to questions from members and distributed the survey to interested members.

6. BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

6.1 Committee / Subcommittee Updates

a) Seniors Award Event

Lisa Maychak advised that ticket sales will begin soon at various locations in the City. Ticket cost will be \$20.00. She encouraged everyone consider nominating someone. The selection process will begin in April. The judging panel will be finalized soon.

b) Housing Subcommittee

Carolann Fernandes provided an update on recent SAC Housing Subcommittee meetings. A request has been received from the Hamilton Council on Aging for a report on housing needs and issues to include in the HCoA June report. Subcommittee members feel that housing needs should be a major part of the presentation to the Emergency & Community Services.

A report from the SAC Housing Subcommittee dated March 2014, is attached as Appendix B to these minutes.

Jeanne Mayo urged members to attend the consultation sessions for the Older Adult Plan. Many of these issues will form a very significant part of the plan.

The following motion was presented by the SAC Housing Subcommittee for discussion and approval.

(C. Fernandes/M. Sinclair)

Given that the City of Hamilton is developing an Older Adult Strategy, the Seniors Advisory Committee moves that the Community Information Services, including the Disability Information Service Helpline (DISH) and the Housing Help Centre, be approached to compile an information section in their databases specific to housing and associated services that enable older adults to age in place and that they provide this in a variety of formats, i.e. audio, visual, electronic and print.

CARRIED.

c) Transportation Subcommittee

Jeanne Mayo advised that the Walking Trails audit is near completion and a training session for volunteers will be held. A pamphlet outlining trails and their degree of difficulty/walkability will be made. Kelly Barnett and Bob Paul attended the last meeting of the SAC Transportation Subcommittee to discuss snow removal. There is a by-law in place stating that it is the obligation of the property

owner to clear sidewalks and provide access to the street if the property is on a corner lot. Discussed show plowing vs. snow removal.

d) ACPD Transportation Subcommittee

Mary Sinclair advised that Keith Andrews from HSR attended the February meeting to discuss various issues including boarding/deboarding for passengers using mobility devices, the MacNab bus terminal and snow removal from bus stops. ATS provided updates regarding Trans-Cab service in the Binbrook area. Taxi staff will be attending the next meeting.

e) Hamilton Health Sciences AODA Committee

There was no meeting of this committee in February. Mary Sinclair advised that she has been meeting with a HHS Human Resources staff member and toured the Juravinski Hospital to point out accessibility issues. Mary has also visited St. Peter's Hospital. Chedoke is next on her list.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Emmy Weisz attended a meeting of the South-west Hamilton Seniors Planning Committee. There is much overlapping between organizations on seniors issues.

7.2 Emmy Weisz advised that the Provincial government has announced that they were making \$530,000 in grant dollars available to assist seniors in becoming socially engaged.

7.3 Vi Morgan advised that the Heat Response Committee has been re-established and the next meeting will be on April 3, 2014 in the basement of the Lister Block.

7.4 Jeanne Mayo announced that the Older Adult Network is organizing activities for Seniors Month in June. There will be a Seniors Month Kick-off at Hamilton City Hall on May 30 and she suggested that the Seniors Advisory Committee get involved. The next meeting of the Older Adult Network is on March 18, 2014. Jeanne volunteered to attend on behalf of the Seniors Advisory Committee.

Eleanor Morton has provided Carolyn Bish's name to Diana Desimone to distribute material from the Older Adult Network to members of the Seniors Advisory Committee.

7.5 Bill Wright inquired about the October election process. Councillor Jackson responded that, following the election and swearing in of the new Council, the application, interview and appointment process for the new Volunteer Advisory Committees would take place. The current Seniors Advisory Committee will remain in place until this process is completed and a new committee has been formed.

7.6 Bea McDonough suggested that a representative from Public Health Inspections be invited to a future meeting to hear about an entirely different set of by-laws.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION SHARING

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, April 4, 2014, 10:00 a.m., Rooms 192/193, City Hall



CITIZEN COMMITTEE REPORT

To:	Chair and Members Emergency & Community Services Committee
From:	Ron D. Smithson, Chair Seniors Advisory Committee _____
Date:	February 10, 2014
Re:	Seniors Advisory Committee – Annual Presentation (Report SAC14-005)

The Seniors Advisory Committee presently has 19 members. We meet the first Friday of each month except July and August. Councillors Morelli and Jackson, assigned to this committee, are a great help and resource.

The committee has four subcommittees – Housing, Transportation, Seniors Groups and Age Friendly City. The use of subcommittees helps to streamline the SAC meeting so that we get more accomplished.

SAC representatives also sit on the following committees – Community Heat Response, Gore Park, ACPD Transportation Subcommittee, Walk Ability Committee, Senior of the Year Event Committee and Hamilton Health Sciences AODA Committee. The LRT Committee was completed in 2013 and the Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Program stopped in 2013.

SAC formally responded to seven of the KPMG options for service delivery that affect seniors. The committee agreed with 4 items, disagreed and provided comments on 2 items and requested further information on 2 items.

SAC was concerned with adequate staffing to facilitate an emergency evacuation and the need for sprinkler systems in Long Term Care facilities. A motion was passed and a letter sent to the Provincial Health Minister and LHINs dually signed by the Mayor and the Chair of the Seniors Advisory Committee. A response was received from LHIN advising that our request had been forwarded to the Provincial Compliance Improvement Branch. The letter also stated that the Ministry encourages Long Term Care Homes (LTCH) to obtain professional technical advice and consult with their local fire officials for recommended measures that would improve fire safety in the LTCHs.

Letters were sent to HSR on a number of issues, as follows:

- a request for the addition of a park 'n ride location in the east and west ends of the City
- a request that the \$6 fee for a first time buyer of a senior pass be waived
- a request for a bus shelter on Rymal Road to connect with the TransCab connection to Binbrook

As a result of fare parity legislated by the AODA, the Golden Age Pass was extended to ATS passengers.

SAC members attended HSR public meetings in October. Many questions were raised. The meetings mainly focussed on Accessible Transportation Services.

The Seniors Advisory Committee passed several motions and submitted recommendations, as follows:

- the starting age for Old Age Security benefits remain at age 65, not age 67
- the City of Hamilton not incorporate 100% accessible taxis as they don't meet the need for all. The Committee does feel, however, that accessible taxis should be available on demand for those who require them.
- comments regarding Pedestrian Mobility Plan
- supporting the importance of the Urban Hamilton Official Plan and the Housing and Homelessness Action Plan
- requesting that the Recreation Division broaden the scope of their programs and activities, particularly for ethno-cultural seniors, by offering diverse, culturally sensitive and appropriate activities

The following delegations were received by the committee members for interest or to obtain feedback. They included:

- John Verbeek, Assistant Chief Fire Prevention Officer re Fire Safety/Prevention, Suggestions for Fire Plans
- Sally Radisic, Public Health Services re Air Quality Health Index
- Shawn DeJager re Accessible Taxi Request for Proposal
- Jane Soldera and Mark Weingartner, Community Services Department re Senior Strategy
- Bill Atanas and Erica Brimley from Ontario Works Benefit Eligibility Division re special supports for seniors provided by the City of Hamilton
- Nancy Purser, Transit Support Service re Presto Card as it relates to seniors' fares
- Bea McDonough on behalf of the SAC Housing Subcommittee with a report on Seniors Housing
- David Brodati, Housing Services re the report - What We Heard ... Talking to People about Housing & Homelessness in Hamilton
- Dr. Margaret Denton and Denise O'Connor from the Hamilton Council on Aging regarding report Hamilton: A City for ALL Ages – Three Years On
- Dan Hara, Jason Dowlatabadi from Hara Associate, Jim Bruzzese from BMA Management Consulting and Ritta Nazi from Parking & Bylaw Services re Taxi Study
- Ritta Nazi, Parking & Bylaw Services re Accessible Taxis and Driver Training
- Nancy Purser from Transit re Golden Age Presto Pass
- Mark Weingartner, Colin McMullan and Paul Johnson from Neighbourhood & Community Initiatives Division re update on Senior Strategy

Bernice Price and Mary Sinclair were presented with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

The winter season is here again and snow clearing remains a problem. Snowplows block the corners at intersections making it difficult, if not impossible, for seniors to cross the road.

On behalf of the Seniors Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton, I would like to thank the Emergency & Committee Service Committee for allowing me to present you a summary of the Seniors Advisory Committee activities for 2013.

APPENDIX B to Seniors Advisory Committee Minutes of March 7, 2014



Hamilton

Seniors Advisory Committee Housing Subcommittee Report to Seniors Advisory Committee at their meeting of March 7, 2014

It is apparent after all the discussions and consultations that the SAC Housing Subcommittee group held over the past months that there needs to be an increased awareness about the housing needs of seniors in the City of Hamilton.

By 2021, (only seven years from now) it is predicted that seniors will outnumber children. Since housing is key to the quality of life and health & safety of seniors, it is vital to ensure that the City of Hamilton needs to offer a continuum of housing options and service choices to respond to the aging population.

Population aging will:

- a) influence and shape community planning
- b) increase demand for greater housing options
- c) require innovative approaches and deliver services
- d) necessitate transportation solutions

As the overwhelming majority of seniors wish to remain in their homes and communities for as long as possible, it would fall on the Planning Department of the City of Hamilton to determine how the wishes of the senior cohort can be achieved.

For those seniors who choose to stay where they are, consideration should be given to:

- home renovations or home adaptations
- secondary units, i.e. renting out so seniors can continue to live at home
- home sharing, co-sharing
- alternative housing, i.e. intergenerational housing

Existing housing needs to respond to the aging cohort by:

- appropriate adaptations being made
- proper management practices installed
- access to services improved

The less mobile aging population would:

- broaden the range of housing for aging in place to happen
- revitalize current communities
- enhance transportation
- broaden access to services

Existing housing stock (dedicated to seniors) needs to respond by:

- rehabilitation through renovation for affordable rentals
- ownership geared to income
- supportive housing for those seniors with low and moderate income

It is critical to ensure that age friendly planning and development engage seniors in the discussions and that housing is located in age friendly settings. Systemic housing barriers should be resolved in partnership with local communities through collaborative approaches taken by the City of Hamilton and its service providers.