



Hamilton

**MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, March 1, 2013
Rooms 192/193, Hamilton City Hall**

Present: Deirdre Chartrand, Carolann Fernandes, Doug Fraser, Jeanne Mayo, Vi Morgan, June Noonan, Penelope Petrie, Bernice Price, Shirley Robinson, Mary Sinclair, Ron Smithson, Bob Thomson, Marj Wahlman, Emmy Weisz, John Winslow, Bill Wright

Regrets: Frank Brodnicki, Lorraine Meloche
Councillor Bernie Morelli

Also Present: Carolyn Bish – Corporate Services (Customer Service, Access & Equity)
Vicki Woodcox – Community Services (Macassa Lodge)
Bea McDonough – Public Health Services
Eleanor Morton – Recreation Division
Stephanie DeHann, Sandy Li – McMaster University Nursing Students
Councillor Tom Jackson

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Smithson welcomed the committee members and guests in attendance.

The Chair also acknowledged and congratulated Bernice Price on being awarded a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Additions/changes to the agenda to be added under Item 7 – New Business:

7.1 Seniors Roundtable (Carolann Fernandes)

Members accepted the March 1, 2013 agenda as amended.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. DELEGATION

4.1 Senior Strategy

Committee members welcomed Jane Soldera, Director of Social Development & Early Childhood Services and Mark Weingartner, Senior Policy Analyst from the Community Services Department who attended to provide members with a presentation regarding the Senior Strategy. A copy of the presentation was distributed. In 2012, Council directed that staff work with the Seniors Advisory Committee, the Hamilton Council on Aging and other key stakeholders (i.e. United Way, Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton (SPRC), Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion (HCCI), etc. Funding for this project has been received from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Comments received from committee members included:

- engage younger seniors
- engage ethno seniors
 - J. Soldera requested that SAC identify ways to target these groups
- engage the four Seniors Advisory Committee subcommittees
- use of a questionnaire

It was suggested that Jane Soldera return to a future meeting to keep members apprised of further developments.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mary Sinclair requested that Item 7.3 be amended from just scooter to include wheelchairs and walkers. The wording will be changed to personal mobility devices.

(M. Wahlman/M. Sinclair)

That the February 1, 2013 minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved, as amended. **CARRIED.**

6. BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

6.1 Committee/Subcommittee Updates

6.1.1 Age Friendly City Subcommittee

In light of the delegation regarding the Senior Strategy, no update was provided.

6.1.2 Seniors Group Subcommittee

Bob Thomson advised that the Seniors Group Subcommittee met with Pauline Kajiura, Executive Director and Anita Thompson from Community Information Hamilton (CIH) to discuss information on the

Inform Hamilton website. CIH is reviewing their service to make it more specific and accessible. They are wanting to improve the delivery of information and reorganize their website. Mention was made of 211 – an information and referral service providing Ontarians with information on community and social services. There is a free, 24/7 service that many people are not aware of.

Item 21 (one stop intake of clients for Ontario Works/housing/child care/recreation/transit subsidy/water-wastewater subsidy) of the proposed recommendations from KPMG for service delivery review opportunities for service improvement was discussed and the following motion prepared for presentation and approval by the members of the Seniors Advisory Committee.

(B. Thomson/E. Weisz)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee endorse the principle of one-stop intake of clients and recommends that service locations be distributed throughout Hamilton and be accessible by transit. **CARRIED**

6.1.3 Housing Subcommittee

Doug Fraser advised that there was no February meeting of the Housing Subcommittee.

6.1.4 Transportation Subcommittee

Jeanne Mayo advised that discussion topics at the Transportation Subcommittee included Metrolinx and dedicated bus lanes; bus workshops and the walking trail audit. John Winslow volunteered to represent the SAC Transportation Subcommittee on the walking trail audit.

Jeanne also mentioned that she was very impressed by the HSR report presented at the February 25, 2013 General Issues Committee and suggested that members take the time to read it. On the City's website, the report can be found at www.hamilton.ca. Click on Minutes, Agendas and video for Committee/Council; General Issues Committee; February 25, 2013; Item 5.1.

Councillor Jackson also agreed that this was an outstanding report and Council approved unanimously that the report be passed on to other levels of government along with a request for 100% funding.

Comments received from members included:

- senior population increasing
- people with personal mobility devices and many seniors require dedicated curb lane buses
- LRT safer due to size – more room for strollers, mobility devices

6.1.5 ACPD Transportation Subcommittee

Doug Fraser informed the committee that there will be a Public Works meeting in Council Chambers on Monday, March 18, 2013 regarding fare parity and he will be attending. He reported that the City has 16 accessible cab licenses available but with the high cost of insurance, no one has applied. He also reported that 830 applications have been received for DARTS eligibility and only 3% of these are not eligible.

Discussion following regarding fare parity. Comments made included:

- Province sending mixed messages regarding AODA
- all riders should pay
- consideration should be given to poverty / income levels

It was suggested that Bill Atanas from the Benefit Eligibility Division be invited to a future meeting.

6.1.6 Community Heat Response Committee

No meeting.

6.1.7 Seniors Award Event

Vicki Woodcox advised that a brainstorming meeting had been held. June Noonan, Penelope Petrie and Ron Smithson had attended on behalf of the Seniors Advisory Committee. No seniors award event will be held in 2013. The planning is for a bigger event with more awards, categories and recognition in June 2014. The next meeting to be held

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Carolann Fernandes attended a Seniors Roundtable

Discussion on January 24, 2013. The topic was active healthy aging. She thought it quite amusing that one of the questions was how to get seniors back into the workplace.

7.2 Councillor Jackson provided the committee with an update on budget deliberations. Council referred back a request for an HSR fare increase. They want a comparison with other cities. Grants have been approved by the Federal and Provincial governments for retrofits to Sackville and Ancaster Senior Centres.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION SHARING

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

NEXT MEETING – Friday, April 5, 2013, 10:00 a.m. – Rooms 192/193