



Hamilton

**MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, March 4, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.
Rooms 192/193, Hamilton City Hall**

Present: John Kennard, Jeanne Mayo, Mary Sinclair, Ron Smithson,
Bob Thomson, Marjorie Wahlman, Emmy Weisz and
John Winslow

Regrets: Frank Brodnicki, Carolann Fernandes, Lorraine Meloche,
Vi Morgan, Penelope Petrie, Bernice Price, Shirley Robinson

Also

Present: Councillors Tom Jackson & 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)
Vicki Woodcox - Community & Emergency Services (Macassa
Lodge)
Liz Conti – Public Health (Healthy Living)

Guests: John Hawker
Melissa McGinnis – Public Works (Facilities)
Steve Molloy – Public Works (Transportation)
Jack Thompson – Consultant

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair, Ron Smithson, welcomed everyone.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

(M. Wahlman/B. Thomson)

That the March 4, 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 February 5, 2016

(M. Wahlman/J. Winslow)

That the February 5, 2016, Minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved, as amended. All in favour. **CARRIED.**

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Transportation Master Plan (S. Molloy)

Jack Thompson (consultant) provided a PowerPoint presentation entitled "City of Hamilton's Transportation Master Plan (TMP) – Five-Year Review and Update". The following comments were received after the presentation.

Jeanne Mayo pointed out that Hamilton has the most pedestrian deaths in Ontario which is a statistic that needs to be addressed. Jeanne would like to see more protected crossings at intersections such as: Bay & King, Bay & Main, McNab & King, McNab & Main, to name a few. This type of intersection exists at James & King Streets. There was already a motion put forward by SAC regarding pedestrian safety as a priority.

Jeanne also noted that the width of sidewalks should be considered as there is a push to get more people to walk. Mobility devices are competing for the sidewalk space because by law, they cannot use the road. This issue was considered by the Seniors Advisory Committee Transportation Sub-committee where it suggested sidewalks be increased by a minimum of 2 m if the TMP's vision is to increase walking. Jack replied that the Complete Livable Better Streets, Planning Division, will address this issue when the streets are being upgraded/repaired.

Jeanne further commented that older adults may not be able to drive and because of the grid system become prisoners in their own homes. Jack noted that this issue is usually dealt with by Planning.

Emmy Weisz would like to see more benches for seniors. For those who like to walk and exercise, they might not be able to go as far and having a bench to rest would be beneficial. Emmy also asked about the number of bikes that can be taken on a bus. Steve Molloy replied that the capacity is two but if the bus is not too busy the driver might allow the bike on the bus if the rack is full.

Mary Sinclair pointed out that timing to cross at intersections needs to be extended as 23 seconds is not enough time. She has found that having such a short period of time to cross intersections (i.e. Wellington & King Streets where seniors reside at First Place) is encouraging residents to cross diagonally (jaywalk). Further the number of bicycles using the sidewalks is also an issue. Jack asked if the group would like to see mobility devices using the bicycle lanes. Mary noted that a number of mobility devices in the downtown core are using the bicycle lanes because the sidewalks need to be assessed and repaired.

Mary also wanted to share that if a senior homeowner in a rural area (i.e. Binbrook) should lose their licence (because of their eyesight), they can apply to DARTS for assistance instead of moving. Councillor Johnson responded that this information is publicized in her Ward.

Ron Smithson noted that the new survey developments seem to wait until there are enough people moved into the neighbourhood before they put in a bus. This results in so many more cars. Maybe look at getting them into the surveys early so people will use the bus instead of a car. If they are not available, they are forced to use their car.

DARTS needs to review their drop off and pick up spots. Some spots are in areas that are problematic (i.e. drop off for the Hamilton Market is in front of the Public Library and this is too far for most seniors and persons with mobility disabilities). Steve advised that when the report is finalized it will include recommendations from all of the information received. A Public Information Session is scheduled for April 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.

6. BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

6.1 Business Arising From Previous Minutes (Action Items)

- a)** 6.2 d) Older Adult Network - Seniors Month – Lisa Maychak to speak to Sarcoa regarding movement space around the exhibits – Lisa responded that she will make sure this happens
- b)** 6.2 e) Seniors Award – Lisa Maychak and Melissa McGinnis to review washroom facility at venue – Lisa responded that a review will be done the next time they attend the venue
- c)** 6.2 f) Age Friendly – Councillor Brenda Johnson to look into budget information – Lisa followed up and Councillor Johnson confirmed that there are no cuts to the Age Friendly budget.
- d)** 8.2 Councillor Tom Jackson Information Update (January minutes) – Councillor Jackson would like SAC to put forward a priority list of infrastructure projects important to seniors – Councillor Jackson reminded the group that the Federal government will be announcing soon money ear-marked for infrastructure. He would like feedback from SAC for projects like: recreational facilities, housing, sidewalks, etc.

The following list was generated during discussion: sidewalk repairs to be considered using hard concrete replacement, ramps; snow removal at intersections; wider sidewalks; and housing for seniors (refurbishing and building new).

Marjorie Wahlman suggested that the Sub-committees look at their wants and desires and bring them forward to the next meeting. Councillor Jackson was concerned about timing.

6.2 Committee/Sub-committee Updates

a) Housing Sub-committee (C. Fernandes)

Carolann was not present. Bob Thomson responded on her behalf that there was no meeting and nothing to report at this time. Mary Sinclair asked about an accessible housing report and Councillor Johnson advised that she would get back to Mary with respect to the date when the report will be received by the Committee.

b) Transportation Sub-committee (J. Mayo)

There was no meeting and no report.

Suggestion was made that the sub-committees might look at preparing a report of their work for the new group.

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

Mary advised that there will be new tie downs for the HSR buses. Maxine Carter noted that a date is being set for a tour of the Hamilton Mountain Bus Depot shelters to view the accessible warning strips later in March. ATS complaints will be discussed at a later time – long waits for people at hospitals to get home. Mary would like to see the “medical bus” reactivated.

Councillor Jackson commented that DARTS’ service is modified on election day in Ward 7 to accommodate service users. The DARTS vehicle will wait for the person to finish voting and take the user back home. Mary noted that an emergency procedure may need to be determined for people with mobility devices on the HSR. In a recent incident, Mary’s chair malfunctioned and there was an issue as to how to get her off the bus.

In the recent ATS-DARTS User Guide, a new toll free number was provided for cell phone or long distance callers – 1-855-831-5418.

d) Older Adult Network (L. Maychak)

Lisa attends these meetings and provided an update. The Seniors Month Kick Off is in full swing and materials have been circulated to obtain vendors. A letter has been sent out to agencies for participation and what the event is all about. There will be presentations and workshops.

e) Seniors Award Event (L. Maychak)

The nomination phase will end March 31st. Please share and get the word out! Lisa was on Cable 14 yesterday speaking about the Seniors Award and Age Friendly. Linda Rourke (Cable 14) has been invited to attend the event at St. Peter's. The following are sponsors for the event: Chartwell Deerview Crossing, Village of Wentworth Heights, The Meadowlands, HMECU. The following media sponsors are also on board: The Hamilton Spectator, Hamilton Community News, Cable 14 and CHML.

The judging panel has been chosen. At the end of April, the judges will meet to share scoring and pick the winners for the categories. May 1 the tickets will go on sale and be available at all Municipal Service Centres, Sackville Recreation Centre and by contacting Lisa.

f) Age Friendly (L. Maychak)

March 18 is the event at St. Peter's from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and is open for all to attend. There will be healthy snacks provided. The Community Engagement Advisory Group met last week. Council on Aging with support from the City is partnering with Ontario Seniors Secretariat. The grant is for a program addressing seniors living in isolation and encouraging landlords to create space for social interaction and programming. These actions fall under two goal areas of the Age-Friendly Plan: Social Participation and Housing.

Lisa asked the members for any feedback regarding the seniors' web page. Bob Thomson said that it looks great but would like to see additional information: list of members, possibly a document containing the mission. Cindy Mercanti and Maxine Carter advised that a template is being prepared for all committees to use so they will be consistent in providing the same information. It should be available after the new committee is formed.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 No new business.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION SHARING

8.1 Resignation of Deirdre Chartrand – The resignation of Deirdre Chartrand was received.

8.2 Update re DARTS signage at City Hall Reception – A copy of the signage being used at the City Hall Information Desk was received by SAC. City Hall has been identified as a pick up location and the Information Desk will be notified when DARTS has been dispatched.

Regarding the bench in the hallway at the back entrance to City Hall, Maxine Carter reported that she received information from Fire Prevention that the area was inspected. Subsequently, approval was given for two folding chairs to be considered subject to specification approval by Fire Prevention. The next step may be for the request to be taken to the Heritage Committee by Access & Equity and Facilities. If the benches are installed, it is to be used as a waiting location and not a meeting place.

Emmy Weisz asked about a bench outside the back of City Hall and Maxine replied that a bench has been approved and ordered and will be located under the overhang at the back of City Hall on the first floor.

8.3 Language Barrier Calling into DARTS, ATS – A copy of the language barrier information was received by SAC.

8.4 Update re Elevators in Multi-Storey Residential Buildings – A copy of information from City Clerk's Office was received by SAC.

Mary Sinclair was concerned about a Housing Sub-committee motion regarding elevators that she felt due process did not happen. The human aspect also needs to be addressed. The motion resulted after a two month elevator strike that affected vulnerable people and recommended that power be made available for people with medical issues, such as the need for working medical equipment (i.e. respirator & suction). Also, that all landlords have emergency generators for vital services and to operate one elevator during a power outage. Councillor Johnson replied as Chair of the Planning Committee that the report was sent back to staff for additional information and is expected to report back to the Committee on March 22. Councillor Johnson offered to get a copy of the report to Mary. Mary would also like the information referred to ACPD to review.

8.5 Update from Councillor Brenda Johnson – Councillor Maria Pearson (Ward 10) provided approximately \$11,000 to the SOS (Seniors Outreach Services) group who provide snow clearing for seniors to purchase equipment (snow blower). The Purchase of 11 buses has been approved. The City recently purchased the former Winona Public School and renovated it to create the Winona Community Centre which will have senior programming.

8.6 Update from Councillor Tom Jackson – The 2016 budget is expected to be ratified at the March 9th meeting of City Council with a 1.8% increase for taxpayers. Some of the items are expansion of services, waterfront development, extension of the Red Hill and seniors' issues have been captured.

Jeanne Mayo has been appointed to the Citizen Jury for the Light Rail Transit (LRT).

Councillor Jackson would like to see members who have resigned or will not be coming back to the Committee to be given a memento of their time with SAC. It was decided that this would be a nice thing to do. Councillors Jackson & Johnson will discuss with the Mayor's Office and staff.

Council has given DARTS a one year extension to see if there are opportunities for savings. If savings cannot be found, Council has the right to tender.

Snow Angels – This program has been taken in-house and the volunteer staff have done a great job clearing the snow. Councillor Jackson has received thanks from his constituents.

Finally, the budget requested by SAC of \$1,500 has been approved at General Issues Committee and will go to City Council on March 9 to be ratified.

8.7 Advisory Committees

Councillor Johnson expressed her appreciation of the work done by SAC members. Councillor Jackson, as Chair of the Selection Committee, advised that 27 applications were received and all will be interviewed. Ten of the applications are current incumbents who have re-applied.

8.8 Recreation – Eleanor Morton handed out a flyer for a free workshop as follows:

How to Cope with Gossip & Bullying Behaviour – A Workshop to Help You Learn How to Create a More Positive and Safe Place to Live – Date will be Tuesday, March 29, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Sackville Hill, 780 Upper Wentworth St., Meeting Rooms - light refreshments will be provided.

Sackville will be closed March 21 to 26 and Ancaster Senior Achievement Centre will be closed March 25 to April 1 – both for a maintenance shut down.

Twenty-five people have registered for the bike refresher course. The six-hour course is free and will be held late spring.

Applications for the Senior Games will go out later this month. Ontario Senior Games Association determines the games that are played.

Letters of support for grants were sent out from seniors' district, recreation for suicide prevention of seniors and the memory project for seniors.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

10. NEXT MEETING

Friday, April 1, 2016 at 10:00 a.m., Rooms 192/193, City Hall.