



# Hamilton

## **Seniors Advisory Committee**

**June 7, 2024**

**Minutes 24-006**

**10:00am – 12:00pm**

**City Hall,**

**Room 192/193, 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Floor, City Hall**

### **In Attendance:**

Peter Lesser, Sheryl Boblin, Penelope Petrie, Kamal Jain, Marian Toth, Aref Alshaikhahmed, Maureen McKeating, Alexander Huang, Carolann Fernandes, Barry Spinner, Ann Elliott, David Broom

### **Also in Attendance:**

Lisa Maychak, Project Manager, Healthy & Safe Communities Department  
Carol Faulkner, Program Secretary, Healthy & Safe Communities Department  
Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko, Project Manager, Planning & Economic Development Department

### **Absent with Regrets:**

Marjorie Wahlman, Noor Nizam

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## **1. CEREMONIAL ACTIVITIES (ITEM 1)**

### **(i) Land Acknowledgement**

A. Alshaikhahmed read the Land Acknowledgement. P. Lesser to read the Land Acknowledgement at the next meeting.

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

The Chair advised of the following changes to the agenda:

**13. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS**

13.1 YWCA Seniors Active Living Centre (Added Item 13.1)

13.2 Information Fair hosted by the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities (Added Item 13.2)

13.3 Citizen Committee Report from the Seniors Advisory Committee respecting a Request for a Coroner's Inquest (motion approved in February 2024) (Added Item 13.3)

13.4 Next meeting date (Added Item 13.4)

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

That the Seniors Advisory Committee approves the June 7, 2024 agenda, as amended.

**CARRIED**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (ITEM 4)**

**(i) April 5, 2024 (Item 4.1)**

**(K. Jain/ A. Huang)**

That the Seniors Advisory Committee approves the April 5, 2024 minutes.

**CARRIED**

**4. STAFF PRESENTATIONS (ITEM 9)**

**(i) Climate Change Initiatives- Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko, Project Manager, Planning and Economic Development Department (Item 9.1)**

B. Ekwa Ekoko presented to the Seniors Advisory Committee the City of Hamilton's Climate Action Strategy. B. Ekwa Ekoko provided information about the four themes related to the Climate Adaptation Actions and five themes linked to the 2023-2024 priority areas. B. Ekwa Ekoko indicated that the City's Community Climate Change Advisory Committee was established earlier this year and will be responsible for communication related to climate change and an engagement strategy. There was an opportunity for questions to be asked after the presentation.

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

That the presentation respecting the Climate Action Strategy presented by Beatrice Ekwa Ekoko, be received.

**CARRIED**

**5. DISCUSSION ITEMS (ITEM 10)**

**(i) Working Groups (10.1)**

**(D. Broom/ S. Boblin)**

That the following updates be received:

**(a) Housing Working Group (Item 10.1(a))**

M. Toth indicated that the working group met on May 9, 2024 and that the new Housing Guide for Older Adults should be finalized and ready to launch in September 2024.

M. Toth informed the Seniors Advisory Committee that she attended a housing meeting with approximately forty local groups in Hamilton at the First Unitarian Church. The topic being, the federal government is now directly giving municipalities funds for housing development, but that more funding is needed from the province and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to meet housing goals and needs in Hamilton.

M. Toth informed the Seniors Advisory Committee about a University of Waterloo rapid housing project that is a partnership with two Ontario real estate builders. The University of Waterloo is asking municipalities and grass roots organizations throughout the province to join. The project is titled the "Future Cities Initiative." More information can be found here: <https://uwaterloo.ca/news/environment/waterloo-receives-landmark-10-million-donation-build>

**(b) Communications Working Group (Item 10.1(b))**

D. Broom indicated that we now have the results of the Communications Survey for Older Adults and that an infographic was designed to share with City staff and community organizations who provide programs and services to seniors. D. Broom indicated that A. Huang will present the full results at Sackville Seniors Centre on June 25, 2024.

**(c) Getting Around Working Group (Item 10.1(c))**

S. Boblin indicated that the working group is currently identifying initiatives that educate and/or enable seniors to get around Hamilton more safely. S. Boblin indicated that a great project is the Hamilton Council on Aging's "Let's Get Moving."

**(d) Elder Abuse Working Group (Item 10.2(d))**

A. Alshaikhahmed stated that he met with Claire Kislinsky and Christine Wong from the Good Shepherd, Shelagh Kiely from the Hamilton Council on Aging, and L. Maychak to discuss the terms of reference for the new Hamilton Elder Abuse Prevention Network. A. Alshaikhahmed suggested that the Seniors Advisory Committee's Elder Abuse Working Group amalgamate with the Hamilton Elder Abuse Prevention Network as the priorities for both will be the same. A. Alshaikhahmed suggested that two members from the Seniors Advisory Committee should be members of the Hamilton Elder Abuse Prevention Network and the Seniors at Risk Community Collaborative. Al Alshaikhahmed is already a member, therefore, the Seniors Advisory Committee selected M. McKeating as the second member.

**CARRIED**

**(ii) Working Committees (Item 10.2)**

**(P. Lesser/ A. Elliot)**

That the following updates be received:

**(a) International Day of Older Persons (Item 10.2(a))**

There are no updates from this committee.

**(b) Seniors Kick-off Event (Item 10.2(b))**

L. Maychak stated that the Seniors Kick off event will be hosted on Monday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at Michelangelo's from 10 am to 2 pm. Approximately 550 older adults have registered and 70+ exhibitors will be present at the information and wellness fair portion of the event.

**(c) Senior of the Year Awards (Item 10.2(c))**

L. Maychak stated that the date of the Senior of the Year Awards event is October 15, 2024. L. Maychak asked Seniors Advisory Committee members to help promote nominations and that the closing date for nominations is June 28, 2024.

**(d) Ontario Health Coalition (Item 10.2(d))**

C. Fernandes and A. Huang to continue to send correspondence through L. Maychak.

**(e) Age-Friendly (Item 10.2(e))**

A. Elliot indicated that at the last Age-Friendly Collaborative Committee (AFCC) meeting on May 14, 2024 all members focused on the development of the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) framework by providing their feedback to the two consultants who attended the meeting. A. Elliot indicated that there will be an Age-Friendly/ Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) presentation at the Seniors Kick off event on June 10, 2024.

**(f) Extreme Heat Committee (Item 10.2(f))**

P. Lesser stated that he has refrigerator magnets that have valuable information to remain cool during days of extreme heat and that he will bring some to the Seniors Kick off event on June 10, 2024.

**CARRIED**

**6. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS (ITEM 13)**

**(i) YWCA Seniors Active Living Centre (Added Item 13.1)**

S. Boblin announced that all are invited to the YWCA's Spring Social on June 13, 2024 at 11 am.

**(ii) Information Fair hosted by the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities (Added Item 13.2)**

L. Maychak indicated that the Information Fair is being hosted on September 26, 2024 at City Hall during the day and asked if the Seniors Advisory Committee would like a table at the event. All agreed to participating. L. Maychak will follow-up with the chair of the Advisory Committee for persons with Disabilities.

**(iii) Citizen Committee Report from the Seniors Advisory Committee respecting a Request for a Coroner's Inquest (motion approved in February 2024) (Added Item 13.3)**

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

That the following resolution be approved, as amended :

That City Council's direct staff to send written correspondence to the Chief Coroner for the Province of Ontario requesting an inquest into the 119 deaths that occurred in retirement and long-term homes within the City of Hamilton during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Such inquest being in the public interest, including family of the deceased to be fully informed of the circumstances of these deaths and further, will permit the inquest jury to make useful recommendations to avoid further and future deaths in these homes.

**CARRIED**

**(iv) Next meeting date (Added Item 13.4)**

All agreed to not meeting in July and August, therefore, the next meeting date will be September 6, 2024.

**9. ADJOURNMENT (ITEM 15)**

**(M. McKeating/ A. Huang)**

That the Seniors Advisory Committee be adjourned at 12:02 pm.

**CARRIED**