



Hamilton

MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, June 5, 2015 – 10:00 a.m.
Rooms 192/193, Hamilton City Hall

Present: Carolann Fernandes, Douglas Fraser, Jeanne Mayo, Penelope Petrie, Mary Sinclair, Ron Smithson, Bob Thomson, Marj Wahlman, Emmy Weisz & John Winslow,

Regrets: Frank Brodnicki, Deirdre Chartrand, John Kennard, Lorraine Meloche, Vi Morgan, June Noonan, Bernice Price, Shirley Robinson, Bill Wright, Vicki Woodcox, Agnes Noto & Eleanor Morton

Also

Present: Mike Richards, Cindy Mercanti & Deb Thomas – Corporate Services (Customer Service, Access & Equity)
Lisa Maychak – Community & Emergency Services (Lodges)
Mark Weingartner – Community & Emergency Services (Neighbourhood & Community Initiatives)
Cathy Kohler for Eleanor Morton – Community & Emergency Services (Recreation)
Councillor Tom Jackson

Guests: John Hawker
Cst. A. McLaughlin – Hamilton Police Service
Greg Maychak – Public Works (Pan Am Initiatives)
Jen Recine – City Manager's Office (Communications)

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair, Ron Smithson, welcomed everyone.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The following changes were made to the Agenda:

8. Announcements

(P. Petrie/M. Wahlman)

That the June 5, 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 May 1, 2015

(E. Weisz/J. Mayo)

That the May 1, 2015 Minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved. All in favour. **CARRIED.**

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Crimes Against Seniors/Elder Abuse (Cst. A. McLaughlin)

Constable Andrea McLaughlin reminded the Committee that the Hamilton Police Service has three divisions – Central, Mountain and East End. The Crimes Against Seniors' Unit has two detectives. Some of the cases they deal with are: parents being taken advantage of by their children, scams, long-term care facility assaults/threats, etc. Cst. McLaughlin provided the Committee with a "Safety Guide for Seniors" and a flyer "Seniors' Support Office".

Cst. McLaughlin pointed out the following: anyone can manipulate the phone call display; for door-to-door sales, there is a grace period to return the item purchased (*Consumer Protection Act*) and if refused, you can call the Police; and Western Union has been proactive in working with the Police when they suspect illegal activity.

Some questions/comments/suggestions were received by Cst. McLaughlin. Committee members would like information to be received by the community. Suggestions were to share "scam of the week" with the Seniors Centres to be available at the information desk of recreation centres. Another was to provide weekly or monthly reports to spur information sharing. Cathy Kohler (Recreation) agreed that she would be able to share any information for the seniors through the recreation centres. Cst. McLaughlin agreed to look into the suggestions.

5.2 Pan Am Games (G. Maychak)

Greg Maychak noted that a high volume of the volunteers for the Pan Am Games are seniors. Work on the Pan Am Games started seven years ago. All public transit is free with your game ticket or with volunteer accreditation. If interested in volunteering, the link is available on the City's website. There will be shuttles from Mohawk College and McMaster University. Sixteen days of celebration. The Spec will be producing a pocket guide for the games to be distributed to the seniors' centres and arenas.

5.3 Website & Online Access (J. Recine)

Jen Recine attended to gather information as to what the seniors would like to see on the new website. It was suggested that a "landing page" for seniors be available and links to pages of interest to seniors (like one-stop shopping on the web). It would also be nice to promote the Seniors Advisory Committee. Other information suggested: information for grants to keep people in their own homes; resources (i.e. DARTS, transit); scams from HPS; diversity (connect to ethno-cultural community for seniors); contact links (i.e. CCAC, Meals on Wheels, etc.); 211 information in your own language; safety tips; accessible businesses; etc. It was also noted that it would be necessary to keep the information updated. Jen agreed to take this information back for further consideration.

6. BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

6.1 Business Arising From Previous Minutes (Action Items)

- a) E. Morton to provide update regarding refresher bike courses for seniors – Cathy Kohler responded on Eleanor's behalf. Eleanor has contacted safe cycling through the Hamilton Police Service and is waiting to hear back. She will report back when more information is available.

6.2 Committee/Sub-committee Updates

a) Housing Sub-committee (C. Fernandes)

Carolann Fernandes advised that the sub-committee met twice in the last month and expressed the sub-committee's appreciation of Mark Weingartner's time and assistance. Unfortunately, the Housing Booklet will not be available for the Seniors' Month but the expectation is that it will be printed by the end of the month. There will be one more meeting to approve the final draft.

It was noted that October 1 will be the 25th anniversary of International Day of Older Persons. Carolann suggested that it might be appropriate to launch the Housing Booklet on this date as a special presentation from the Seniors Advisory Committee.

Mary Sinclair put forward the following motion:

(M. Sinclair/C. Fernandes)

As a result of the consultation regarding the Provincial long-term housing strategy at the May meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee and the article in The Hamilton Spectator regarding the Hamilton Health Sciences request for suggestions on how the Chedoke Campus could be used, the Seniors Advisory Committee requests the Council of the City of Hamilton to investigate how a partnership could be developed to produce much needed assisted living accommodations in the current buildings to provide housing for people with special needs on the wait lists for accessible and affordable units.

All in favour.

CARRIED.

Carolann attended a workshop at St. Paul's where Dr. Ellen Ryan was the speaker. At the workshop, Carolann received a copy of the Halton Homeshare Toolkit book. Home sharing is an alternative and cheaper than a long-term care facility.

Carolann suggested having Dr. Ryan attend one of the Committee meetings. The time needed would be approximately two hours. After discussion, it was felt it might be more appropriate to request Dr. Ryan to speak at one of the seniors centres.

b) Transportation Sub-committee (J. Mayo)

After meeting with David Ferguson (Superintendent of Traffic), the Transportation Sub-committee provided a report on Traffic Signals as follows:

- 1) Count-down walk signals become the standard replacing the white hand signal.
- 2) The walk-time of .9 m/s (from 1.2 m or 1m) becomes the standard at all intersections.

- 3) The Public Works Department examines the possibility of installing protected pedestrian crossings (i.e. no turns by cars permitted) in high pedestrian density areas.
- 4) In June 2016, SAC collaborate with the Hamilton road Safety Committee to promote pedestrian safety during Seniors' Month.

(J. Mayo/J. Winslow)

That the above recommendations be received by City Council. All in favour. **CARRIED.**

The report on Sidewalks was brought forward from the May meeting to clarify and amend the first paragraph.

"The Senior Advisory Committee supports the numerous policy reports that encourage walking. It also notes that, as the population ages, there is an increase in the number of people who have some difficulty walking and, therefore, walk at a slower pace or who use a mobility device. In order to ensure that all pedestrians are able to use the sidewalks safely, SAC urges Hamilton City Council to:"

(J. Mayo/P. Petrie)

That the above paragraph be accepted as amended. All in favour. **CARRIED.**

Lastly, the Sub-committee proposed the following statements to City Council:

SAC notes, with disappointment, that whereas the Council agreed to increase HSR fares, proposals by HSR to maintain, in case of trans-cab service to Binbrook and to extend service to growth areas in the suburbs have been defeated because of area rating.

SAC urges Council to review area rating so that all HSR costs are borne by the City as a whole.

Councillor Jackson noted that this is a contentious issue but agreed with the Committee and further that Council is divided on area rating. His suggestion was that the above information be sent as a statement to City Council.

(J. Mayo/P. Petrie)

That the above be received by City Council. All in favour. **CARRIED.**

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

The DARTS annual general meeting will be at the Homewood Suites (Bay and Main Streets) on June 18 at 3:00 p.m.

There are now railings on both sides on the walkway from the HSR stop to the front entrance to McMaster Medical Centre.

Kevin Nichol (HSR) will attend the next meeting to discuss the bus route signage.

The review of the AODA Integrated Accessibility Standards was completed.

Mary has been appointed to ACPD and is also on the Accessibility Transportation Sub-committee. It was mentioned that even if she is reappointed to SAC, someone else should represent SAC at the transportation meetings.

d) HHS AODA Committee (M. Sinclair)

No meeting – no report at this time.

e) Older Adult Network (D. Chartrand)

Deirdre was not present and Marjorie Wahlman agreed to speak to this matter. Regarding the Seniors' Kick Off, Marj noted that it was the best and biggest event for the seniors in 20 years. There were over 50 displays and the people were phenomenal.

f) Seniors Award Event (L. Maychak)

The event will be in two weeks! Tickets are still available at the Municipal Service Centres and the Committee members' tickets will be subsidized by \$10. Two of the nominees are SAC members. To date, there are approximately 250 tickets sold.

g) Age Friendly (M. Weingartner)

Mark advised that there is no major update. Additional information will be available at the next meeting. Currently, working on the implementation plan to be received by Council in November.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 No items at this time.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION SHARING

- 8.1 Accessible Washrooms** – Mary Sinclair noted that this information needs to be a part of the implementation in Age Friendly.
- 8.2 Urban Braille** – Mary Sinclair brought to the attention of the Committee that Urban Braille would be celebrating its 20th anniversary on Saturday, June 6 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- 8.3 Meals Delivered** – Mary Sinclair wanted the members to know that a new company is providing delivery of frozen meals (similar to Meals on Wheels). Copies of the new business will be provided at the next meeting.
- 8.4 Hamilton Council on Aging** – Penelope Petrie handed out a flyer regarding an Older Adult Peer Connector Program. The program will be available in the libraries first and then in the recreation centres.
- 8.5** Councillor Jackson provided the following updates:
- CUPE Contract - ratified by 90% and Council approved a 7% increase over four years;
 - Canada Post – last day for arguments – it will take one week to a month for the judge to render his decision – the City is trying to regulate not prohibit – Hamilton has support across the country from other cities
 - Frozen Water Lines – over the winter, if homeowners experienced frozen water lines and required to hire contractor for repairs, 100% of expenses will be covered by City up to \$1,000 if the lines are on the City side.
 - LRT - Thanks to the Premier for the announcement of \$1 billion for the LRT.
 - Council on Aging - \$5,000 grant increased to \$8,000.
 - Seniors Event – Councillor Jackson will try to make it (away at the time).

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m. Safe and good summer to all.

10. NEXT MEETING

Friday, September 4, 2015, 10:00 a.m., Rooms 192/193, City Hall.