



Hamilton

**MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee  
Friday, January 8, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.  
Rooms 192/193, Hamilton City Hall**

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**Present:** Deirdre Chartrand, Carolann Fernandes,  
John Kennard, Jeanne Mayo, Penelope Petrie,  
Mary Sinclair, Ron Smithson, Bob Thomson,  
Marjorie Wahlman, and John Winslow

**Regrets:** Frank Brodnicki, Lorraine Meloche, Bernice Price,  
Shirley Robinson and Emmy Weisz

**Also**

**Present:** Councillor Tom Jackson  
Cindy Mercanti, Maxine Carter & Deb Thomas –  
Corporate Services (Customer Service, Access &  
Equity)  
Lisa Maychak - Community & Emergency Services  
(Neighbourhood & Community Initiatives)  
Cathy Kohler (for Eleanor Morton) – Community &  
Emergency Services (Recreation)  
Liz Conti – Public Health (Healthy Living)  
Vicki Woodcox – Community & Emergency Services  
(Macassa Lodge)

**Guests:** Matt Principato – Community & Emergency Services  
(Housing Services)  
Francine Levstek – Community & Emergency Services  
(Hamilton Fire Department)  
Dr. Ninh Tran – Public Health Services (Office of the  
Medical Officer of Health)  
Glenda McArthur – Public Health Services (Clinical &  
Preventive Services)  
Helen Buxton – Public Health Services (Dental  
Services)  
John Hawker

**1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair, Ron Smithson, welcomed everyone.

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

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

That the January 8, 2016 Agenda, of the Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be accepted, as amended.

All in favour.

**CARRIED.**

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None declared.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**4.1 Meeting of December 4, 2015**

**(M. Wahlman/J. Mayo)**

That the December 4, 2015 Minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved, as amended.

All in favour.

**CARRIED.**

**5. PRESENTATIONS**

**5.1 "Point in Time Count" – People Experiencing Homelessness in February (Matt Principato)**

Matt's presentation is attached. Key notes are as follows:

- The event is taking place February 21/22, 2016
- Information collected will provide a snapshot in time of the homelessness in Hamilton to understand the needs, characteristics and requirements of the affected people
- Streets will be canvassed, shelters visited to administer the survey in the core of the City
- There will be 30 core questions provided by the Government of Canada
- 200 volunteers are involved
- Results will be provided at a public presentation on Mar. 4

Carolann Fernandes asked about the ethno-community and how to capture that information (i.e. language barrier). Matt replied that the group will be mindful and respectful of cultural sensitivities and for those who do not want to participate. There will be a strong focus on the aboriginal population and members of the Aboriginal Advisory Board are assisting and advising on structure. The event will be held at community centres and will be open and accepting. The information collected will help the staff in the service delivery areas going forward.

Carolann further asked about the group going to places of worship to let people know about the survey. Matt said that the group has been in touch with religious groups (because when people are in a vulnerable state, they tend to go to a place of worship). A notice was placed in the Hamilton Spectator in December. It was suggested that the information be available on the Omni Channel as the ethno-community watch this station for information because it is in their language. Matt will take this suggestion back to the team.

Penelope Petrie inquired if the survey would be available in other languages. Matt advised that Wesley Ministries will be providing a translation service.

Jeanne Mayo asked about sheltered (emergency shelters) and unsheltered (outside) homeless people. Matt noted that the team is aware of hidden homeless ("couch crashing" – one night here, one night there). However, the survey will focus on the sheltered and unsheltered homeless.

Thanks to Matt for attending.

## **5.2 Seniors Fire Safety Program (Francine Levstek)**

The Fire Department wants to get the message out to seniors and educate them regarding first safety and prevention. Fact is that seniors are at the highest risk of being injured or dying in a fire.

A 17-minute video has been developed and is used at presentations. It covers fire and fall prevention and a checklist. Pamphlets are available and the presentation also includes exhibits. Items discussed at the presentation cover seniors in homes and apartments as there are differences. The total time required for the presentation would be around 45 to 60 minutes. The venue must be provided by the requester.

The Fire Department office is available for questions and assistance. One of the areas of assistance is their "Alarmed and Ready" program where firefighters will attend and install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. This program is only available for people who own their home. If you live in an apartment or rental unit, your landlord is responsible for installing, maintaining and replacing your alarms. If you can't afford the cost or are unable to install the alarms, the Fire Department can attend and install the alarms at no cost as they receive generous donations.

To arrange for a presentation, contact Bob Simpson, Chief Fire Prevention Officer, 905-546-2424 x1380 or email at [Bob.Simpson@hamilton.ca](mailto:Bob.Simpson@hamilton.ca). For the presentation, the Fire Department would like a minimum of 30 people and requires 30 days' notice. Evenings and weekends are available. Unfortunately, the presentation is only available in English.

Carolann thanked Francine for attending and noted that a section in the Housing Booklet notes contact information for the Fire Department. Francine offered to review fire information in the next edition and welcomes any ideas from SAC as to how to reach seniors. Lisa Maychak noted that the information provided today will be added to the seniors' website. Cathy Kohler advised that the fall edition of the 55+ Seniors Guide will include fire information.

**5.3 Seniors Dental Program (Dr. Ninh Tran)**

Also with Dr. Tran were Glenda McArthur (Director, Clinical & Preventive Services) and Helen Buxton (Community Dental Hygienist). The Public Health Department is promoting oral health for seniors. Presentations are targeting the lower income seniors. "Seniors Oral Health Community Outreach" presentation was shown (see attached). For more information contact Helen at 905-546-2424 x5284.

**6. BUSINESS/DISCUSSION**

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

- a) Refresher bike course for seniors - Cathy Kohler advised that signs have been posted at Sackville and currently, there are 14 names on the list for people wanting to attend a bicycle refresher course. SAC members noted that they have not seen the posted notice. Cathy will send the notice to the YWCA/YMCA. The deadline is January 15.

**6.2 Committee/Sub-committee Updates**

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

The Housing Booklet will be received by the Emergency & Community Services Committee on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 200 copies are being readied for distribution.

Thanks for the assistance of the Access & Equity Office; Paul Johnson who provided the printing of the Booklet; special thanks to Mary Sinclair as this was her initiative; John Hawker for his help; John Winslow and Bob Thomson for their assistance; and Bea McDonough for her encouragement.

The Booklet will be available on the Seniors' webpage.

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

No meeting this month. Next project will be to concentrate on planning for the pedestrian safety campaign. There have been a number of pedestrian deaths and the majority is seniors. The goal is to reduce the numbers and the Sub-committee will be working with Public Works and SPRC. There is new legislation regarding cross-overs and 20 will be installed this year. In February, Jeanne will bring an update of what to plan for in June (Seniors Month).

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

Mary noted that the Transportation Master Plan survey is available on the City's website but people who do not have a computer do not have access.

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

At the December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Terms of Reference and Mandate were reviewed.

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

A media release has gone out and a notice in the newspaper. There will be email blasts and over 300 organizations are on the contact list. Nominations are now open and the deadline for submitting is March 31<sup>st</sup>. Lisa will bring information for distribution to the next meeting.

**g) Age Friendly (L. Maychak)**

The lead groups met to prioritize actions and who will be taking the lead. They are looking at consolidating some of the actions to reduce the 100 items to around 75 as there appears to be duplication. Vicki Woodcox and Eleanor Morton are our two City representatives. There will be some actions coming forward for SAC to take the lead.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Seating at City Hall**

Mary Sinclair was concerned that no motion was put forward regarding patrons of accessible transit waiting at City Hall. Vicki Woodcox will discuss further with Maxine Carter and provide clarification at the next meeting.

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION SHARING**

### **8.1 Birthdays**

Emmy Weisz will be celebrating her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday is month and Ron Smithson will be 88.

### **8.2 Councillor Jackson Information Update**

Councillor Jackson was unable to stay for the end of the meeting but wanted to provide SAC with the following:

- (a) SAC to recommend to City Council (who in turn will provide to the new federal government) a priority list of infrastructure projects that would be important to SAC; and
- (b) City Council budget deliberations are underway. Hopefully, a decision will be made by April 1, 2016.

### **8.3 Tammy Morasse Report – Housing Consultation**

Mary Sinclair noted that when Tammy presented at the May 2015 SAC meeting she advised that a report would be sent to the Emergency & Community Services Committee in June 2015. Mary asked about the report and a copy will be provided to her.

### **8.4 Kirsten Maxwell Report**

Mary Sinclair wanted to share with members a report by Kirsten Maxwell going to Emergency & Community Services on January 18<sup>th</sup> regarding people with disabilities.

**8.5 Advisory Committee Applications**

Twenty-five applications have been received by the Clerk's Office.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

**10. NEXT MEETING**

**Friday, February 5, 2016, 10:00 a.m., Rooms 192/193,  
City Hall.**