



Hamilton

**MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, December 5, 2014 – 10:00 a.m.
Room 264, Hamilton City Hall**

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

Regrets: Lorraine Meloche, Bernice Price, Bob Thomson, Bill Wright

Also Present: Mike Richards, Deb Thomas – Corporate Services (Customer Service, Access & Equity)
Eleanor Morton – Community & Emergency Services (Recreation)
Lisa Maychak – Community & Emergency Services (Lodges)
Liz Conti, Public Health Services
Councillor Tom Jackson

Guests: Agnes Noto, Public Health Services

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair, Ron Smithson, welcomed everyone. Liz Conti (temporary for Bea McDonough) introduced Bea McDonough's replacement, Agnes Noto.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The following additions were made to the Agenda under New Business:

- i) Bike Share (E. Weisz)
- ii) Older Adult Plan (J. Mayo)
- iii) McMaster Seniors Meeting (M. Sinclair)

(S. Robinson/M. Sinclair)

That the December 5, 2014 agenda, of the Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be accepted, as amended.

CARRIED.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Meeting of November 7, 2014.

- Review of Minutes – amendments requested.

(M. Wahlman/J. Noonan)

That the November 7, 2014 minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved, as amended.

CARRIED.

5. PRESENTATIONS – None.

6. BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

6.1 Committee/Sub-committee Updates

a) Housing Sub-committee (C. Fernandes)

The Sub-committee is working towards completion of the Housing Handbook.

b) Transportation Sub-committee (J. Mayo)

The Sub-committee has arranged from someone to attend the January meeting to address the issues regarding the use of sidewalks.

c) ACPD Transportation Sub-committee (M. Sinclair)

The following points were provided by Mary Sinclair:

- The HSR buses stopped going to the front doors at McMaster Hospital in the spring. Passengers have to go up a long and steep walkway from the current bus stop. All Hamilton Health Science hospitals have long walks from HSR stops to the front doors. Passengers should be able to get conditional eligibility for DARTS trips to these hospitals, as needed.
- All HSR drivers do not help people in wheelchairs with seatbelts.
- All seniors are entitled to ask for the bus to be knelt.
- The DARTS "Value for Money" audit report was deferred to the new Council for action.
- Transit accessibility meeting on November 18 was poorly attended.
- Ongoing discussions about what healthcare professionals can sign DARTS application forms.

- Construction on Concession Street will make it difficult to access the Juravinski (Henderson) Hospital by HSR bus. Conditional eligibility for DARTS would help vulnerable patients get to their appointments and other Hamilton Health Sciences sites. (Marj Wahlman will forward the information/concerns onto the appropriate staff.)
- HSR has not changed the signage on the front of the buses.
- There have been major discussions about HSR policies regarding the safety of older and/or disabled passengers.

d) HHS AODA Committee (M. Sinclair)

There was no meeting.

e) Older Adult Network (D. Chartrand)

There was no meeting.

f) Seniors Award Event (L. Maychak)

The Committee met yesterday and will be putting out the call for nominations in January. Hard copies will be sent out to the libraries and recreation centres. Translations will be available and a contact list to other groups will be sent out. Next year's event will take place on June 23. March 15 will be the cut-off for nominations. Mike Richards suggested a note or tag line mention that the information is available in the top 5 languages and Lisa Maychak will contact Maxine Carter for further information. The event will be advertised through the local media (newspaper, libraries and partnered with Channel 14).

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Older Adult Plan (J. Mayo)

The Plan has been adopted and the official launch is January 20th from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at St. Peters. All Seniors Advisory Committee members will be invited. The first step is the launch and the second step will be the implementation of the plan which is presently being looked at by Paul Johnson. For every recommendation there will be a plan to follow through. More information will be available on the 20th. Penelope Petri and Jeanne Mayo sit on the Steering Committee overseeing the implementation. There is a possibility of sub-committees to look at communication, housing and transportation.

7.2 Bike Share (E. Weisz)

The bikes bought were provided by Metrolinx. Jeanne Mayo noted that the Seniors Advisory Committee made a motion earlier in the year that Recreation offer a short refresher bike course for seniors in view of the bike share program. Eleanor Morton noted that she was unaware of a course being offered and would look into the matter. The bikes (bicycles, tricycles and tandem) are available for rental only at the Bayfront. The racks have been installed and the bikes will be available around March.

Doug Fraser asked about helmets and was told that you would need to bring your own helmet. It was also suggested that the police might be involved to give advice regarding rules of the road.

June Noonan asked about insurance. You will ride at your own risk and in order to rent the bicycles, you will need to join and sign a waiver. The bikes are insured and have a GPS installed. It was suggested that for more information, we invite Peter Topalovic and Daryl Bender to the February meeting.

7.3 McMaster Seniors Meeting (M. Sinclair)

Mary Sinclair noted that there was a McMaster article regarding communications in the Older Adult Plan. We need to send a message to the media (newspapers) requesting larger print for seniors.

McMaster provides lectures through its McMaster Optimal Aging Portal focusing on aging well. This is wonderful resource if you have a computer. Jeanne Mayo would like to invite someone from McMaster Optimal Aging Portal to come and speak to the Committee.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION SHARING

8.1 Councillor Jackson

Councillor Jackson thanked the Committee members for all their hard work.

Councillor Jackson discussed with the Committee the recent report regarding the changes to the structure for the advisory committees and suggested that the Committee provide a response to the Clerk's office. A motion will be drafted and approved at the next meeting.

Mary Sinclair asked about a Dundas Seniors Advisory Committee operating separately from this Committee. They are an "arm's length" group, non-profit and not affiliated with the City. They applied independently and received a grant to develop a seniors' kiosk in Dundas. Eleanor Morton offered to bring information about the Dundas Committee back to our Committee.

8.2 Mailboxes (C. Fernandes)

Carolann Fernandes asked Councillor Jackson how we can challenge the decision made regarding the "super" mailboxes (16 mailboxes per unit). Councillor Jackson noted that he would be meeting this afternoon with a representative from Canada Post. The mountain and upper Stoney Creek are being targeted for next year. City Council has requested legal advice from our City Solicitor and a report is forthcoming in the new year.

Councillor Jackson suggested the Committee contact our federal representatives (Chris Charlton, Wayne Marston). Plan "B" by the City will be to recommend that the mailbox units be placed on City property where available instead of residential property. Concerns expressed by Committee members are: snow/ice clearing, access to boxes (people with walkers or in wheelchairs) and requesting someone else to pick up your mail, you are giving up your privacy.

Councillor Jackson mentioned the suggestion of decreasing mail delivery to 2-3 times per week. It was also noted that if a senior can get a medical note to say they are unable to pick up mail at the community mailbox units, it should be submitted to Canada Post.

8.3 HSR Maps

New HSR maps/guides were handed out to the Committee members.

8.4 January Meeting

Penelope Petrie suggested we invite Mark Weingartner to the January meeting for an update on the Age Friendly City report and Paul Johnson regarding the Older Adult Plan.

Bernice Price sent Merry Christmas wishes to everyone as she was not well enough to attend the meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

10. NEXT MEETING

Friday, January 9, 2015, 10:00 a.m., Rooms 192/193, City Hall.