



Hamilton

**MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee  
Friday, February 5, 2015 – 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, Emmy Weisz and John Winslow

**Regrets:** Frank Brodnicki, Lorraine Meloche, Bernice Price, Shirley Robinson, Maxine Carter, Vicki Woodcox and Councillor Tom Jackson

**Also**

**Present:** Councillor Brenda Johnson  
Cindy Mercanti, & Deb Thomas – Corporate Services (Customer Service, Access & Equity)  
Lisa Maychak – Community & Emergency Services (Neighbourhood & Community Initiatives)  
Eleanor Morton – Community & Emergency Services (Recreation)  
Liz Conti – Public Health (Healthy Living)

**Guests:** John Hawker  
Melissa McGinnis – Public Works (Facilities)

**1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair, Ron Smithson, welcomed everyone.

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

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

That the February 5, 2016 Agenda, of the Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be accepted. All in favour. **CARRIED.**

**3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None declared.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**4.1 Meeting of January 8, 2016**

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

That the January 8, 2016, Minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved. All in favour. **CARRIED.**

**4.2 Meeting of December 4, 2015**

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

That the December 4, 2015 Minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved, as amended. All in favour. **CARRIED.**

**5. PRESENTATIONS**

**5.1** None.

**6. BUSINESS/DISCUSSION**

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

- a)** 5.2 Webpage – see Item 7.1
- b)** 6.2 f) Seniors Award Event - see 6.2(e)
- c)** 7.1 Seating at City Hall – see 6.2 c)
- d)** Infrastructure Projects - outstanding

**6.2 Committee/Sub-committee Updates**

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

A presentation was made to the Emergency & Community Services Committee on January 18<sup>th</sup>. The Committee was provided with the Housing Booklet and the organization distribution list. The Booklet was very well received and the Committee was pleased with what was done. Distribution was completed by Lisa Maychak's office.

Carolann wanted to recognize Bob Thomson's work in providing the spreadsheet list for the address labels. She also noted that requests have been received by groups (i.e. Dr. Ellen Ryan) for someone to attend and talk about the Housing Booklet. Mary Sinclair noted that some of the locations for the requests are not accessible and therefore, she would be unable to attend.

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

There was no meeting of the Sub-committee.

Jeanne welcomed Councillor Brenda Johnson to the meeting. Councillor Johnson thanked Jeanne for the introduction and apologized for missing a couple of meetings. A scheduling mix-up has been corrected.

For the information of the Committee, Jeanne noted that HSR made a presentation at the General Issues Committee regarding the budget. Jeanne commented on the increase in fares, better service and more buses. A meeting will be held on February 9th regarding the budget from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Councillor Johnson noted that there is a long list to be considered for the budget by the Councillors (i.e. libraries, buses, social housing, etc.). She is aware of the issues regarding busing. The more delegates who attend the meeting, the better.

Ron Smithson advised members that Steve Molloy will be attending our next meeting to speak about the Transportation Master Plan.

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

Mary noted that the Sub-committee is still talking about the number of accessible taxis available.

Mary questioned about seating for DARTS patrons at City Hall while waiting for pick-up. Cindy Mercanti advised that Customer Service, Access & Equity would have a conversation with DARTS and Facilities to work towards a solution. Melissa McGinnis (Facilities) noted that conversations have started with the Fire Department and it may not be feasible.

As an interim solution, there is the potential to have City Hall reception (between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.) made aware a patron is waiting for DARTS. Reception would be able to check their cameras for DARTS arrival. As a patron / passenger you still need to be mindful of being ready for the DARTS driver.

Carolann commented that she is impressed with what DARTS is doing – incredible job and service. She hears a lot of negativity.

It is a long walk from the HSR bus stop to the front door of our local hospitals. It was noted that the Hamilton General, McMaster and St. Peter's hospitals now have handrails but the distance is still a problem. However, people can apply to DARTS to assist them getting to the front door.

**d) Older Adult Network (D. Chartrand/L. Maychak)**

Seniors month will kick off on May 30<sup>th</sup> at Sarcoa. There will be more involvement by community at this event. Mary Sinclair noted that it was difficult to maneuver through the displays last year as the event was indoors. Lisa Maychak will speak to the vendor regarding wider space between exhibits.

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

Currently, preparation for the event is in the nomination phase. Deadline for nominations is March 31<sup>st</sup>. There has been a media release and ads in The Spectator, Hamilton Community News and Snap'd newspapers. The nomination package is available in 10 different languages. The event will be taking place on June 14 at Michelangelo's.

Need to ensure there is accessibility to the stage. Carolann Fernandes asked if Councillor Johnson would be able to advocate for the Committee with the other councillors in providing information for nominations in the community and Councillor Johnson agreed. Mary Sinclair asked if the accessibility in the washroom could be looked at. Lisa Maychak and Melissa McGinnis will take a look when they are at the facility during their next meeting.

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

Age Friendly has three partners: the City, Seniors Advisory and Hamilton Council on Aging. A collaborative governance structure is now in place. Two work groups have been formed to deal with two of the Age Friendly goals – Health and Community Services (Liz Conti, Public Health, will be the lead) and Social Participation (Older Adult Network will be the lead).

Some of the actions within the Plan have been completed such as, the seniors' web page and the housing booklet. Many actions are in the works both internally (within various City departments) or externally.

The Hamilton Council on Aging is hosting a fair around the theme of "Social Participation" on March 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Peter's Hospital from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There will be an update on the Age Friendly implementation plan, other presentations, various vendors and refreshments will be served. Invitations will go out in the next week.

A question was asked about the Age Friendly budget being "squashed". Councillor Johnson agreed to look into the matter.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7.1 Seniors Web Page (L. Maychak)**

Lisa Maychak encouraged everyone to have a look at the web page and provide feedback as there is room for improvement. Any new events will be added to the page. The page is set up around the Age Friendly Plan. It was suggested that the page include a welcoming comment.

**8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION SHARING**

**8.1** Memo received from Clerk's Office regarding the presentation of the Housing Booklet at the January 18, 2016 Emergency & Community Services meeting.

- 8.2** Information received regarding recent Hamilton Police Service launch of text with 911 service for the deaf, deafened, hard of hearing community members as well as speech impaired persons.
- 8.3** RBG Orchid Society will be hosting their 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Orchid Show & Sale – February 27 & 28. Discount passes were handed out.
- 8.4** Eleanor Morton handed out a Ward 1 map indicating recreation services for older adults. The plan is to use existing and vacant buildings (i.e. school closures) for seniors' events. Ward 1 is the start. Sustainability was challenging – cost to keep going. Question was asked if all facilities are accessible and if not, maybe the information could be amended to indicate which facilities are accessible.

The Elderly Person Centre (EPC) grant, through the Ontario Senior Secretariat, has made a change for 2016-17. In prior years, EPCs were restricted to \$3,000 per item. Now we can apply single line items for eligible costs up to a maximum of \$15,000. This news is exciting for large ticketed items needed in senior centres and clubs.

- 8.5** Ron Smithson advised that the Senior Games are going forward. Districts 22 and 23 are now combined as Hamilton District. The group is trying to recruit members from Hamilton. If you know anyone, please contact Ron.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

## **10. NEXT MEETING**

**Friday, March 4, 2016, 10:00 a.m., Rooms 192/193, City Hall.**