



**MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee  
Friday, May 5, 2017 – 10:00 a.m.  
Rooms 192/193, Hamilton City Hall**

**Present:** Karen Thomson, 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, Barry Spinner, Ramanath Kamath

**Regrets:** Carolann Fernandes, Paula Kilburn, Basharat Tayyab, Liz Conti (PH), Councillor Tom Jackson, Councillor Brenda Johnson

**Absent:**

**Also**

**Present:** Jessica Bowen (Human Resources, Access & Equity), Lisa Maychak (C&ES), Eleanor Morton (Community & Emergency Services)

**Guests:** Tina Sousa, John Hawker, Councillor Donna Skelly, Julia Colantino

**1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair, Bob Thomson, welcomed everyone.

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

- Addition of Item #5.1 – Evergreen and the 100 in 1 Day Project
- Addition of Item #6.2(j) – Social Isolation Network
- Removal of Item #6.1.1.(a) Deferred Property Taxes – This item will be referred to the Housing Working Group

**M. Wahlman/J. Winslow**

That the May 5, 2017 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 April 7, 2017**

- Addition to Item #7.1 Senior of the Year Award – The Seniors Advisory Committee approved a discounted ticket rate of \$15.00

**M. Wahlman/K. Thomson**

That the April 7, 2017 Minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved, as amended.

All in favour.

**CARRIED.**

**5. PRESENTATIONS**

**5.1 Evergreen – 100 in 1 Day Project and funding for seniors' workshops – Allison Maxted**

- Allison Maxted, Program Assistant at Evergreen, provided an overview of Evergreen and the 100 in 1 Day event
- The event is scheduled for June 3, 2017 and aims to make more inclusive and liveable cities
- Regarding funding, there is a New Horizons for Seniors Program which is a grant for community-based projects led by seniors

**Some Questions and Comments from the Committee:**

Q: How do you encourage participation from seniors?

A: We hold workshops, request feedback, and engage in activities. We also connect people to appropriate procedures, i.e. permits.

Q: When you are talking about pets, do you go to other extremes, such as reptiles?

A: "Your City, your day" is the 100 in 1 Day slogan. It is about what the city wants to do so if there was an interest, then yes.

Q: What was done last year and the year before?

A: Some examples from last year include, an architectural firm in Dundas converted their parking lot into a small park for a day and

CoMotion, a co-working space downtown, offered free yoga in Gore Park. Some examples from this year include, GoodLife Fitness doing yoga on the roof of Jackson Square, Surprise!Hamilton lining a section of the rail trail with paper lanterns, turning stop signs into flowers to draw attention to them, and Cycle Hamilton using characters from a video game to rate the cycling infrastructure in the City.

Q: How does Evergreen connect to longer term energies and initiatives given that this a one-day event?

A: The event builds networks and is planning to do more. Small grants are also available to help turn a project into something more sustainable. Some participation might not be lasting change but it is fun.

Q: What is your contact information?

A: Phone: 289 683 0623 Email: 100in1dayham@gmail.com

**M. Wahlman/M. Cheyne**

That the Seniors Advisory Committee receive the presentation made by Evergreen regarding the 100 in 1 Day Project.

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
- J. Bowen reported on behalf of Councillor Jackson that this item requires further information
  - The Committee had an inquiry about how individuals with vision loss or who are blind and therefore cannot see posted elevator service disruption notices are informed of elevator service disruptions
  - Further, there is uncertainty of what Council may have decided regarding elevator service disruption notices;

the Committee will follow-up with Councillor Jackson at the next meeting

- (b)** Safety at Bus Shelter (King & Emerald Streets) – Councillor Jackson is waiting to hear back from request to HSR
  - J. Bowen reported on behalf of Councillor Jackson that this item requires further information

**6.1.1 Tabled Items**

- a)** Deferred property taxes will be discussed further at a future meeting
  - This item will be removed from the agenda

**6.2 Working Groups Updates**

**a) SAC-Housing Working Group (C. Fernandes, J. Winslow, M. Sinclair, D. Stone, P. Kilburn, J. Kennard, J. Hawker)**

- M. Sinclair reported that David Brodati, City of Hamilton's Housing Services, will be attending the May 16 meeting to discuss supportive housing in the long-term housing strategy by the Province
- If any Committee members would like a copy of the Housing Working Group agenda for the May 16 meeting, please contact G. Hough
- There are overlapping concerns with respect to supportive housing between the ACPD and the SAC Housing Working Groups; merging the two working groups will provide them with a focus

**J. Winslow/K. Thomson**

That the Seniors Advisory Committee Housing Working Group and the Advisory for Persons with Disabilities Housing Working Group merge to form one Housing Working Group.

All in favour

**CARRIED.**

**b) SAC-Getting Around Hamilton Working Group (GAHWG) (J. Mayo)**

- A request for functioning bike and pedestrian safety is still pending a response
- The Seniors Kick-Off event is at the waterfront; a motion was passed asking HSR to provide a bus to come to the waterfront
- Working on getting transportation for the Seniors Kick-Off event; outside of rush hour there is no direct way to get to the waterfront
- There has been discussion about having three or four pick-up points in rural areas; this has yet to be finalized
- The other resolution was concerning seniors riding the HSR for free on May 29<sup>th</sup>; awaiting a response
- SAC is going to do a mini-workshop on HSR, bus passes, fares, etc.; still working on the details
- Final meeting in June to wrap-up before the summer
- DARTS presented to the GAHWG; the GAHWG reviewed the presentation and would like the Accessible Transportation Services to make a presentation in September to SAC regarding what they do
- There will be a coffee hour for older adults to learn about the Seniors Advisory Committee on June 2 an hour prior to the meeting from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.

**J. Mayo/P. Petrie**

That refreshments and coffee for 15 additional people be ordered for the Seniors Advisory Committee meeting on June 2, 2017 for coffee hour.

All in favour

**CARRIED.**

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

- Currently waiting for Information Hamilton, which is the lead on the age friendly communication
- Information Hamilton is in the planning stages and hope to have their plan together by September
- As a result, the committee has not been working on the age friendly communication
- The Communications Working Group has been meeting on Tuesdays

**G. Hough/P. Petrie**

That Seniors Advisory Committee members be informed of all working group meeting dates, times, and locations via email.

All in favour

**CARRIED.**

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

- Currently reviewing the items in the Age Friendly Plan
- The Age Friendly Plan was put together by Hamilton Council on Aging, the City of Hamilton, and SAC
- The structure for overseeing the project dictates that we have a governance committee, coordinate aspects, and bring partners together to have meetings

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

- The meeting has been cancelled because members of the Working Group are working; if meetings are held at lunch time, it is recommended that people eat at a

regular time because it is not age-friendly to have meetings at lunch time

**f) Older Adult Network- (D. Stone)**

- Posters for the Older Adult Network have been completed by the printer and will be distributed soon
- Posters will be sent to senior organizations
- The Older Adult Network is the lead for Goal 5, which is social participation; they will review that goal area and action
- The Older Adult Network is informed on what other organizations are doing regarding social participation

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

- This working group has not been having meetings

**h) ACPD - Transportation Working Group**

- The General Manager of HSR and DARTS attended the last Transportation Working Group meeting
- The new leadership will be more customer service focused
- Bus wraps for advertising cover the speakers and make it difficult to hear announcements from the outside of buses; therefore, HSR will cut the wrapping around the speakers so speakers are fully audible
- There was also the suggestion to cut the bus wrapping around the windows as the wrapping makes it difficult to see outside, which can be disorienting
- There is a much better working relationship between customers, DARTS, and the HSR.
- DARTS has committed to working on a “where’s my ride” app for persons with visual impairments

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

- There was no meeting

**j) Social Isolation Network (K. Thomson)**

- The Social Isolation Network has not yet had a meeting but is planning a meeting date

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7.1 Hearing Loop**

- Hearing loops are facilities which transmit a message from a microphone to an individual's hearing aids
- The message is transmitted from the individual/source conveying the message directly to the individual's hearing aid without interference from background noise
- For example, Union Station and some churches have been wired with hearing loops
- Councillor Skelly and Julia Colantino is here today to speak about hearing loops
- Julia Colantino has a cochlear implant and discussed hearing loops
- Because hearing loops improve the experience for people with hearing loss, a recommendation was made by Councillor Skelly to investigate the costs of and where hearing loops are most effective as well as encourage the City of Hamilton to implement them in new and existing buildings
- In addition, there was also a recommendation to encourage the private sector to invest in hearing loops and potentially offer a financial incentive to have them in buildings
- Councillor Skelly would like to come back to the Committee at the end of the summer to follow-up on the recommendations



**Some Questions and Comments from the Committee for Julia Colantino:**

Q: There is an understanding that hearing loops are a requirement under the AODA and that very soon these adjustments and adaptations will have to be made.

A: There are different hearing loops and different systems; hearing loops are part of the AODA.

Q: Will you be giving a talk about hearing loops on Monday at the Emergency and Community Services (ECS) Committee meeting?

A: I can do it at the ECS and at the ACPD as well.

Comment: The Hamilton chapter of the Canadian Hard of Hearing Association had a vendor set up a hearing loop. Everyone in the room was hard of hearing at some level; the reactions were amazing. It was too expensive to install at the Ancaster Senior's Achievement Centre. It is a building code requirement. We need to do something, now is the time. This community needs to be the leader in this, rather than forcing the private sector.

Comment: The legislative requirements as related to the hearing loop need to be investigated. Perhaps the Communications Working Group can take this on?

Comment: The Communications Working Group is scant; it consists of Penelope, Bob, and Mary. If anyone is keen on hearing loops they should let Bob know so that meeting information is shared.

Comment: You might want to talk to school boards as well. Public boards have put them in. A device in all classrooms makes it easier for people to hear.

- Councillor Skelly asked if she could come back to the committee and liaise through the summer; she is welcome to do so
- Councillor Skelly reported that new bus stops will be installed on Rymal this summer

- If Committee members have any input on the bus stops, they should contact Councillor Skelly's office

## **7.2 Future Presentations**

- The Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council (HIPC) wants to conduct a survey to obtain the Committee's feedback on a toolkit and therefore would like to attend a future meeting

## **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**

- No update because Councillor Jackson sent his regrets and did not attend the meeting

### **8.2 Update from Councillor B. Johnson**

- No update because Councillor Johnson sent her regrets and did not attend the meeting

### **8.3 Seniors Award Event – L. Maychak**

- Tickets are offered to members of the Seniors Advisory Committee at a discounted rate of \$10.00
- Tickets are available at Municipal Service Centres; if there are any problems, contact Beth Wheaton

### **8.4 Equity and Inclusion Lens Consultation – Evelyn Myrie**

- The Committee suggested that Evelyn Myrie make a short presentation (15 minutes maximum) at the June meeting about what kind of feedback and input she would like from the Committee in which the Committee would focus on and review the older adult portion of the document and E. Myrie could then attend another meeting in the fall to receive the feedback from the Committee

**P. Petrie/G. Hough**

That Evelyn Myrie make a fifteen-minute presentation at an upcoming Seniors Advisory Committee meeting to provide information about the Equity and Inclusion Lens document and details on what kind of feedback she would like from the Seniors Advisory Committee and that Evelyn Myrie return to a Seniors Advisor Committee meeting at a later date to obtain the feedback. All in Favour.

**CARRIED.**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

**P. Petrie/G. Hough**

That the Seniors Advisory Committee meeting of May 5, 2017 be adjourned.

**CARRIED.**

**10. NEXT MEETING**

Friday, June 2, 2017 at 9:00 a.m., Rooms 192/193, City Hall.