



MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, September 5, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.
Council Chambers, Hamilton City Hall

Present: Deirdre Chartrand, Carolann Fernandes, Douglas Fraser, John Kennard, Jeanne Mayo, Vi Morgan, Penelope Petrie, Bernice Price, Mary Sinclair, Ron Smithson, Bob Thomson, Marj Wahlman, Emmy Weisz and John Winslow

Regrets: Frank Brodnicki, Shirley Robinson, Lorraine Meloche, Bill Wright and June Noonan

Also Present: Mike Richards, Deb Thomas – Corporate Services (Customer Service, Access & Equity)
Eleanor Morton – Community & Emergency Services (Recreation)
Lisa Maychak – Community & Emergency Services (Lodges)

Guests: John Hawker, Mark Weingartner (Community & Emergency Services)

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Ron Smithson welcomed the Committee members and guests in attendance.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Item 6.3 will go ahead of Item 6.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Smithson made a request for errors or omissions to the Minutes. Request to remove of the last sentence in 6.1 e).

(P. Petrie/M. Wahlman)

That the June 5, 2014 Minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved, as amended. **CARRIED.**

5. PRESENTATIONS / DELEGATIONS - None

6. BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

6.3 Follow Up from June Meeting re Age Friendly City Preliminary Report

Mark Weingartner advised that the Report will be going to the September 22 Emergency and Community Services Committee. The full Report will be available to the members of the Seniors Advisory Committee the following week on the website. An Executive Summary (8 pages) has also been prepared as a separate document and will be sent to the Committee members.

Two meetings were held with eight to ten members of the Seniors Advisory Committee to obtain further feedback before completion of the Report. Jeanne Mayo thanked Mark and Denise O'Connor for putting the document together. It was noted that the members should be proud of the document being presented to Council and suggested that Ron Smithson attend as the representative on behalf of the Seniors Advisory Committee. Ron agreed to be present. The Seniors Advisory Committee will endorse the Report and talk a little about their participation.

6.1 Committee / Subcommittee Updates

a) Seniors Award Event – Lisa Maychak

The event was a great night and success with over 600 people in attendance. Please provide any positive/negative feedback to Lisa Maychak. Lisa will continue to come to the meetings to bring forward any updates. Carolann Fernandes commented on the absence of cultural nominees and suggested an increased outreach to the community. A person suggested as a good resource is Evelyn Myrie at the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion. If anyone has additional contacts, please forward to Lisa.

b) Housing Sub-committee – Carolann Fernandes

The Sub-committee met three times over the summer months and is working on a Housing Resource Guide. Halton's was used as a reference. Once the draft is ready it will be provided to the City for approval. Carolann asked about who would pay for the printing of the guide and any subsequent updates. It was noted that because the Guide will be approved by the City, the City will be responsible for printing, publishing and future updates.

The Sub-committee will meet twice per month going forward in order to finish the work on the Guide. Carolann noted that Bea McDonough was the driving force for this initiative. Mary advised members that a report dealing with why there isn't more accessible housing will be going to E&CS on Monday September 8 at 1:30 p.m. in Council Chambers.

c) Transportation Sub-committee – Jeanne Mayo

Jeanne noted that the Sub-committee has not been as active. The project of the Snow Removal Booklet was presented in February with some criticism. Met again in May and further comments will be presented at the September meeting. Recommendations are expected in October.

The Hamilton Council on Aging is working on a booklet providing walkable trails in Hamilton. Workshops are also coming and members will be kept posted. The current challenge is the maps. It was mentioned that phones are needed on the trails and Jeanne confirmed that some of the trails do have phones. Phones and washrooms will be clearly marked.

d) ACPD Transportation Sub-committee – Mary Sinclair

Mary noted that the Sub-committee met over the summer and discussed the slope at the McMaster Children's Hospital. HSR policies for vulnerable people (i.e. wheelchairs) were also discussed. The newer buses have a specific space for wheelchairs and a seatbelt must be used.

Seventy-five percent of new applicants do not use mobility devices and do not need big buses. The matter needs to be further discussed with Accessible Transit. It was suggested members get in touch with Owen Quinn or Chris van Berkel.

e) HHS AODA Committee – Mary Sinclair

No summer meetings.

f) Older Adult Network – Deidre Chartrand

No summer meetings.

6.2 Review & Approve 4-year SAC Report to E&CS

Ron noted that the information in the report is achievements of the Committee over the past 4 years. One change requested – number of members who received the Queen's Jubilee was 3.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 None.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION SHARING

8.1 Cooling Heating Centres – Question was asked as to how the people would get there. The usual methods were noted: driving, walking and public transit. Mike Richards advised that staff at the Municipal Service Centres are aware and ready for these situations. As to an established method to get to the Centres, Mike will look further into the matter.

8.2 Postal Delivery to Seniors – Changes coming from Canada Post will affect seniors getting their mail as they are promoting community boxes. The City has expressed opposition. It was noted that seniors will give up a big right to privacy if they need someone else to pick up their mail. Mike Richards noted that they have noted exceptions (i.e. doctor's note). Committee can support Council in its decision. John Hawker suggested anyone who has access should watch the item as it was debated at GIC. Bernice Price suggested that whoever dreamed up the mailbox idea should go back to sleep!

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – Friday, October 3, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.