



Hamilton

**MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, May 3, 2013 – 10:00 a.m.
Rooms 192/193, Hamilton City Hall**

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

Regrets: Lorraine Meloche, June Noonan
Vicki Woodcox, Eleanor Morton

Also Present: Mike Richards, Carolyn Bish – Corporate Services
(Customer Service, Access & Equity)
Bea McDonough – Public Health Services
Councillors Tom Jackson and Bernie Morelli

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Smithson welcomed the committee members and guests in attendance.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Additions to the agenda to be added under Items 7 & 8 by Bea McDonough, Deirdre Chartrand and Carolann Fernandes.

(J. Kennard/J. Mayo)

That the agenda for the May 3, 2013 Seniors Advisory Committee be accepted, as amended. **CARRIED**

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. DELEGATION

**4.1 Nancy Purser, Manager – Transit Support Services
re Presto Card**

Committee members welcomed Nancy Purser from Transit (HSR) who attended to discuss the Presto card as it relates to seniors' fares.

Presto is a relatively new technology and a few snags are still being worked through. The Seniors Annual Pass is now on the Presto card effective May 1, 2013. As well, the single ride Senior ticket fare and Senior monthly pass are on Presto. This is still a pilot project and Senior fare media on Presto is available at HSR, the Hamilton GO Station, the Citizen Service Centre at City Hall, the Dundas Municipal Service Centre or on-line. HSR is trying to eliminate the paper fare media. Nancy highly recommended that users register their Presto card to ensure that the money loaded on the card will be returned in the event that the card is lost. Questions were asked and answered and comments from committee members received. Four handouts were available to those wanting them – Presto & HSR Senior Fares; For Safety's Sake; HSR Senior Fare Options; FAQs re Elimination of Voluntary Pay Policy and Implementation of a Temporary Promotional Transit Fare Special Program for HSR.

Committee members thanked Nancy for attending.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(M. Wahlman/C. Fernandes)

That the April 5, 2013 minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED.

6. BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

6.1 Committee/Subcommittee Updates

a) Age Friendly City Subcommittee

Jeanne Mayo reported that the Hamilton Council on Aging have issued a new report "Hamilton: A City for ALL Ages – Three Years On" which provides updates on a number of key recommendations from their previous report. She suggested that a representative from the Hamilton Council on Aging be invited to the June or September Seniors Advisory Committee meeting.

b) Seniors Group Subcommittee

Bob Thomson reported that the Seniors Group Subcommittee is discussing the direction this subcommittee wants to take – promoting senior groups, promotion Seniors Advisory Committee or seniors demographics and programs offered.

c) Housing Subcommittee

Doug Fraser reported that extensive research is being conducted by subcommittee members into housing space available to seniors who don't need extensive long term care. Deirdre Chartrand reported on

facilities available for seniors not needing medical assistance, etc. She noted that there are long waiting lists for these locations. Councillor Morelli concurred that there is a housing shortage and advised committee members to “get on some lists”. He also noted that anyone having difficulty should contact their Councillor.

A copy of a booklet entitled Hamilton Newcomer Services – A guide to Finding Housing in Hamilton was circulated. This booklet is available on-line at www.housinghelpcentre.ca/GuideToHousing-printready.pdf.

Committee members welcomed Councillors Morelli and Jackson. The Councillors provided updates which included:

- Senior Community Centre at Scott park is making headway
- approval of 2013 budget with a 1.9% increase
- LRT will incur additional taxes
 - Council said no
 - want the same deal from Province as was given to Toronto
- Children’s Aid Society facing cutbacks by end of June
- attended volunteer recognition events at Sackville and Michelangelo
 - please invite Councillors to your events
- waterfront at Piers 7 and 8 undergoing development. Comments regarding waterfront included increased transportation (not just summer months); locks on washroom facilities at Bayfront; emergency telephones.

d) Transportation Subcommittee

Due to time restrictions, there was no report.

e) ACPD Transportation Subcommittee

Doug Fraser reported that discussion took place regarding fare parity and that HSR is temporarily staying with the status quo except for eliminating the use of a 4-prong cane as a reason for not paying a fare. Means testing is to come. It is now a requirement that public meetings are to be held annually.

f) Community Heat Response Committee

Vi Morgan reported that a meeting was held on April 19, 2013. She is a bit disillusioned with the committee and is questioning whether a SAC representative is required. Following discussion, Vi agreed to continue attending the bi-annual meetings.

g) Seniors Award Event

No report.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Carolann Fernandes attended a meeting of the Ontario Seniors Secretariat and reported that the new Minister Responsible for Seniors is now Mario Sergio. Physiotherapy will become more accessible. She also had a "Finding Your Way" kit put out by the Alzheimer's Society. This material is available on the Alzheimer's Society website at <http://www.alzheimer.ca/>.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION SHARING

8.1 Ron Smithson advised that the **SAC motion regarding fire compliance** was received by Council and a letter containing the motion, duly signed by the Mayor and the SAC Chair, was sent to the Honorable Deb Matthews, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care and Michael Shea, Chair, Local Health Integration Network.

8.2 Bea McDonough advised that a **Wellness Fair** will be held at **Sackville** on June 22, 2013 from 10 am to 2 pm. The contact is Vince Mercuri if the committee wishes to participate.

8.3 Bea McDonough advised that a 6-week **Beginners Cooking Program For Seniors – Men Only** will take place starting May 7, 2013 from 10 am to 12 noon at Fortino's Community Room Eastgate, 75 Centennial Parkway North. Contact is Chwen Johnson, 905 546-2424 ext. 5020.

8.4 Deirdre Chartrand advised that **Doors Open Hamilton** starts Saturday, May 4, 2013. Copies of the information guide were available.

8.5 Ron Smithson reported that the **SAC Report 13004** regarding KPMG Options was received by the General Issues Committee on April 17, 2013.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

NEXT MEETING
Friday, June 7, 2013
10:00 a.m.
Rooms 192/193, City Hall