



Hamilton

Minutes
Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, November 3, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 12:00pm
Rooms 192/193, City Hall

Present: Barry Spinner, Bob Thomson (Chair), Carolann Fernandes, Dahlia Petgrave, Doug Stone, John Kennard, John Winslow, Karen Thomson, Lou DeStephanis, Marjorie Wahlman, Margaret Cheyne, Mary Sinclair, Penelope Petrie.

Regrets: Councillor Brenda Johnson, Emmy Weisz, George Hough (leave of absence), Jeanne Mayo, Paula Kilburn, Ramanath Kamath.

Also

Present: Jessica Bowen (Human Rights, Diversity & Inclusion), Councillor Tom Jackson, Eleanor Morton, (Emergency & Community Services), Tom Hewitson, Manager of Current Budgets and Financial Policy
Gloria Rojas, Senior Tax Policy Advisor, Corporate Services
Fred Fuchs, Westdale Cinema Community Conversion Project
Graham Crawford, Westdale Cinema Community Conversion Project

Guests: John Hawker

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair, Bob Thomson welcomed everyone.

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1. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Addition of agenda item:
6.2 (j) Ontario Health Coalition
9.2 Resignation
9.3 Christmas lunch

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

P.Petrie / J. Mayo

That the minutes of October 6, 2017 be approved, as amended.

All in Favour

Carried

4. CONSENT ITEMS

None declared

5. PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Tax Deferral Program, Tom Hewitson & Gloria Rojas

T. Hewitson and G. Rojas provided the Committee with a presentation on Hamilton's Tax Deferral Program. The presentation included an overview of the provincial legislation, Hamilton's deferral program as well as the deferral programs in place in other municipalities.

T. Hewitson indicated that the program is currently under review and a report is being prepared to be submitted to Council in early 2018. T. Hewitson requested the Committee's feedback by December 1, 2017.

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M. Wahlman / K. Thomson

That the Tax Deferral Program presentation be received.

All in favour

Carried

**5.2 The Westdale Cinema Community conversion
Project**

Fred Fuchs and Graham Crawford provided the Committee with an overview of the Westdale Cinema Community Conversion project. They shared the history of the theatre, its current status and the next steps in restoring the building as well as its anticipated opening date. F. Fuchs and G. Crawford acknowledged that a hearing loop would be installed in the theatre for enhanced accessibility.

F. Fuchs and G. Crawford indicated that they are interested in meeting with constituents in order to get their feedback in order to enhance their programming. They requested a representative from the Committee to participate in a committee that relates to future programming.

M. Wahlman / P. Petrie

That the Westdale Cinema Community conversion Project presentation be received.

All in favour

Carried

6. Business / Discussion Items

6.1 Business Arising From Previous Minutes

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6.1.1 Recreation Centre Fee Increase, Eleanor Morton, Manager Senior Services, Community Emergency Services

E. Morton reported that there were two fee increases in 2017. The Recreation Division follows an annual process for updating its user fees. There was an increase of 2% in response to a report submitted to Council from the Recreation Division in September 2016. The fee increase became effective on January 1, 2017.

The second increase came as a result of the operating budget process where the City was investigating ways to reduce net levy impact. As a result of a Report submitted by the Recreation Division titled "Increase in Recreation User Fees (CES17019) (City Wide)" to the GIC Committee recommending an increase of 5% to all admission, program, and rental fees (excluding ice rentals) was effective July 1, 2017. This increase was in addition to the 2% inflationary increase in January 2017.

6.2 Working Groups/Committees

a) SAC – Housing Working Group (M. Sinclair)

M. Sinclair shared a request for feedback from the Committee regarding a Housing Working Group motion to have all City owned builds deemed smoke-free.

A suggestion was made to invite an appropriate contact from the Building Division to determine the advantages and opportunities to making a motion of this nature.

M. Sinclair reported that the glossary for the Housing Guide should be done towards the end of November.

She further inquired about the cost of the previous guidebook that was produced for the Seniors Housing

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Guide. J. Bowen will consult with L. Maychak on this item.

b) SAC – Getting Around Hamilton Working Groups [GAWWG] (J. Mayo)

P. Petrie provided an update in J. Mayo's absence.

She shared that the Age Friendly Pedestrian Safety workshops have been ongoing. The final workshop for November is scheduled for the 30th.

The main part of GAHWG meeting explored HSR issues. Andy McLaughlin, Senior Project Manager attended the meeting as the representative from HSR.

The working group shared with A. McLaughlin the following:

- Information related HSR bus routes to get to Recreation Centres with seniors programming should be included in 55+ program guide.
- Identified that there is no HSR service to the Ancaster Senior Achievement Centre. Some of the senior programs are only offered in Ancaster, but there is no way of getting there via public transportation.
- Inquiries regarding more park and ride areas.
- Discussed TransCab services.
- Presto passes. A. McLaughlin indicated that HSR is currently negotiating with some organisations to increase the number of locations available to purchase Presto passes in Hamilton.
- Trip planning assistance in multiple languages. The working group was advised that assistance can be provided in multiple languages through City's 2424 line.
- Inquiries were raised about improving information related to the HSR. A. McLaughlin advised that

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there is an App. The working group suggested the need for HSR to collaborate with the Council on Aging. He said they will continue to collaborate.

- The working group's next meeting is November 28, 2017 at 3:00pm at City Hall in Room 718.

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

B. Thomson reported that the Communication Working Group has not met but they did write a letter of support for the Hearing Loop project that the Committee was advised of through Councillor Skelly and Julia Colantino. The letter and the Hearing loop report are on the agenda for the Emergency and Community Services meeting scheduled for December 7, 2017.

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

B. Thomson reported that that the Governance Committee is concentrating on the restructuring of the committee.

e) Older Adult Network (D.Stone)

D. Stone reported has the group has not met but they are working towards trying to find a different venue for next year's event.

f) AODA – Hamilton Health Sciences (M.Sinclair)

No update

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

No update.

h) Social Isolation (K.Thomson)

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K.Thomson reported that she forwarded the information about the hearing loop to the group. They would like to return to the Committee in the new year.

i) McMaster Institute of Research on Aging (E. Weisz)

Tabled.

j) Ontario Health Coalition (C. Fernandes)

C. Fernandes reported that Ontario ranks lowest in health care funding and Hamilton has had \$185 million dollars in cuts over the last 5 years.

Hospitals have passed the acceptable levels of budget cut and must have an increase of 5% in its budget.

The job cuts that occurred in 2009 have led to short staffing and there has been a surge in patients. The overcrowding experienced currently necessitates that patients be discharged early.

Paramedic Services have been impacted by overcrowding. Two hours delays for offloading patients have now become the new normal.

With new health care needs arising in response to Opioid use and mental health matters the increased distribution for emergency responses will have an impact on the senior population.

7. Notices Of Motion

No Notices of Motion

8. Motions

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No Motions

9. Other Business

9.1 Update from Councillor T. Jackson

Councillor Jackson shared that Council most recently approved funding for another ambulance to manage some of the concerns outlined by C. Fernandes in relation to the current health care situation. There is a shortage of beds in hospitals resulting in a domino effect where ambulances/paramedic services cannot offload patients because they cannot be admitted. Councillor Jackson encouraged Committee members to raise their concerns with provincial government representatives and local MPPs.

9.2 Resignation

D.Stone / M. Wahlman

That the resignation of Basharat Tayyab be accepted.

All in favour

Carried

9.3 Christmas Lunch

The Committee agreed to order in lunch from 541 Barton Street (pending their ability to deliver). They also indicated their desire to have staff who have been a part of the Committee throughout the year extended an invitation to attend.

9.4 Sackville 25th Anniversary Gala Dinner

P. Petrie shared that the 25 anniversary gala is scheduled for November 15, 2017 at Michelangelo's. The event begins at 6:00pm.

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10. ADJOURNMENT

K.Thomson / M. Wahlman

That the Seniors Advisory Committee meeting of
November 3, 2017 be adjourned.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, January 5, 2017