

City of Hamilton Senior Advisory Committee

2018-2022 Achievements

MISSION STATEMENT

The Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC) shall be a credible communication vehicle regarding the quality of life for all seniors in the City of Hamilton. It will provide a forum for consumers and deliverers of seniors' services and facilities to identify issues, explore possible remedies, and work to implement them.

COMMITTEE COMPOSITION

SAC is comprised of 19 citizens who have various backgrounds, experiences and interests. During this term five members either resigned or were removed from the committee for not attending three or more consecutive meetings without notifying the chair. By the end of this term, City Council selected and invited five new members to join the committee.

MONTHLY MEETING ACTIVITY

Total Meetings

- 33 meetings were held between November 2018 and June 2022
- No meetings were held from April to September 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic
- SAC does not usually meet in July and August but did in 2019

Attendance

- Average of 15 members at each monthly meeting

Delegations/Presentations

- Received two delegations in total
- Received 29 presentations in total

Motions

- Submitted 15 to Emergency and Community Services Committee

AGE-FRIENDLY HAMILTON

Like *Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly City* (2014), SAC is also a key partner with the City of Hamilton and Hamilton Council on Aging in the development, governance and implementation of *Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly Community* (2021-2026).

WORKING COMMITTEES

SAC has membership on several external committees which include:

Age-Friendly Governance Committee

Age-Friendly Collaborative Committee

Seniors Kick-off Event

International Day of Older Persons

McMaster Institute for Research on Aging

Ontario Health Coalition

Our Future Hamilton

Senior of the Year Awards

WORKING GROUPS

SAC has four active working groups who meet monthly and are comprised of several SAC committee members including a chair for each. The majority of their work is aligned with the recommendations in *Hamilton's Plan for an Age-Friendly Community (2021-2026)* and will be described in more detail under their achievements. The working groups include:

- ✓ Communications
- ✓ Elder Abuse
- ✓ Housing
- ✓ Getting Around Hamilton

2018-2022 Achievements

Communications Working Group

- **SAC Brochure-** Revised the committee's brochure to help promote the mission and work of SAC at events for seniors, including the 2022 Seniors Kick-off event.
- **Communications Plan-** Initiated support from the City's Communications Department to develop a communications plan. A presentation to SAC was facilitated by the Director of Communications where he described the role of the Communications Department and what they can and cannot do to support advisory committees.

- **New City of Hamilton Website-** Collaborated with the City’s Communications and Web Departments by providing feedback about the City’s new website, more specifically the landing page dedicated to seniors’ resources.

Elder Abuse Working Group

- **Hamilton Police Services (HPS)-** In collaboration with a Senior Support Officer from HPS, reviewed the Elder Abuse section of HPS’s website and deemed it user-friendly. HPS also added a link under the Community Resources section titled “Beware Take Care”, a safety brochure for seniors. In addition, collaborated with a Senior Support Officer from HPS to develop a video on Elder Abuse. This video along with placemats containing tips on recognizing Elder Abuse and contact numbers were distributed to various seniors’ housing buildings.
- **Presentation-** A member of SAC and this working group prepared and facilitated a presentation about Elder Abuse to SAC.
- **Elder Abuse Ontario-** To gain a better understanding about Elder Abuse and the rise during the COVID-19 pandemic, a presentation was facilitated to this working group and the larger SAC committee by a representative from Elder Abuse Ontario.
- **Catholic Family Services-** Another presentation was facilitated to this working group and the larger SAC committee by a representative from Catholic Family Services to learn more about their Intensive Case Management for Seniors at Risk Program.

Housing Working Group

- **Secondary Dwelling Units-** Brought forward a motion to Emergency & Community Services Committee to support the concept of secondary dwelling units on a single-family lot.
- **Heat Mitigation-** Investigated heat mitigation and heat mitigation by-laws:
 - Attended two webinars hosted by Environment Hamilton titled “Heat is on...Challenges and Solutions”.
 - Met with staff from the City’s Public Health Services, Air Quality & Climate Change for the City of Hamilton
 - Met with staff from staff from the Bay Area Climate Change Council
 - Met with staff from Neighbour to Neighbour’s Family Services area
 - Met with staff in development with City Housing Hamilton and their Extreme Heat Working Group
 - Reviewed Hamilton’s Climate Science Report
 - Reviewed the City’s Cooling Centres
 - Reviewed Home Energy Retro Opportunities (HERO)
 - Reviewed Hamilton’s Community Safety & Well-Being Plan
 - Reviewed Hamilton’s Emergency Response Plan

- **Housing Guide for Older Adults-** Beginning stages of revising and updating the guide, “Housing Options for Older Adults” which was originally developed by SAC in 2014.

Getting Around Working Group

- **Underserved Areas-** A SAC member facilitated a presentation to City Council on “Transportation Options in Underserved Areas of Hamilton”.
- **Let’s Get Walking Workshops-** As a partner on this project, SAC submitted a motion to Emergency & Community Services Committee to provide \$500 support to the Hamilton Council on Aging to help with promoting the workshops, which was approved by City Council.
- **Vision Zero-** A resolution was passed stating that SAC would like to commend the City of Hamilton and Hamilton Police Services for their education campaign targeting fast drivers, which is a part of the Vision Zero Action Plan. Also, that they continue to take actions including the installation of red-light cameras.
- **Snow Removal-** A motion was submitted to Emergency & Community Services Committee requesting that snow be removed by the City of Hamilton on all City owned sidewalks beginning the Winter of 2021/2022. City Council approved the removal of snow from sidewalks on the main corridors beginning the Winter of 2022/2023.
- **E-scooters-** A motion was submitted to Emergency & Community Services Committee stating that SAC does not support the implementation of E-scooters in Hamilton as this type of mobility device can be unsafe and costly to maintain due to the life of the battery to operate. City Council directed staff to report to SAC on a quarterly basis regarding the E-scooter program.
- **Adaptive Bike Share Program-** A motion was submitted to Emergency & Community Services Committee to support this program and to include a subsidy option for low income seniors.

Additional Achievements

- Annual funding support for the International Day of Older Persons, Seniors Kick-off event and Senior of the Year Awards
- Sponsored two SAC members to virtually attend the 2021 International Federation of Aging Conference that was followed by a report submitted by the members.
- Participation and Presentation at the 2021 City of Hamilton All Advisory Committee meeting.

- Motion and letter to Emergency & Community Services Committee thanking all staff at Macassa and Wentworth Lodges for their hard work and dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Motion to Emergency & Community Services Committee requesting that City Council mandate all staff at Macassa and Wentworth Lodges to be fully vaccinated to ensure the vulnerable seniors they serve are protected.
- Motion to Emergency & Community Services Committee requesting that City Council send correspondence to the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care to undertake comprehensive inspections of all long-term care homes and ensure recommendations for changes are implemented.
- Motion to Emergency & Community Services Committee requesting that City Council forward the motion to the Hamilton Police Services Board regarding the regular inspection of long-term care homes.

