



Hamilton

**Seniors Advisory  
Committee**

**Minutes 22-002**

**10:00am – 12:00pm**

**Due to the COVID-19 and the Closure of City Hall**

**All electronic meetings can be viewed at:**

**City's YouTube Channel**

**<https://www.youtube.com/user/InsideCityofHamilton>**

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**In Attendance:**

Penelope Petrie (Chair), Aref Alshaikhahmed, Sheryl Boblin, Jeanne Mayo, Maureen McKeating, Barry Spinner, Douglas Stone, Marian Toth, Marjorie Wahlman, Ann Elliott, Kamal Jain, Dahlia Petgrave, Carolann Fernandes, David Broom, Sarah Shallwani, Noor Nizam

**Also, in Attendance:**

Lisa Maychak, Project Manager, Healthy & Safe Communities Department  
Kim VanderMeulen, Program Secretary, Healthy & Safe Communities  
Greg Crossley, Coordinator, Community Engagement, Cancer Assistance Program  
Dusty Vacon, Manager, Annual Giving, Cancer Assistance Program

**Absent with Regrets:**

Councilor Tom Jackson, Jeanne Mayo, Dahlia Petgrave

**Absent:**

Barry Spinner, Noor Nizam

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**1. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES (Item 1)**

Land Acknowledgement presented by A. Alshaikhahmed.

P. Petrie has volunteered to read the Land Acknowledgement at the next meeting.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (Item 2)**

- Addition of the resignation received by Senior Advisor member J. Mayo.

**(S. Boblin/M. Wahlman)**

That the Seniors Advisory Committee approves the February 4, 2022 agenda, as amended.

**CARRIED**

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Not Applicable.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 4)**

**(i) January 7, 2022 (Item 4.1)**

The following changes are to be made to the minutes of January 7, 2022.

- Under Elder Abuse Working Group 7(i)(b), replace wording of "committee's experience" to the "invitee's experience".
- Under Housing Working Group 7(i)(c), indicate the Mohawk College and the Bay Area Climate Change Council have created infographics not programs. And the Home Retro-fit program is not up and running yet in Burlington but is currently waiting for Burlington City Council approval.

**(C. Fernandes/A. Elliott)**

That the Seniors Advisory Committee approves the January 7, 2022 minutes, as amended.

**CARRIED**

**5. STAFF PRESENTATIONS (Item 9)**

**(S. Shallwani/M. Wahlman)**

That the following presentation be received:

- (i) Greg Crossley, Coordinator, Community Engagement and Dusty Vacan, Manager, Annual Giving of the Cancer Assistance Program respecting services provided to those impacted by cancer in the Hamilton area. (Item 9.1)**

G. Crossley and D. Vacan presented to the Seniors Advisory Committee an overview of the Hamilton based Cancer Assistance Program. Information was provided to the committee which included a background on the Cancer Assistance Program (CAP), the many free services available, volunteers, an available educational podcast and the transportation services offered. There is no sign up or membership fee for this program.

Events such as the Care Walk, an on-line silent auction, an Annual Golf classic, 50/50 lottery raffle, as well as the Annual Gala are the held by CAP for fundraising. Third party events are also often held, with proceeds donated to this program. More information on CAP can be found at [www.cancerassist.ca](http://www.cancerassist.ca). G. Crossley and D. Vacan held a question and answer period for members of the Senior Advisory Committee following the presentation.

**CARRIED**

## **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS (Item 10)**

### **(i) Working Groups (Item 10.1)**

#### **(a) Getting Around Hamilton Working Group**

This working group did not meet for the month of January. Member C. Fernandes reported that she has asked Darts to send a report to this group with information on the number of seniors that currently use this service and provided the following information:

- Public Health now allows DARTS to carry 2 passengers per vehicle up from one passenger per vehicle. This will help in lowering the cost per trip.
- DARTS service complaint levels are currently quite low at 2.1 complaints per thousand passenger rides
- Pre-pandemic, DARTS had the lowest cost per trip in Ontario.
- In 2021 DARTS provided almost 300,000 trips which is approximately one third of what would have been delivered if Covid didn't exist.
- With the easing of Covid-related restrictions, it is likely that DARTS will return to pre-pandemic service levels in the next year or so.

**(b) Elder Abuse Working Group**

M. Wahlman reported that a request from L. Maychak went to the Catholic Family Services to attend and give a presentation to the Elder Abuse Working Group. Catholic Family Services Supervisor, Lina Winship advised this is possible for the upcoming May working group meeting.

In review of the Hamilton Police Services website, "The Be Aware, Take Care" book has been added as a link and the abuse video will be linked soon. A discussion took place and it was determined the website is currently useable and user friendly.

This group had another discussion for the support of distribution of the Elder Abuse presentation made by member A. Alshaikhahmed at January's Senior Advisory meeting. This working group is in favour of supporting distributing this presentation via Senior Advisory Committee and/or by the City of Hamilton website. L. Maychak to consult with communications and the web team on how this could be presented on the Senior Advisory Committee webpage and/or the "Resources for Older Adults" webpage. L. Maychak will report back to this group on her findings.

**(c) Housing Working Group**

M. Toth reported the group met with Laura Ryan, Manager of Family Services from The Neighbour to Neighbour Program, who spoke on rebates available to help reduce senior energy bills.

There is also a Low-income Energy Assistant Program (LEAP) program to help with debt incurred through energy used over the winter months. Neighbour to Neighbour helps process the requests for these rebates for all households in the upper area of Hamilton while the Hamilton Housing Centre helps the lower area of the City. Rebates are given by Alectra Utilities who donate profits for all customer payments. The program currently only supports arrears occurring in the winter and not during the summer, but this is being investigated.

A group of McMaster University students have approached Neighbour to Neighbour with an offer to collect donations of fans and air conditioning units to donate to the community.

Members were advised that they can contact Neighbour to Neighbour, who will put them in touch with this group if you have equipment to donate.

The next working group meeting will have guest speaker Sean Botham, Manager of Development, City Housing, City of Hamilton to discuss the building of the first public housing construction with reduce heating and cooling costs in the city.

**(d) Communication Working Group**

D. Broom reported that this working group's meeting has impacted by the deployment of City staff. L Maychak's absence was due to a temporary deployment to a City Warming Centres during a recent cold advisory alert but has completely returned to her position.

L Maychak will reach out to Chris Dogastino from the Hamilton Public Library to see if he can attend the next working group meeting.

The Senior Advisory brochure is currently still under discussion. Members of this working group have each been given tasks to work on.

211 day is February 11<sup>th</sup>. L Maychak reported that because this is not a city service the City of Hamilton (COH) cannot advertise as staff will not be able to respond to media inquiries. L Maychak had asked that the city sign be lit up in red to represent 211 day on February 11<sup>th</sup> but was told February has been designated Black History month and the Hamilton sign will be black at this time.

L. Maychak has been able to connect communications staff from 211 with the COH communications staff and 211's information will be shared on COH social media channels.

**(ii) Working Committees (Item 10. 2)**

**(a) Age Friendly Plan - Governance Committee**

A. Elliott was unavailable to give an update at the time of this meeting.

**(b) Older Adult Network**

There are no updates at this time.

**(c) International Day of Older Persons Committee**

D. Stone reported that the International Day of Older Persons Committee (IDOP) which is comprised of various community partners is currently planning two webinars; What's Home Care and Seniors vs. Technology. The IDOP committee is also discussing the possibility of a Cable 14 production regarding election issues. The IDOP committee is also hoping to highlight World Elder Abuse Awareness Day taking place, June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 by piggy backing onto promotion and information developed by the National World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

**(d) McMaster Institute for Research on Aging**

B. Spinner was not present for a report. P. Petrie stated that McMaster Institute for Research on Aging website indicates they are currently looking for volunteers for ongoing studies.

**(e) Ontario Health Coalition**

C. Fernandes will continue to send the committee email updates through L. Maychak.

**(f) Our Future Hamilton Update**

There are no updates from this committee.

L. Maychak to follow up and investigate if the new engagement platform is available and to see if this working committee can be updated.

**(g) Senior of the Year Award**

L. Maychak reported the event is targeted to take place at the end of October 2022 and hopefully will occur in person this year. Nominations are being pushed forward and will be launched the week of April 24, which is National Volunteer Week until the end of June. Event promotion will begin the beginning of September.

**8. GENERAL INFORMATION/OTHER BUSINESS (Item 13)**

**(i) Council Approval for “Let’s Get Walking” workshops**

This workshop has currently been approved to be held virtually. Payment to the Hamilton Council on Aging has been approved to handle registrations and advertising.

**(ii) Resignation of member J. Mayo**

**(S. Boblin/ A. Alshaikhahmed)**

Due to health issues, member J. Mayo has asked to resign from this committee. L. Maychak to follow up with information of whether a gift can be sent out to J. Mayo from the Senior Advisory Committee budget for her commitment to this committee. J. Mayo’s resignation was accepted by the committee but with regrets.

**CARRIED**

**(M. Walhman/D. Broom)**

A motion was put forward that the Senior Advisory Committee to request up to \$100 for the purchase of a plant or flowers for member J. Mayo from the Senior Advisory Committee.

**CARRIED**

**(iii) Senior Advisory Committee Membership Update**

Members that have resigned or have not attended meetings without notice can be replaced due to a policy change.

Currently this committee has four spaces available that can be filled, and it is understood that clerks is looking to fill these positions. These will not be new recruits but will be filled from the list of those persons that previously applied.

**(iii) Hamilton Police Services Resolution**

D. Broom updated the committee the resolution has been forwarded to the Hamilton Police Services Board and should proceed at their next meeting on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

**(iv) Dahlia Petgrave**

**(M. Toth/M. Wahlman)**

That the Senior Advisory Committee send a card to member D. Petgrave who is currently on a leave of absence from this committee due to medical reasons.

**CARRIED**

**9. ADJOURNMENT (Item 15)**

**(M. Wahlman/A. Elliott)**

That the Seniors Advisory Committee be adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

**CARRIED**

Next Meeting: March 4, 2022