



Hamilton

**MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, January 9, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.
Rooms 192/193, Hamilton City Hall**

Present: Frank Brodnicki, Deirdre Chartrand, Carolann Fernandes, John Kennard, Jeanne Mayo, Penelope Petrie, Shirley Robinson, Mary Sinclair, Ron Smithson, Bob Thomson, Marj Wahlman & Emmy Weisz

Regrets: Doug Fraser, Lorraine Meloche, Vi Morgan, June Noonan, Bernice Price, John Winslow & Bill Wright

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

Guests: John Hawker

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
Chair, Ron Smithson, welcomed everyone.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The following additions were made to the Agenda under New Business:
7.1 Super Mailboxes – C. Fernandes
7.2 Dedicated Bus Lane – J. Mayo

(M. Sinclair / P. Petrie)

That the January 9, 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 December 5, 2014

Review of Minutes – amendment requested.

(M. Wahlman/J. Mayo)

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

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Age Friendly Report Update (M. Weingartner)

Mark Weingartner handed out copies of the Executive Summary and noted that the full report is available in digital format online. He then provided the following update.

The next phase is to inform and educate the community regarding the age-friendly movement and Hamilton's plan. By the end of January, 2015, an application will be made to the World Health Organization (WHO) Network of age-friendly cities. An implementation plan will be developed to include: engaging other interested stakeholders and confirming lead organizations for specific actions; identifying necessary resources; and identifying timeframes to being working on individual actions. An evaluation and monitoring framework is being developed to determine if we are doing what was set out to do in the plan and if we are becoming more age friendly.

With respect to the evaluation component, a proposal will be submitted for a funding opportunity through the Ontario Senior's Secretariat. Hamilton Council on Aging (HCoA), on behalf of the partnership and as the applicant, will submit a proposal to develop an evaluation plan. The application deadline is January 30 and the funding period is until March 31, 2017. This will provide the opportunity to develop an evaluation plan, monitor progress and produce a progress report. McMaster University and the Social Planning & Research Council (SP&R) of Hamilton are assisting the HCoA and the City because of their expertise in this area.

A meeting will be held on January 20th from 1:30 to 3:00 at St. Peter's to report back to the community.

A letter of support from the Seniors Advisory Committee in support of the application package was suggested.

Motion (J. Mayo / P. Petrie)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC) endorse the application by Hamilton Council on Aging (HCoA) and the City of Hamilton in order to obtain funding for the evaluation of Hamilton's Age Friendly Plan.

All in favour. CARRIED.

5.2 Older Adult Plan (P. Johnson)

Paul Johnson noted that Mark Weingartner is the lead for the Older Adult Plan. Paul is working with the managers of other departments. Planning and Economic Development will be involved with the key projects coming forward.

Paul thanked the Seniors Advisory Committee for its involvement thus far and recognized the energy and enthusiasm of its members. Keep up the good work!

Paul entertained questions from the members.

Mary Sinclair asked about misleading information in the original report regarding numbers for seniors and older adults. Paul advised that the report has been corrected. Further question was raised regarding the terminology used for seniors. Mark noted that 65+ is regarded as a "senior" (tipping point as related to the government) and 55+ is referred to as an "older adult".

Frank Brodnicki asked about the process regarding applying for volunteer committees. He was unable to get the information he needed and then found out that the time had expired. Paul noted that there was a call for some boards and agencies and that, in fact, the time had expired. He advised that he would look into the matter as to why the process was not clear. He further noted that no applications will be available for committees like the Seniors Advisory Committee until after the review. Cindy Mercanti offered to follow up with the Clerk's Office. Mary Sinclair suggested that when the application is available, it be brought to the Committee. She also wanted staff to be reminded of the font size on the document. Cindy will bring the information back to the Committee when available and will speak to the Access & Equity group regarding font size for documents.

Carolann Fernandes inquired about the super mailbox issue - mailboxes being installed on the property of citizens. Paul noted that the concerns have been raised by Council and will follow through but at this point, there are no specifics. However, the issue is not forgotten. Paul will send information back to the Committee as to what the City is doing.

6. BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

6.1 Committee/Sub-committee Updates

a) Housing Sub-committee (C. Fernandes)

The draft Housing Options for Seniors in Hamilton was provided to members and a request for the information to be vetted. Numbers for statistics was not available and is needed to finish the booklet. Paul Johnson noted that he has the resources available to the sub-committee in his division to help obtaining the statistics and also the cost to reproduce the booklet.

Mary Sinclair asked about transitional living – numbers of seniors from hospitals back to housing. Paul will take the information requests back to Housing and make time to obtain the information.

Deidre Chartrand asked about the January 5 article (No Place to Call Home: Our Seniors' Plight) in the Hamilton Spectator and asked if members would be able to attend future meetings. Paul advised absolutely and would make sure it happens.

Jeanne Mayo congratulated the sub-committee for their work on the booklet. Carolann noted that she would like to see workshops available to inform seniors in the community.

b) Transportation Sub-committee (J. Mayo)

No meeting until later this month. An update will be available for the February SAC meeting.

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

No meeting – no report at this time.

d) HHS AODA Committee (M. Sinclair)

No meeting – no report at this time. Mary noted that if she remains the representative for this area when the new Committee members are chosen, the hospital will need to be informed.

e) Older Adult Network (D. Chartrand)

There was no meeting. Liz Pascal is working on the events for the June Seniors month.

f) Seniors Award Event (L. Maychak)

The event is in the “nomination phase”. Publications will be going out shortly in partnership with the local media (Hamilton Spectator, Channel 14, etc.). Lisa will bring the nomination package to the February meeting. Ten languages are shown as available and the larger font was used. The process this year will be slightly different than last year.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Super Mailboxes (C. Fernandes)

Carolann advised that she received confirmation from Canada Post that they would be going forward with the installation of the super mailboxes. She has sent a letter to the Ombudsman.

7.2 Dedicated Bus Lane (J. Mayo)

Jeanne Mayo provided a Motion to the members for consideration as follows:

Motion (J. Mayo / P. Petrie)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC) to the City of Hamilton supports the staff endorsement of a bus-only lane along King Street. A dedicated bus-lane increases the safety of passengers by reducing the frequency of sudden stops buses make when negotiating traffic. It also contributes to increasing the ridership which, in turn, makes the HSR more available to those who rely on mass transit to get around. Older adults want to live in a city that strives to develop policies that take into consideration the needs of many groups, rather than always supporting a vocal minority, in this case, those with car horns who demand the right to be able to speed along city streets with no impediment.

All in favour. CARRIED.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION SHARING

**8.1 Motion to Clerk's Office re Committee Structure
(M. Richards)**

Emmy Weisz would like to include in the motion accomplishments of the Committee. Mike Richards notes that there were three items to consider: 1) keep the current size of the Committee; 2) the frequency of the meetings; and 3) amalgamation. We need only to address items 1 & 2 as the Seniors Advisory Committee is not affected by amalgamation with another advisory committee.

Motion (J. Mayo / P. Petrie)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC) strongly recommends that the number of its members remain at 19 and that SAC continue to meet monthly. The larger number of members and frequency of meetings during the last term of Council enabled the Committee to accomplish many action items including: participating in the Age Friendly Plan and Seniors Annual Awards; producing the Housing Options for Seniors in Hamilton booklet; and recommending accessibility transportation for seniors to the HSR.

All in favour. CARRIED.

Mary Sinclair asked about the recommendation that committee members would remain for only two terms. Councillor Tom Jackson advised that he is totally opposed to term limits and recognizes the experience of returning members and input from new members. He strongly supports the current status of this Committee and advised that the preliminary budget for this Committee has passed at this stage.

Councillor Jackson noted that on February 4 at 9:30 a.m., the General Issues Committee (GIC) will entertain a report regarding the super mailboxes including a presentation by Public Works and the City Solicitor indicating the City's opposition of the mailboxes. The City is negotiating to mitigate the issues of the landowners. One option being looked at is putting the structures on City property.

Jeanne Mayo requested a new section be added to future agendas regarding business arising from the previous minutes.

Emmy Weisz would like the members to be aware of an Elder Abuse session being provided by the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion (HCCI) to be held on January 28 at 7:00 p.m., 267 King Street East (opposite Denniger's). Emmy will be doing a presentation.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

10. NEXT MEETING

Friday, February 6, 2015, 10:00 a.m., Rooms 192/193, City Hall.