



Hamilton

**Minutes  
Seniors Advisory Committee  
Friday, April 6, 2018  
10:00am – 12:00pm  
Rooms 192/193, City Hall**

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

**Regrets:** Councillor Brenda Johnson, Paula Kilburn, George Hough, John Winslow, Karen Thomson.

**Absent:** Ramanath Kamath.

**Also**

**Present:** Councillor Tom Jackson  
Jessica Bowen, Human Resources  
Lisa Maychak, Neighbourhood and Community Initiatives  
Division  
Liz Conti, Public Health.

**Guests:** John Hawker

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**Welcome and Introductions**

**1. Changes to the Agenda**

Deletion of Agenda Item:

- 3.1 Sadhna Jayatunge, Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council

Addition of Agenda Item:

**7.2** Hearing Loop Report (B.Spinner)

**7.3** Transportation Outstanding Business List Item (M.Sinclair)

**7.4** Financial Abuse of Seniors (D.Petgrave)

**(M. Wahlman | P. Petrie)**

That the agenda of April 6, 2018 be accepted as amended.

All in Favour

Carried

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

L. Conti provided an amendment to item 5g. Social Isolation from the previous month's minutes. She outlined that the Social Isolation community committee, part of the Social Isolation Impact Plan, has disbanded. The Social Isolation Impact plan and its peer connector projects continue but the 'community committee' piece has merged under a larger group called the Seniors At-Risk Community Collaborative (SARCC). Karen Thomson is SAC's representative on this collaborative and will report back on issues relating to social isolation/inclusion.

**(J. Mayo | E. Weisz)**

That the minutes of March 2, 2018 be approved as amended.

All in favour

Carried

## **3. Presentations**

No presentation at this time.

## **4. Business / Discussion Items**

### **4.1 Budget**

J. Bowen provided the Committee with an update on the status of the Committee budget for 2018. Members were also provided with the budget submission document that was approved in October 2017.

**(P. Petrie | M. Wahlman)**

## **5. Working Groups/Committees**

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

M. Sinclair advised that the Housing Guide is nearing completion. The working group is aiming to have the document printed for early July. The next housing meeting is scheduled on April 17, 2018 in Room 192.

### **b) SAC – Getting Around Hamilton Working Group (J.Mayo)**

J. Mayo advised that the GAHWG has finished the pedestrian safety workshop series. The series was reported to be a success.

J. Mayo advised that the group will be providing a final report in June. The group is currently gathering information related to rural transportation. They had a meeting with HSR and have some information to share back. In June, the final report on what the group has been doing from September to June will be presented.

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

B. Thomson provided the Committee with a draft pamphlet outlining the Seniors Advisory Committee. The goal is to have

the pamphlet reviewed by the Committee and distributed by the end of May.

The Committee had no additions or revisions for the document.

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

J. Mayo advised that the Ontario government invited all age-friendly cities to come to Toronto and presented different cities with awards. The City of Hamilton was awarded in the implementation and evaluation categories and was one of ten cities that was recognised. The City received recognition for the Hamilton Council on Aging's Campaign to Address Ageism.

M. Wahlman shared that in the newspaper article covering this event, there was commentary included in relation to the efficiency of DARTS that was not accurate.

J. Mayo reported that the 2018 Age Friendly Hamilton Symposium was held on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at St. Peter's Hospital. There were approximately 160 people in attendance. L. Maychak presented the community report from last year; J. Mayo will bring the community report to SAC in May. The formal presentation of the report is scheduled for April 6, 2018 at 1:30pm. All those who can attend are invited.

**e) Older Adult Network (D. Stone)**

D. Stone reported the Seniors Kick Off is scheduled for May 30, 2018 at Michelangelos.

Committee members discussed an earlier motion that requested consideration from HSR and DARTS to offer free rider services for this event. M. Wahlman reported that in line

with past practice, DARTS will be transporting individuals to the kick off under a special event status free of charge.

**Motion:** That the Seniors Advisory Committee purchase an advertisement totalling \$50.00 to be included in the June Events Calendar inviting people to join SAC members on Friday, June 1, 2018 at 9:00am for coffee and to learn about the Committee. The Committee is requesting that the financial resources to support this event be taken from the reserve.

**Motion:** That the Seniors Advisory Committee will provide \$40.00 towards the cost of refreshments for the Friday, June 1, 2018 event. The Committee is requesting that the financial resources to support this event be taken from the reserve.

**(J. Mayo | M. Wahlman)**

**Carried**

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

No update at this time.

**g) Social Isolation (K. Thomson)**

No update at this time.

**h) McMaster Institute of Research on Aging (E. Weisz)**

E. Weisz reported that she had only attended one MIRA meeting. There is a meeting scheduled for later in April 2018.

**i) Ontario Health Coalition (C. Fernandes)**

No update at this time.

**j) Our Future Hamilton update (P. Petrie)**

No update at this time.

**k) Senior of the Year Award (P. Petrie)**

P.Petrie reported that it was possible to support a Senior of the Year Award Nominator reception at Sackville on May 9, 2018.

SAC expressed interest in sponsoring this event.

**Motion:** That the Seniors Advisory Committee designate \$250.00 to support the nominator reception.

**(P. Petrie | M. Walhman)**

All in favour

Carried

L. Maychak advised the Committee that the submission for the award totalled 34 nominations. This year also introduced a youth award to recognise young persons who are doing great work with the senior population.

## **6. Other Business**

### **6.1 Update from Councillor Johnson**

No update at this time

### **6.2 Update from Councillor Jackson**

6.2.1 Correspondence from the County of Simcoe respecting their White Paper entitled "Building a Seniors Campus: A Sustainable Model to Support Positive Aging and Strengthen our Communities".

6.2.2 Correspondence from the County of Simcoe respecting the County's Age Friendly Initiative Project Update - Positive Aging Strategy.

Councillor Jackson provided the Committee with the following information for their consideration:

In March, Council passed the City budget. While the tax increase varies across the city, the average tax increase was 1.9% on average.

There has been \$600,000 in approved funding for the expansion of the Sackville Community Centre. The total funds came from three contributors, Councillor Jackson's Office, Councillor Skelly's Office and the Sackville Board who each contributed \$200,000.

The Bernie Morelli Recreation Centre, full completion anticipated end of this year.

Councillor Jackson thanked the Committee for their full support of the tax deferral program.

J. Mayo requested clarification on two stipulations that she understood were added to the program after SAC expressed their support:

1. the length of time that the person has to live in their home. In the previous program there were two qualifiers and the assessment was based on income and age. The income threshold has also increased.
2. the person has to receive OAS; to qualify for OAS a person has to have lived in Canada for 40 years.

J. Bowen to clarify the parameters of the tax deferral program.

## **7. Business / Discussion Items**

### **7.2 The Seniors of Canada project presents in Hamilton April 13, 2018**

This project is an initiative that profiles seniors in the community. It is a student run event through McMaster's Gill Grey centre. The event is on April 13, 2018 from 5:00pm - 7:00pm. Information regarding the event was distributed to the Committee via email and a print copy was provided at the meeting.

### **7.3 Hearing Loop Report**

B. Spinner requested information about the Staff report that was submitted related to hearing loops in the City. He would like to view the grant application and related information that was submitted by councillor Skelly's office regarding the installation of hearing loops.

#### **7.4 Transportation OBL Item**

M. Sinclair advised that the Transportation working group in previous years had discussed the need to improve bus access to hospitals and major medical centres.

#### **7.5 Financial Abuse of Seniors**

D. Petgrave inquired if Committee members had focused financial abuse of the elderly and wondered if there was a way to bring focus on this area.

L. Conti advised that there was a committee that focused on the abuse of older adults. This area is has now come under the umbrella of SARCC. There are awareness groups that focus on elders at-risk including Elder Abuse Ontario and ACE in Toronto.

D. Petgrave inquired if there were an interest in creating a working group that focuses on a financial information program aimed at seniors. Dahlia Petgrave, Barry Spinner, Jeanne Mayo and Emmy Weisz indicated their interest in creating this group.

#### **Next Meeting**

Friday, May 4, 2018