



**MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, April 7, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.
Rooms 192/193, Hamilton City Hall**

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

Regrets: Basharat Tayyab, Karen Thomson, Liz Conti (PH), and Vicki Woodcox (C&ES), Melissa McGinnis (PW), Eleanor Morton (Community & Emergency Services)

Absent:

Also

Present: Maxine Carter (Human Resources, Access & Equity)
Councillor Tom Jackson, Councillor Brenda Johnson
Lisa Maychak (C&ES)

Guests: Tina Sousa (DARTS)

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair, Bob Thomson, welcomed everyone.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

- The addition of Item #6.2 (j) Social Isolation Network Working Group

(M. Wahlman/C. Fernandes)

That the April 7, 2017 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 March 3, 2017

- Regrets section: Councillor Jackson to be removed from Regrets as he was present
- Item #6.2(c) to be revised to indicate that once Inform Hamilton has completed its work in communications that the SAC will be engaged
- Item #6.2(e) to reflect that P. Kilburn resigned as a member of the Community Engagement Advisory Committee and not as Chair
- Item #8.3 to reflect that the Senior of the Year Awards event is on June 13, 2017 and not June 23, 2017

(G. Hough/P. Kilburn)

That the March 3, 2017 Minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved, as amended.

All in favour.

CARRIED.

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Community Profile Report March 2017 – by Jeanne Mayo, SAC and Sara Mayo, Social Planning and Research Council

- J. Mayo presented the summary of the 2016 Community Progress Report
- Points were brought forward: need for more benches at bus stops and where benches are not located in bus shelters, benches need to be covered
- S. Mayo provided an overview of the Age Friendly Hamilton Report, March 2017: i) Accessible inclusive environment, ii) Physical environments, and iii) Age friendly leadership

Discussion Points

1) Missing from the data

- Racialized and ethno-cultural population are absent from the data.
- S. Mayo said that it is in the larger report. We still need the information for planning purposes and not all of this data is available. S. Mayo agreed that the percentage of immigrants coming to Hamilton has decreased. The City of Hamilton is aware and has put in place the Global Hamilton initiative and the Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council

2) Affordable Housing

- Concerned at the cost of affordable seniors housing – there is an increase in rental costs. What is being done?

3) Are iPad and touch screen programs accessible?

- Are there tactile or Braille letting people who are visually impaired know that the benches are there?

4) Are there particular programs with the Police to educate seniors about how to deal with fraud or issues that put them at risk?

- L. Maychak noted that the HPS has numerous programs in place to assist seniors

5.2 Snow Angels - Deb Clinton and Rikki Frith Neighbourhood Action Strategy

- Deb Clinton provided an overview of the Snow Angels Program, 2017 statistics, as well as the strengths, values, and challenges of the program
- D. Clinton asked the Committee for feedback and input on the program

Some Questions and Comments from the Committee:

Q. Can volunteers get bus tickets to get to other wards?

A. Yes. We are open to that, however, we try to match within wards.

Q. What is the Snow Angels connection to Neighbourhood Committees?

Answer:

- It was noted that the cost to get vulnerable security checks by RCMP and/or the HPS is heavy
- It is important to advise Neighbourhood Committees in the fall regarding the Snow Angels programs
- The Snow Angels Program does advise volunteers to not have contact with the home owner/renter but cannot stop interaction if the senior initiates contact
- Volunteers are told not to use the homeowner/renter's snow blower/snow equipment due to the risk involved
- Councillor Jackson noted that the program is very important and needed; the City of Hamilton has put aside \$200,000 to keep this program going
- A volunteer luncheon is provided each year to show appreciation to the volunteers and to say thank you
- Consider charging minimal fee for those who can afford it, e.g. \$25-\$30/month
- Can get the Small Business Enterprise Centre to get an entrepreneur who could be employed to assist with some of the ploughing

M. Wahlman/G. Hough

That the Seniors Advisory Committee receive the presentations made by the Social Planning and Research Council and by the Snow Angels Program.

All in favour.

CARRIED.

6. BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

6.1 Business Arising From Previous Minutes (Action Items)

- (a)** The generator issue has been referred to the Fire Chief and the Paramedics Chief to report back to the Emergency & Community Services Committee
- This update was not available

- (b)** Safety at Bus Shelter (King & Emerald Streets) – Councillor Jackson is waiting to hear back from request to HSR
 - Councillor Jackson will have this matter addressed by the HSR
- (c)** Pro-Master Vans – Councillor T. Jackson to report back to SAC
This issue was addressed last month.

6.1.1 Tabled Items

- a)** Deferred property taxes will be discussed further at a future meeting
 - This has been referred to the Housing Working Group and will be removed from Tabled Items
 - Refer to booklet on “Housing Options” – property taxes are discussed
 - L. Maychak will check on this item as well to ensure that it is correct

6.2 Working Groups Updates

- a) SAC-Housing Working Group (C. Fernandes, J. Winslow, M. Sinclair, D. Stone, P. Kilburn, J. Kennard, J. Hawker)**
 - C. Fernandes wants to clarify with each group – ACPD Housing and SAC Housing Working Groups about whether their objectives are in fact the same
 - If this is the case, it may be useful to have only one working group
- b) SAC-Getting Around Hamilton Working Group (GAHWG) (J. Mayo)**
 - Still awaiting a confirmation of our grant
 - Seniors Kick Off is on May 29, 2017 – want to have HSR bus representative at this event to answer questions

- Organizer of Seniors Kick Off wants HSR to allow seniors ride for free to this event
- Eleanor Morton reported that there will be chartered buses for rural areas through Emergency and Community Services

J. Mayo/G. Hough

That HSR be approached by the Seniors Advisory Committee to offer free service for seniors on May 29, 2017 for Seniors Kick Off month.

All in favour.

CARRIED.

**c) SAC-Communications Working Group
(B. Thomson)**

- Did not meet

**d) Age Friendly Plan- Governance Committee
(J. Mayo/ B. Thomson)**

- No report

**e) Age Friendly Plan - Community Engagement
Advisory Committee (CEAC) (E. Weisz)**

- E. Weisz did not attend the last meeting
- The CEAC will be preparing a presentation about the Age Friendly Plan and set-up a speakers bureau

f) Older Adult Network- (D. Stone)

- Meeting deferred until later in April
- Seniors Kick Off flyers handed out

g) AODA - Hamilton Health Sciences (M. Sinclair)

- Did not meet

h) ACPD - Transportation Working Group

- The General Manager of HSR was present and there were numerous questions from members; this was the first meeting

i) International Day of Older Persons Committee (D. Stone)

- Did not meet

j) Social Isolation Network (K. Thomson)

- Did not meet last month

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Senior of the Year Award – Minister of Seniors Affairs – An opportunity to honour one outstanding local senior – M. Carter

- L. Maychak noted that this award is the same as the City of Hamilton's Senior of the Year Award.
- The Seniors Advisory Committee approved a discounted ticket rate of \$15.00 for the Senior of the Year Award event

7.2 Seniors Advisory Committee Annual Report – B. Thomson

- This report will be presented at the Emergency and Community Services Committee meeting on Monday, April 10, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION SHARING

8.1 Update from Councillor T. Jackson – including (1) Seniors 2017 HSR Fare AND (2) DARTS AND (3) Age Friendly City Budget Updates

- Two new members were appointed to the Seniors Advisory Committee
- March 3, 2017 – Seniors 2017 HSR fare – Council deferred third year strategy to freeze all fares on HSR; no seniors increase

- DARTS – new three-year contract until June 2020 – DARTS drivers were praised by many
- Council will now have direct contact with DARTS Executive Director; New Pro-vans will also be purchased
- \$30,000 approved for Age Friendly budget
- \$1,500 grant to the Seniors Advisory Committee approved

8.2 Update from Councillor B. Johnson

- Fifty million passed at Council; 20 million being invested into poverty reduction and the remaining 30 million invested into housing
- Three million each year to repair and replace existing housing up to proper standards
- Budgets – begins November and ends in April. This issues was presented and passed April 6, 2017
- Based on where you live, i.e. ward

8.3 Seniors Award Event – L. Maychak

- There are thirty-five nominations - the number of diverse nominations has increased
- Tickets are available at Municipal Service Centres and Sackville
- The event will take place at Michelangelo's Banquet Centre on June 13, 2017

J. Mayo/M. Wahlman

That the Seniors Advisory Committee approve a discounted rate for any Seniors Advisory Committee member at the rate of \$10 per member.

All in Favour.

CARRIED.

9. ADJOURNMENT

C. Fernandes/P. Kilburn

That the Seniors Advisory Committee meeting of April 7, 2017 be adjourned.

All in Favour.

CARRIED.

10. NEXT MEETING

Friday, May 5, 2017 at 10:00 a.m., Rooms 192/193, City Hall.