



Hamilton

**MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, October 7, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.
Rooms 192/193, Hamilton City Hall**

Present: Margaret Cheyne, Lou DeStephanis, Carolann Fernandes, George Hough, John Kennard, Paula Kilburn, Jeanne Mayo, Dahlia Petgrave, Penelope Petrie, Mary Sinclair, Ron Smithson, Doug Stone, Basharat Tayyab, Karen Thomson, Marjorie Wahlman, Emmy Weisz & John Winslow

Regrets: Bob Thomson & Kimberly McKibbon
Eleanor Morton & Vicki Woodcox (Community & Emergency Services); Liz Conti (Public Health); Cindy Mercanti & Maxine Carter (Corporate Services); and Councillors Tom Jackson and Brenda Johnson

Absent: None

Also

Present: Deb Thomas – Corporate Services (Customer Service, Access & Equity)
Lisa Maychak – Community & Emergency Services (Neighbourhood & Community Initiatives)

Guests: Melissa McGinnis – Public Works (Facilities); Margaret Denton – Professor of Health, Aging and Society, McMaster University, Hamilton Council on Aging; Cathy Isowa & Laura Rolph – Community & Emergency Services (Recreation); Michelle Gold, Hamilton Council on Aging; and Tina Sousa, DARTS

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Vice Chair, Ron Smithson, welcomed everyone.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

(M. Wahlman/G. Hough)

That the October 7, 2016 Agenda, of the Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be accepted with the following additions:

New Business

7.2 Motion from Mary Sinclair regarding Toilets

Announcements/Information Sharing

8.9 Report regarding Elevators in Multi-Storey Residential Buildings

8.10 Article from the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care regarding "Ontario Launching Consultations to Improve Dementia Care" (C. Fernandes)

8.11 Falls Prevention Workshop (J. Mayo)

8.12 SPRC Publications – Demographic Shifts and Introduction to Key Findings (J. Mayo)

All in favour.

CARRIED.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Meeting of September 2, 2016

(M. Wahlman/C. Fernandes)

That the September 2, 2016, Minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved.

All in favour.

CARRIED

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Age Friendly Plan (Background & Progress) – J. Mayo

Jeanne Mayo introduced Dr. Margaret Denton. Dr. Denton provided some background information. An information sheet outlining 2015-2016 Age Friendly update and highlights was provided to the SAC members. In 2012, Age Friendly became part of the Strategic Plan. Hamilton was the first City to start moving forward with the initiative and now 100 communities are involved. Hamilton's "Plan for an Age-Friendly City" was endorsed by Council in the fall of 2014 (copy provided to members).

Jeanne Mayo took SAC members through the Goals, Objectives, Actions sections of the Plan:

1. Housing
2. Getting Around Greater Hamilton: Mobility, Outdoor Spaces & Public Building
3. Communication & Information
4. Health & Community Services: Aging in Community Safely & Securely
5. Social Participation: Recreation, Learning, Arts & Culture
6. Civic Engagement, Volunteerism & Employment
7. Age-Friendly Public Service.

It was suggested that when the Housing Working Group has been approved, the members of the Working Group might take on some of the relevant actions of the Age Friendly goals.

Questions were asked and comments received during the presentation as follows:

Goal 5. Mary Sinclair asked if recreation staff are trained for emergency situations. Cathy Isowa responded that staff receive first aid, CPR and AED training. Further, a visually impaired member pointed out that she had not been properly assisted/directed at one of the recreation centres. Cathy offered to discuss further with staff and clarify training in this regard.

Lou DeStephanis noted that for those members who assist reviewing and provide feedback for the Recreation Program Guide, they were not given sufficient time. Lisa Maychak offered to look into the Lou's concerns.

Goal 6. Lisa Maychak provided the following information regarding the City's Seniors Award Event. 2016 was the third year for the new format. There are nine categories for nomination – eight are municipal awards and the ninth is the Senior of the Year (provincial). Nominations for next year will go out in January and will be due by March. Basharat Tayyab asked that additional communication methods be used to reach out to our diverse community – newspapers, newsletters, ethnic radio programs, etc. The information needs to reach specific ethno-cultural groups. Lisa asked for Basharat's help in getting the information out to the community.

Goal 7. There is a peer connector program offered through the Library where older adults are trained to help other older adults. The goal is to have peer connectors where the older adults are (i.e. malls – Limeridge & Eastgate). If anyone has ideas as to where a large number of adults get together, please let Jeanne Mayo and Lisa Maychak know so that these locations can be considered.

Some of the comments for Jeanne Mayo to take back to Age Friendly were: make sure handouts are accessible (i.e. considering visually impaired – Braille, larger font); social isolation (assumed older adults living in their own home); additional pedestrian crossovers will help the more vulnerable seniors; and accessible pedestrian signals.

After the presentation, Jeanne reminded the members that two SAC members will need to be appointed to the Governance Committee and two members to the Community Engagement Advisory Committee (CEAC). Jeanne is a current member of the Governance Committee and they meet every second Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:30 am at the Lister Block. They are hoping to decrease the number of meetings in the new year. Penelope Petrie currently sits on CEAC for the implementation of "Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City". This committee has not met in a while and once they start again, it will be once a month.

A list of committees and working groups requiring a representative will be sent to the SAC members and if interested, respond to Debbie Thomas.

6. BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

6.1 Business Arising From Previous Minutes (Action Items)

- a)** Councillor B. Johnson offered to look into the matter and find out where that part of the motion was forwarded (first part of motion regarding elevators was sent to Planning and Development). Councillor Johnson was not available to provide further information on this matter.
- b)** At the previous meeting, Mary Sinclair had inquired about the expenses of the Committee. A report was prepared and received by SAC outlining expenses for 2014, 2015 and 2016.

6.2 Committee/Sub-committee Updates

- a) Housing Working Group**
Working Group has not been set up.
- b) Transportation Sub-committee (J. Mayo)**
Working Group has not been set up.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Home Modification Conference & Workshop (M. Sinclair/P. Petrie)

That the George Hough attend the conference.
All in favour.

CARRIED

Debbie Thomas will arrange for George's registration.

7.2 Motion re Toilets

Mary Sinclair provided the Committee with a draft Motion regarding preventing social isolation because of limited toileting facilities. Possibly look at requesting changes to the Ontario Building Code. Assistance from the Committee is needed to move forward. It was decided by the members to have this matter dealt with by one of the Working Groups once assigned and bring the matter back to the main Committee at a later date.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION SHARING

8.1 Update from Councillor B. Johnson –
Councillor B. Johnson was unavailable for this meeting.

8.2 Update from Councillor T. Jackson –
Councillor T. Jackson was unavailable for this meeting.

8.3 Seniors Award Event

The Seniors Award Event Committee is currently securing sponsorships for the event. More information will be available at the December meeting.

8.4 Age Friendly

A report will be received by Emergency & Community Services at its meeting on Monday, November 7 at 1:30 pm. Attendance of members in support of the report would be appreciated.

(J. Mayo/E. Weisz)

That Seniors Advisory Committee endorses the 2015-2016 update, progress report on Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City.

All in favour.

CARRIED

8.5 Older Adult Network

No information at this time.

8.6 ACPD Transportation Working Group

Paula Kilburn proposed that there be more collaboration between SAC and ACPD and the possibility of sharing minutes of the ACPD Transportation Working Group with SAC. Jeanne Mayo suggested the item be put on the next agenda and Paula would provide a presentation of ACPD Transportation Working Group. Also, we will need a representative from SAC for ACPD.

8.7 New Food Access Guide

Liz Conti was unavailable to attend the meeting. The Guide is available on the website. This matter is deferred to the next meeting. Staff will look into the possibility of getting a copy of the guide in large font and a Braille copy for Paula Kilburn.

8.8 Deferred Property Taxes

Emmy Weisz noted that it is an important principle for seniors to age in their own home. She would like the opportunity of deferring taxes for the elderly to be explored. Some homes in the south-west portion of the City have much higher taxes and this could impact seniors not being able to afford the taxes and require them to move. This matter was deferred to a future meeting for further discussion.

8.9 Report re Elevators

At the request of Councillor Tom Jackson, the Planning Committee report regarding "Elevators in Multi-Storey Residential Buildings" was received by the Committee.

8.10 Dementia Care

At the request of Carolann Fernandes, information from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care was received regarding "Ontario Launching Consultations to Improve Dementia Care".

8.11 Falls Prevention Workshop

A falls prevention workshop is being held at Sackville, 780 Wentworth Street on Wednesday, November from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm. The session is free but registration is required by November 2. There will be speakers, displays and lunch is provided. Call 905-546-2541 for more information.

8.12 SPRC Publications – Demographic Shift and Introduction to Key Findings

Jeanne suggested that the SPRC attend a future meeting to present the newest publication.

9. ADJOURNMENT

(M. Wahlman/P. Petrie)

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

10. NEXT MEETING

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