



Hamilton

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

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**Present:** Deirdre Chartrand, Carolann Fernandes, Jeanne Mayo, Vi Morgan, June Noonan, Penelope Petrie, Mary Sinclair, Ron Smithson, Bob Thomson, Marj Wahlman & Emmy Weisz

**Regrets:** Frank Brodnicki, Douglas Fraser, John Kennard, Lorraine Meloche, Bernice Price, Shirley Robinson, John Winslow, Bill Wright, Cindy Mercanti, Vicki Woodcox, Eleanor Morton & Councillor Tom Jackson

**Also**

**Present:** Mike Richards & Deb Thomas – Corporate Services (Customer Service, Access & Equity)  
Lisa Maychak – Community & Emergency Services (Lodges)  
Agnes Noto, Public Health Services (Neighbourhood & Community Initiatives)  
Mark Weingartner – Community & Emergency Services (Neighbourhood & Community Initiatives)

**Guests:** John Hawker

**1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair, Ron Smithson, welcomed everyone.

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

The following changes were made to the Agenda:

- a) SAC Pamphlet for Seniors Day in June
- b) North Hamilton Community Health Centre Meeting
- c) Rapid Transit Panel
- d) Note from Councillor Jackson

**(P. Petrie / M. Wahlman)**

That the April 10, 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 March 6, 2015**

**(E. Weisz/J. Noonan)**

**4.2 Special Budget Meeting of March 11, 2015**

**(M. Wahlman/E. Weisz)**

That the March 6 and March 11, 2015 Minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved. **CARRIED.**

**5. PRESENTATIONS**

**5.1 Volunteer Advisory Committee Review Process**

**(M. Weingartner)**

Mark advised that he is assisting the Clerk's Office with the review of the advisory committees. Everything will remain status quo until the review is completed. Report is expected to be received by the General Issues Committee in June. Recruitment for the new members is not expected to occur until the end of the summer. Representatives from the Clerk's Office are visiting approximately 16-17 committees to discuss what is working and what is not.

The following questions were asked:

Q. What is working for the advisory structure that helps make it successful?

A. The large enough (number of members) to have sub-committees for members with particular interests as the issues for seniors are very broad; success of small groups working on projects and bringing forward to main committee (i.e. Housing Guide, monthly bus passes, Age Friendly City); having a voice at the table to present information to Council; support and guidance of staff; and having Council representative to assist in Council matters.

Q. What doesn't work so well?

A. Council doesn't always agree with the Committee; replacing staff/Council representatives in a timely manner; connecting to the aged at large – communicating to the public; and the Committee's means to get information out there.

Committee members stressed monthly meetings must continue for the committee and sub-committees; the number of members remain at 19 in order to accommodate membership on the sub-committees; and sub-committees must have goals and the goals would be reviewed every two years.

## **6. BUSINESS/DISCUSSION**

### **6.1 Business Arising From Previous Minutes (Action Items)**

- (a) E. Morton to provide update regarding refresher bike courses for seniors – E. Morton was not present so item will be carried forward to next meeting
- (b) D. Chartrand will speak to this matter under 6.2 (e)
- (c) L. Maychak provided the following information. Twenty-five diverse nominations have been received representing most of Hamilton. The nominations will be reviewed by the judges with their final decision being made by April 20 so that the Senior of the Year name can be submitted to the Province by April 30. Tickets will be available for the June 23 event at all Municipal Service Centres at the end of the month. Cost for the tickets is \$25 and includes a full meal and the awards presentation. Some members were concerned that the number of applications was reduced from last year and would like to look at a better strategy to reach more people and receive more applications.  
  
Further discussion occurred regarding the application process – provide a checklist to assist people in completing the application; more clarity and description of what is being looked for in each category; cannot nominate in secrecy (need to get nominee involved); and ability to complete application online.
- (d) C. Fernandes attempted to contact the McDonough family and left messages but did not receive a response.

### **6.2 Committee/Sub-committee Updates**

#### **a) Housing Sub-committee (C. Fernandes)**

Carolann advised that Mark Weingartner has enlisted Aisling Higgins (Communications Officer) to assist in finalizing the Housing guide. The hope is to have it available for June (Seniors Month). A discussion occurred regarding including statistical information in the booklet. It was noted that the booklet is a guide and not a report and that this information would not be necessary for the guide.

**b) Transportation Sub-committee (J. Mayo)**

Jeanne noted that the Sub-committee will be working on sidewalks and a report will be provided at the next meeting.

Provided to the Committee was the following:

**Recommendations to Local Transit Strategy**

The Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC) endorses the actions in Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City.

In addition, SAC makes the following recommendations:

1. Increase the number of Park&Ride areas which will allow older adults who live in the areas not serviced by the HSR to drive only a short distance before being able to access public transit.
2. Increase the number connection points and hours of operation to Trans-Cab service, which will offer older adults living in areas not serviced by the HSR easier access to public transit.
3. Assess the walkability from the bus stop to the entrance of all Hamilton hospitals and make adjustments to increase the accessibility, where necessary.
4. Improve the visibility of bus numbers on each bus. Where letters are used to distinguish routes for the same bus number, the letter should be larger. Eventually, all buses should have a dedicated number and the use of number and letter should be phased out.
5. Establish dedicated bus-only lanes which contribute to the safety of older adults on the bus because the necessity of unexpected stops is greatly decreased.

It was suggested that the Committee request a representative from Transit Strategy attend a future meeting.

**(J. Mayo/P. Petrie)**

Motion to send the recommendations of the Transportation Sub-committee to the transit consultation.

**All in favour.**

**CARRIED.**

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

Mary advised that 18 new buses will be available by September and a total of 50 between now and 2016. All seats on the lower level look like theatre seats and flip up. The signage on the buses will be clearer (not pixelated – LED). The sign by the back doors will be able to be seen from the back and front.

**d) HHS AODA Committee (M. Sinclair)**

No meeting – no report at this time.

**e) Older Adult Network (D. Chartrand)**

Deirdre updated the Committee regarding the kick off for Seniors month on June 1. The event will be held at Sarcoa. There will be free parking, shuttles and HSR passes. Thirty spots are available but there will be no selling of merchandise. A calendar of senior's events in June will be available. The SoBi bike program representative will be participating and demonstrating how the bikes work. It was decided that the Committee would like a table at the event and Deirdre offered to submit the request on behalf of the Committee. Penelope Petrie, Jeanne Mayo and Deirdre Chartrand offered to look after the SAC table at the event.

**f) Seniors Award Event (L. Maychak)**

See Item 6.1 (c).

**g) Age Friendly (M. Weingartner)**

Mark advised that the WHO application sent in March was successful and Hamilton has been accepted as an Age Friendly city. Hamilton will be added to the website. Moving forward, they are working on an implementation plan. Mark is Hamilton's primary contact with WHO.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7.1 Photocopying Costs**

Deferred to next meeting.

**7.2 Emails and Attachments**

A test was conducted with one of the members and noted that Hotmail and Gmail accounts work for opening attachments. It was suggested we may want to look at an electronic drop box.

**7.3 Senior of the Year – Subsidize Ticket Price**

It was noted that only four seniors from the Committee attended last year's event. As seniors, we should try to support this event to celebrate and recognize what we do.

**(J. Mayo/P. Petrie)**

Motion that the Seniors Advisory Committee subsidize the ticket price for the Senior of the Year Event by \$10.

**All in favour.**

**CARRIED.**

**7.4 SAC Pamphlet for Seniors Day in June**

The SAC pamphlet will need to be updated for the June 1 event and Seniors month.

**7.5 North Hamilton Community Health Centre Meeting**

Deirdre Chartrand and Ron Smithson attended this meeting. Deirdre reported that the meeting was very informative. The following was discussed: transportation in the north end; work of our Transportation Sub-committee and what they have accomplished; new housing not meeting challenges of less abled people; Mary Sinclair's video and availability for the video at the June event; elder abuse and specifically in long term care nursing homes; possibility of developing a seniors nursing home committee to attend nursing homes; power of attorney & wills; activities to address brain and physical health issues; and feedback between all seniors advisory committees and other seniors groups would be beneficial to all.

**7.6 Rapid Transit Panel**

Mary asked about a senior sitting on this panel and it was noted that Ron Smithson attends.

**7.7 Note from Councillor Jackson**

Councillor Tom Jackson was unable to attend and sent his regrets and the following message:

- (1) City Budget for 2015 ratified April 8 at City Council meeting, averaging a 2.7% increase City-wide based on an approximately \$285,000 assessed house, equaling an approximate \$99 increase. In different parts of the City, that number may vary. For example, in Ward 6, it works out to a 2.5% increase and \$81.
- (2) The SAC recommendation on the increases for "Seniors' fares" for the HSR was incorporated in the budget.

- (3) Highlights of where the budget dollars are being spent:
- Extended and expanded HSR Service;
  - 30 more Paramedics to be hired;
  - 50 more HSR Operators;
  - Macassa Lodge Reserve Fund established;
  - Increased funds for Infrastructure Renewal (roads, sidewalks, watermains, sewers);
  - More Waterfront Initiatives;
  - And other items.

Lastly, as of this writing, a tentative deal has been negotiated between the HSR and ATU. Ratification votes by the Union and Council to occur hopefully over the next week.

Thank you, Councillor Jackson

P.S. I want to sincerely express my appreciation to Chairman Smithson and each member of SAC for your outstanding leadership and contribution in assisting me particularly (and City Council), in achieving the successful result of the 2015 City budget. As often as I possibly can, I am honoured to be your continued political voice at the Standing Committee and City Council table. Thank you.

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION SHARING**

**8.1** No items at this time.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

**Friday, May 1, 2015, 10:00 a.m., Rooms 192/193, City Hall.**