



Hamilton

MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, March 6, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.
Rooms 192/193, Hamilton City Hall

Present: Frank Brodnicki, Deirdre Chartrand, Carolann Fernandes, Douglas Fraser, John Kennard, Jeanne Mayo, Lorraine Meloche, Vi Morgan, June Noonan, Penelope Petrie, Mary Sinclair, Ron Smithson, Bob Thomson, Marj Wahlman, Emmy Weisz & John Winslow

Regrets: Bernice Price, Shirley Robinson, Emmy Weisz & Bill Wright

Also

Present: Cindy Mercanti, Mike Richards & Deb Thomas – Corporate Services (Customer Service, Access & Equity)
Eleanor Morton – Community & Emergency Services (Recreation)
Vicki Woodcox – Community & Emergency Services (Macassa Lodge)
Lisa Maychak – Community & Emergency Services (Lodges)
Agnes Noto, Public Health Services (Neighbourhood & Community Initiatives)
Mark Weingartner – Community & Emergency Services (Neighbourhood & Community Initiatives)
Councillor Tom Jackson

Guests: Peter Topalovic, Public Works (Transportation, Energy & Facilities)
Chelsea Cox, SoBi Hamilton

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair, Ron Smithson, welcomed everyone.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The following changes were made to the Agenda:

- a) SAC Committee Report
- b) Receipt of correspondence from North Hamilton Community Health Centre to be added under New Business
- c) Transit Fare increases to be discussed under 6.2 (b) Transportation Subcommittee

- d) Bea McDonough – to be discussed at Housing Sub-committee and under New Business
- e) Recognition of World Senior Abuse Day

(P. Petrie / J. Mayo)

That the March 6, 2015 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 February 6, 2015

(M. Wahlman/J. Mayo)

That the February 6, 2015 Minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved. **CARRIED.**

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Bike Share Program (P. Topalovic / C. Cox)

Peter Topalovic and Chelsea Cox presented to SAC the information regarding the Bike Share Program (SoBi). There will be 750 bikes available at 100 different hub locations. The program's official launch will be at 11:30 on March 20 in Gore Park. SoBi is a local non-profit company sub-contracted by the City.

There is a growing number of seniors cycling and workshops are being offered. User fees and sponsorships are used to fund the program. The annual pass is \$85. Currently, there are no discounts in place for seniors.

Riders will be responsible to provide their own helmet. Riders over 18 are not required to wear a helmet but it is encouraged. All riders will sign a waiver before using the bikes like any other activity on the road. The bikes are maintained by SoBi and if a repair is required, there is a button on the bike to indicate that a repair is needed.

Douglas Fraser asked about the data that is collected from the bike usage and how it is handled. Chelsea advised that the information collected is anonymous and not particular to the bike user but general information.

Maps will provide the bike user with the different locations where the bike can be obtained and returned at the end of the ride. The rider will have the option of locking the bike at a station or charged a small convenience charge if not left at a specific station. A new bike map will be provided for 2015. Deirdre Chartrand asked about the text on the map. Chelsea noted that SoBi can produce a large map. Jeanne Mayo suggested that SoBi set up a booth at the Seniors Month event in June to further introduce the program to the seniors of the community.

A question was asked of Eleanor Morton about an update regarding bike refresher courses for seniors at the Recreation Centres. Eleanor advised that she would be looking for grant money and will also discuss further with Chelsea. John Winslow asked if there was anything available to assess the rider's skill level. Chelsea said that at this point, nothing formally has been set up but the rider would be able to speak with SoBi staff.

There are no specialized bikes at this time – all bikes are the same. In the future, they may look at accommodating other needs of the riders when purchasing new bikes.

6. BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

6.1 Business Arising From Previous Minutes (Action Items)

None.

6.2 Committee/Sub-committee Updates

a) Housing Sub-committee (C. Fernandes)

Carolann advised that since sending out the housing questionnaires, only a few responses have been received and would like to have all Committee members submit a response. It was suggested that an insert be placed in the Housing Booklet regarding Bea McDonough's hard work and help with the project.

Motion re Housing Booklet

(M. Sinclair / D. Chartrand)

That Bea McDonough be recognized in the Housing Options for Seniors in Hamilton Booklet with an insert "In Memory and Appreciation of Bea McDonough's assistance".

All in favour.

CARRIED.

b) Transportation Sub-committee (J. Mayo)

Jeanne advised that the Sub-committee is continuing its discussion on sidewalks and reviewed the handout regarding the transit fare increases pointing out that Hamilton is the only City offering a free Golden Age Pass for seniors over 80 years of age.

The Transportation Sub-committee put forward the following Proposal:

(J. Mayo / P. Petrie)

That the Senior fare be increased by \$3/month until it reaches \$50/month. That in future years, the fare would be adjusted by the Cost of Living Index. That the free Golden Age Pass be maintained for those 80 and older.

Next, SAC debated the motion with the following comments. Councillor Jackson thanked the Sub-committee for its work and suggested a column be added to reflect the cost of an annual seniors' pass. Jeanne noted that as the fares increase, seniors may only use the monthly pass depending on their usage. Penelope mentioned that it was recognized at the Transportation Sub-committee that a fare increase was necessary but that \$5 was too steep and recommended a \$3 increase.

Councillor Jackson advised that he would take forward the Committee's message to GIC. Frank Brodnicki asked what changes we can expect to see from the increases. Councillor Jackson provided: more bus drivers to be hired and maintenance staff; more buses to be purchased; and enhancements to the Transit system (running times, etc.).

The information submitted by the Transportation Sub-committee was amended and re-submitted as follows:

**RECOMMENDATION FROM THE
SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2015**

1. Background

The HSR is proposing a fare increase for all fares.

HSR PROPOSED FARE INCREASES					
		Monthly Pass			Annual Pass
Year	Cash	Adult	Student	Senior (65-79)	Senior (65-79)
Current	\$2.55	\$87.00	\$71.00	\$20.50	\$205.00
September 2015	\$3.00	\$99.00	\$74.80	\$25.50	\$255.00
September 2016	\$3.00	\$103.40	\$77.00	\$29.79	\$298.00
September 2017	\$3.25	\$107.80	\$81.40	\$35.15	\$352.00
September 2018	\$3.25	\$112.20	\$83.40	\$39.90	\$399.00
SAC PROPOSED FARE INCREASES FOR SENIORS					
		Monthly Pass			Annual Pass
Year	Cash	Adult	Student	Senior (65-79)	Senior (65-79)
Current	\$2.55	\$87.00	\$71.00	\$20.50	\$205.00
September 2015	\$3.00	\$99.00	\$74.80	\$23.50	\$235.00
September 2016	\$3.00	\$103.40	\$77.00	\$26.50	\$265.00
September 2017	\$3.25	\$107.80	\$81.40	\$29.50	\$295.00
September 2018	\$3.25	\$112.20	\$83.40	\$32.50	\$325.00
September 2019				\$35.50	\$355.00
September 2020				\$38.50	\$385.00
September 2021				\$41.50	\$415.00
September 2022				\$44.50	\$445.00
September 2023				\$47.50	\$475.00
September 2024				\$50.50	\$505.00

In future years, the fares would be adjusted by the Cost of Living Index.

2. Senior Monthly Fare 2014 Comparison to other Cities

London	\$57.50
Windsor	\$44.00
Brampton	\$50.00
Mississauga	\$53.00
Durham	\$42.75
York	\$55.00
Hamilton	\$20.50

3. Considerations of Transportation Sub-committee

- Hamilton has the lowest Senior fare and the only city that offers a free pass for those over 80
- The proposed increase of the Seniors Monthly Pass of \$5 per year each year beginning in Sept. 2015 is steep
- The proposed leveling off to \$39.90 is still considerably lower than the other cities

4. Proposal

- That the Seniors Monthly Pass be increased by \$3.00 each year until it reaches \$50.50 per month
- In future years, the fare would be adjusted by the Cost of Living Index
- That the free Golden Age Pass be maintained for those 80 and older
- That any senior in hardship would be encouraged to apply to our Existing Affordable Transit Program if necessary

The Committee passed the recommendation with only one vote opposed. The one vote opposed noted their preference was with the original option set forth by Transit.

This item was addressed at the General Issues Committee on Friday, March 6, 2015.

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

David Dixon, Director of Transit, postponed his attendance at the Sub-Committee meeting.

It was noted that the ten-year local transit strategy did not address issues involving passengers with special needs such as how HSR fare increases will affect DARTS' riders (equity) with limited income. On page 54, under "Service Standards", the walking distance of 400 metres from HSR stops is exceeded at all hospitals and too far for people using walkers, canes or crutches. As well, most people using manual wheelchairs would have difficulty on the slope/grade.

Because most people using mobility devices are told to use the back door of the HSR buses, there is no method of counting the passengers or collecting fares (especially tapping Presto cards).

Mark Selkirk (HSR) is to come to talk about the proposed bus designs and amenities – to make them more user-friendly for passengers with disabilities, especially people with visual impairments.

There are different HSR policies regarding boarding wheelchairs/scooters versus walkers in terms of mobility devices.

Hamilton's plan for an Age-Friendly City talks about "improve and expand DARTS service" (page 22). In August 2013, the Accessible Transit Services Review Committee recommended the Value for Money Audit. This was presented in September 2014 and Council recommended a more in-depth, arm's length consultation. On March 2, 2015, the Accessible Transit Services Review Committee amended the Terms of Reference for this survey. Mark Mindorff (DARTS) presented a PowerPoint update of DARTS service.

Mary mentioned the Notice of Study Commencement in the Hamilton Spectator regarding the review and update of the citywide Transportation Master Plan.

d) HHS AODA Committee (M. Sinclair)

No meeting – no report at this time.

e) Older Adult Network (D. Chartrand)

A meeting was held yesterday but Deirdre was unable to attend. She will provide an update at the next meeting once she receives the minutes from the meeting. They are working on the June Senior's Month event.

f) Seniors Award Event (L. Maychak)

Lisa reminded everyone that the deadline for submissions is March 15. Applications have been received but we are hoping for more. Lisa was on Cable 14 this week to promote the event. Please nominate and spread the word.

The Selection Committee has been chosen. It will take the Committee three to four weeks to review the applications and score them. Lisa noted that it is a good idea that the person you are nominating is aware of the nomination. If someone you would like to nominate is deceased, involve the family.

Committee members requested that Bea McDonough be recognized at the Senior Award Event. Anyone who would like to contribute in this regard, please contact Lisa. Carolann Fernandes will work with Lisa.

Douglas Fraser requested numbers for the next meeting regarding the nominations and the cost of the event. Lisa noted that the seven judges on the Selection Committee will use the same screening tool for each nomination. The winners will not be announced until the day of the event. Last year, there were 60 awards.

g) Age Friendly (M. Weingartner)

Mark advised that there is no update for this month.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Seniors Advisory Committee Report

Report SAC 15001 – Seniors Advisory Committee – 2015 Annual Presentation will be sent to the Emergency & Community Services Committee on April 13, 2015.

Motion to accept

(P. Petrie / C. Fernandes)

All in favour.

CARRIED.

7.2 Correspondence from North Hamilton Community Health Centre

An invitation was received to have a member of the Seniors Advisory Committee attend their next meeting on Tuesday, March 31 at 2:30 p.m. at 438 Hughson Street North. Ron offered to attend on behalf of SAC.

7.3 Bea McDonough

On behalf of the section where Bea worked, Agnes wanted to thank the Seniors Advisory Committee for their compassion. Carolann would like to have something special for Bea but needs to contact the family. June suggested an article in the Hamilton Spectator to enlighten the community about volunteer work. Agnes will speak to her supervisor about June's suggestion.

7.4 World Senior Abuse Day

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day will be recognized on Monday, June 15, 2015.

7.5 Councillor Jackson

Councillor Jackson advised that he would be in between meetings – Seniors Advisory Committee and GIC – and wanted to remind the members that the Transit approvals were being considered today. Councillor Jackson suggested to SAC that if more time is needed by the Committee (representing the seniors in our community), he would request same at GIC.

The Golden Age Pass is to continue (free for those 80 and older) and there are fee increases being proposed for the annual and monthly passes for seniors. The increases will be used to enhance routes, purchase more buses which will provide better running time and provide more shelters.

Once the Committee has discussed the recommendation coming forward from the Transportation Subcommittee, Councillor Jackson asked that SAC advise him in order that he would be able to bring the motion forward at GIC even if the Committee suggests that the matter remain "status quo" for this year so that SAC might be able to consult with the community.

Councillor Jackson advised that he would return to GIC and let them know that the matter regarding the senior fare increases was currently being discussed noting that changes could still be made as the matter will not be passed by Council until next week. There is no pressure to rush the decision by the Committee today.

Douglas Fraser agreed with the price increases and commented that it can't keep being put off.

Mary Sinclair noted that in the 10-year plan, there is very little for persons with disabilities.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION SHARING

8.1 No items at this time.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

10. NEXT MEETING

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