



Hamilton

**MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, June 1, 2012
Rooms 192/193, Hamilton City Hall**

Present: Frank Brodnicki, Deirdre Chartrand, Carolann Fernandes, Doug Fraser, John Kennard, Jeanne Mayo, Lorraine Meloche, Vi Morgan, Bernice Price, Shirley Robinson, Carolyn Rosenthal, Mary Sinclair, Ron Smithson, Bob Thomson, Marj Wahlman, Emmy Weisz, John Winslow, Bill Wright

Regrets: June Noonan, Penelope Petrie
Councillors T. Jackson and B. Morelli

Also Present: Marnie Cluckie, Carolyn Bish – Corporate Services, Customer Service, Access & Equity
Vicki Woodcox – Community Services (Macassa Lodge)

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Smithson welcomed the committee members in attendance.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Additions to the agenda:

- Long Term Care Task Force (C. Fernandes)
- Safety Issues (M. Sinclair)

(J. Kennard/C. Fernandes)

That the June 1, 2012 agenda of the Seniors Advisory Committee be accepted as amended. **CARRIED.**

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Clarification was sought regarding Item 6.1 – Summer Meetings.

(B. Price/M. Wahlman)

That the May 4, 2012 minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved, as circulated. **CARRIED.**

5. DELEGATION

5.1 Thomas Allan – St. John Ambulance

The Committee welcomed Thomas Allan from St. John Ambulance. In recognition of the 100th anniversary of service provided to Hamilton by St. John Ambulance, Mr. Allan has authored a book entitled "**St. John Ambulance – Hamilton-Wentworth – The First 100 Years**". Mr. Allan went through a presentation he developed outlining the past and present of St. John Ambulance in Hamilton. Copies of Mr. Allan's books are available at a cost of \$25 per book.

The committee thanked Mr. Allan for his entertaining and informative presentation.

5.2 Mike Zegarac, Director, Financial Planning & Policy re Seniors Tax Credit

The Committee welcomed Mike Zegarac, Director of Financial Planning & Policy, who attended to provide members with the history, eligibility and qualifications of the City of Hamilton Seniors' Tax Credit. A copy of his presentation was distributed to members in attendance. Following the presentation, Mr. Zegarac responded to a number of questions from the members.

The committee thanked Mr. Zegarac for his very informative presentation.

Jeanne Mayo also expressed thanks to the members of the Seniors Advisory Committee who were instrumental in providing feedback and recommendations to the development of this program.

6. BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

6.1 Committee and Subcommittee Updates

(a) ATS Eligibility Project Steering Committee

Mary Sinclair provided an update on the May 10, 2012 meeting of the ATS Eligibility Project Steering Committee. The new application form is to be discussed at the next meeting. Concern was expressed that the taxi scrip program may be phased out. Following discussion, it was decided that no action would be taken by the Seniors Advisory Committee until they actually hear that this is a possibility. A copy of the notes from the May 10th meeting will be provided to the members for information.

(b) Age Friendly City Subcommittee

Jeanne Mayo reminded members of the invitation to attend "Moving Away from Reliance on a Car: A Conversation About Integrated Transportation Options" on Wednesday June 13, 2012 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Aberdeen Gardens Retirement Residence, 330 Dundurn Street South. Registration is required.

(d) Seniors Groups Subcommittee

Emmy Weisz reported that the Seniors Group Subcommittee is brainstorming to determine how to accomplish things going forward.

Ron Smithson advised that a reorganization is occurring in Recreation and Chris Herstek in the Director of District Recreation Operations. Vicki Woodcox advised that Jack Brown is the Divisional Director of Recreation and Rom D'Angelo is the Director of Community Facilities.

(e) Housing Subcommittee

Doug Fraser provided an update on the May 24th Housing Subcommittee meeting. Jenny Venegriss and Dave Brodati from Housing Services attended to provide an update on the Housing Action Plan and respond to a series of questions sent to Gillian Hendry, Director of Housing Services. A questionnaire regarding housing issues was tabled to the August 23rd Housing Subcommittee meeting.

In light of articles in the Hamilton Spectator pertaining to fires in housing complexes, Chair Ron Smithson suggested that the Housing Subcommittee investigate this.

Ron Smithson advised that two reports from the Seniors Advisory Committee (Monthly Seniors Bus Pass and Old Age Security & Guaranteed Income Supplement) will be presented at the June 11, 2012 meeting of Emergency & Community Services Committee. The meeting will be held in Council Chambers commencing at 1:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

(f) Transportation Subcommittee

Jeanne Mayo advised that no meeting had been held in May. The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 21, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 192. A presentation will be made by McMaster University students to report findings of a project they completed for the Hamilton Council on Aging regarding transportation by bus as it relates to seniors.

Ron Smithson advised that upgrades are being made to the MacNab Bus Terminal and the Province has ordered additional GO Transit train cars.

(g) ACPD Transportation Subcommittee

Doug Fraser provided an update on the May 22nd meeting, as follows:

- accessible bus stops & shelters guidelines to be reviewed at June meeting
- eligibility & registration changes to be implemented in the fall of 2012
- list of DARTS policies & procedures distributed
- training program to assist persons with disabilities on using HSR services continues

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Long Term Care Task Force (C. Fernandes)

Carolann Fernandes spoke about an Ontario Seniors Secretariat (OSS) meeting she attended and a presentation made by the Long-Term Care Task Force regarding Resident Care and Safety. A copy of the LTC Task Force presentation will be provided to the members for information.

7.2 Safety Issues (M. Sinclair)

Mary Sinclair raised the following safety issues:

- (a) parking spot for DARTS on Main Street, outside Jackson Square
- (b) slopes at MacNab Terminal too steep for persons with disabilities
- (c) emergency button at MacNab Terminal is too high
- (d) can't get bus from downtown to St. Joseph's Hospital at noon due to number of students on board
- (e) urban Braille at Theatre Aquarius heaving
- (f) corner slants not wide enough for people with mobility devices
- (g) responsibility for seniors who don't have people to help them

Discussion took place on Item 7.2 (a) regarding the pros and cons of raising this issue again. Items 7.2 (b), (c), (d), (e) and (f) were referred to the SAC Transportation Subcommittee.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION SHARING

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING
Friday, September 7, 2012
10:00 a.m. – Rooms 192/193

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!