



MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, October 3, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.
Rooms 192/193, Hamilton City Hall

Present: Carolann Fernandes, Frank Brodnicki, Douglas Fraser, John Kennard, Jeanne Mayo, Vi Morgan, Penelope Petrie, Mary Sinclair, Ron Smithson, June Noonan, Bob Thomson, Shirley Robinson, Marj Wahlman, Emmy Weisz and John Winslow

Regrets: Deirdre Chartrand, Bernice Price, Lorraine Meloche and Bill Wright

Also Present: Mike Richards, Deb Thomas – Corporate Services (Customer Service, Access & Equity)

Guests: Mark Weingartner, Vicki Woodcox (Community & Emergency Services), Liz Conti (Public Health Services) and John Hawker

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(M. Wahlman/V. Morgan)

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

5. PRESENTATIONS / DELEGATIONS - None

6. BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

6.1 Committee / Subcommittee Updates

a) Housing Sub-committee – Carolann Fernandes

Bea McDonough's replacement, Liz Conti, was welcomed.

Gord Morrow met with the Sub-committee on September 25th regarding co-housing and advising that this is still in its infancy.

November 21st is National Housing Day and to celebrate "The Great Art of Living, Housing and Aging in Hamilton" event will be held to discuss housing and aging in Hamilton. This is a free event and Carolann has registered all Housing Sub-committee members.

The Sub-committee is committed to completing the Resource Guide and will be meeting twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays. A draft is expected to be in place by February 2015. Bob Thomson is assisting the Sub-committee with his computer expertise.

One of the challenges of the Resource Guide is how the information will affect seniors. Demographics are needed. The perception is that senior as doing well in housing. Vicki Woodcox suggested the Sub-committee work with Gillian Hendry and extend an invitation to Gillian to attend the Sub-committee meetings, if available. Mary Sinclair noted that she had met with Gillian during the summer and was advised that a motion was required. Mary noted that since Bea McDonough's absence, it has been difficult making the necessary staff connections. Jeanne Mayo wanted to point out that since City Council passed the Older Adult Plan, would it not be City Housing's mandate to work with the Sub-committee to produce the Resource Guide?

The Seniors Advisory Committee, after discussion, decided to put forward the following Motion:

(C.Fernandes/P.Petrie)

Whereas the City of Hamilton adopted Hamilton's Plan for an Age Friendly City. Therefore the Seniors Advisory Committee requests that City Housing collaborate with the Seniors Advisory Committee Housing Sub-Committee to provide pertinent information to complete the Resource Guide as it pertains to Objective 1.1 of Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City.

CARRIED.

b) Transportation Sub-committee – Jeanne Mayo

Jeanne Mayo shared the “SOS – Snow Off Sidewalks” pamphlet. Five items were discussed as proposed changes to the pamphlet. The Seniors Advisory Committee through its Transportation Sub-committee put forward the following Motion:

(M.Sinclar/J.Mayo)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee prepare a memo to parking and By-law Services requesting the changes to the “SOS – Snow Off Sidewalks” pamphlet as proposed by the Transportation Sub-committee.

1 Opposed
CARRIED.

Penelope Petrie, as a member of the Let’s Take a Walk Committee, provided that the new booklet to be published promotes 18 trails in the City of Hamilton. The Seniors Advisory Committee through its Transportation Sub-committee put for the following Motion:

(P.Petrie/J.Mayo)

That The Seniors Advisory Committee purchase 20 copies of the Let’s Take a Walk Booklet at \$7.00 each to be distributed to each member of the Committee.

1 Opposed
CARRIED.

The Transportation Sub-committee is looking at mobility in regard to an age-friendly city. The Sub-committee will be looking at devices on sidewalks as their next project and reviewing regulations regarding the use of mobility devices on sidewalks and enforcement. Mary Sinclair noted that the sidewalks are so terrible that people in wheelchairs are moving to the roadway.

The next Transportation Sub-committee meeting will be Tuesday, October 15 at 3:00 p.m. if anyone would like to join.

c) ACPD Transportation Sub-committee – Mary Sinclair

Mary Sinclair advised that the Sub-committee has been trying since February to have someone speak to the group regarding HSR buses and the following issues: requesting the bus to “kneel” and some bus drivers do not want wheelchairs entering from the front door.

d) HHS AODA Committee – Mary Sinclair

No meeting since spring.

e) Older Adult Network – Deidre Chartrand

Deidre Chartrand was not available

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 7.1** Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City Executive Summary – The full report is being finalized and will be available to the Committee members once completed. The next meeting of the Age Friendly Committee will be on October 28.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION SHARING

- 8.1** Committee Applications – The Committee members suggested an outreach to the community by the members to have more applications put forward at the time they are requested. Further discussion included: members for committee should include geographical, diversity, age and frequency of meetings would encourage commitment.

8.2 Report from City Clerk's Office to GIC

A report from the City Clerk's Office was sent to the General Issues Committee recommending changes regarding the advisory committees as follows: configuration of committees; less committees/less meetings; number of committee meetings per year; length of time on committee; etc. The report was referred back to Council. The Committee members discussed and commented that they would like this Committee to keep the number of members and continue to meet on a monthly basis.

Mary Sinclair of the Seniors Advisory Committee put forward the following Motion:

That the number of members on the Seniors Advisory Committee remain between 15 and 19 and that the Committee continue to meet on a monthly basis.

Questions were asked by the members about why the report was prepared. Mike Richards noted that this Committee will continue to function as is until it is told to stop. This might not be until April next year. It was suggestion that the Committee could invite someone from the Clerk's Office to the next meeting to speak to the Committee regarding the proposed changes. Mary Sinclair requested that her motion be withdrawn until the Committee hears from the City Clerk's Office.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – Friday, November 7, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT – Meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.