



Hamilton

Amended MINUTES:

**Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, September 6, 2013 – 10:00 a.m.
Rooms 192/193, Hamilton City Hall**

Present: Frank Brodnicki, Carolann Fernandes, John Kennard, Jeanne Mayo, Penelope Petrie, Shirley Robinson, Mary Sinclair, Ron Smithson, Bob Thomson, Marj Wahlman, Emmy Weisz, John Winslow, Bill Wright

Regrets: Deirdre Chartrand, Doug Fraser, Vi Morgan, Bernice Price, Eleanor Morton, Vicki Woodcox

Also Present: Mike Richards, Carolyn Bish – Corporate Services
(Customer Service, Access & Equity)
Bea McDonough – Public Health Services

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Smithson welcomed the committee members and guests in attendance.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The following additions were made to the agenda:

- i) Information Items (E. Weisz, C. Fernandes)
- ii) Items under New Business (M. Sinclair)

(S. Robinson/J. Mayo)

That the September 6, 2013 agenda of the Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be accepted, as amended.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. DELEGATION

4.1 Hamilton Council on Aging

Committee members welcomed Dr. Margaret Denton and Denise O'Connor from the Hamilton Council on Aging (HCoA). A copy of the report **Hamilton: A City for ALL Ages – Three Years On** dated April 2013 was distributed to all in attendance.

Dr. Denton outlined the four programs being undertaken by the HCoA – improving access for diverse communities; prevention of elder abuse; tackling poverty among seniors; age-friendly Hamilton.

The HCoA is currently focusing on age-friendly programs. The “Let’s Take the Bus” program offered workshops to assist seniors in the use of the City of Hamilton’s transit system. The “Creating Age-Friendly Environments” program in the Dundas and Kirkendall areas focuses on making neighbourhoods age-friendly. The “Let’s Take a Walk” program will start in September 2013. John Winslow from this committee will be participating. Lastly, the “Seniors Strategy for the City of Hamilton” is well underway. The goal is to have this program in place prior to the next municipal election.

Denise O’Conner provided the committee members with updates on what has occurred since the release of the 2010 report “Hamilton: A city for ALL Ages”. She mentioned that the HCoA had filmed Mary Sinclair as she told her story. Denise will be attending an International Federation on Aging Conference in Istanbul and will be taking Mary’s story with her.

Mary Sinclair asked that the Seniors Advisory Committee consent to making the Housing report available to the Hamilton Council on Aging.

(M. Sinclair/E. Weisz)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee’s Housing Subcommittee Report on Seniors Housing presented by Bea McDonough at the June 2013 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be made available to the Hamilton Council on Aging.

CARRIED

Dr. Denton and Denise O’Conner were thanked for their attendance and presentation.

4.2 Taxicab Study

Committee members welcomed Dan Hara and Jason Dowlatabadi from Hara Associates, Jim Bruzzese from BMA Management Consulting and Ritta Nazi, Project Manager – Taxi Study. Dan Hara introduced the team and advised that they were attending to seek the input of the committee of key issues pertaining to accessible taxis. Two Public Information Centres (PICs) would take place – one in October to define the issues and one in November to outline the options and recommendations. With the assistance of a PowerPoint presentation, Dan Hara spoke about the scope, approach/timeline and key issues of the project. Types of vehicles, vehicle standards and technology were also discussed. Comments included:

- the Seniors Advisory Committee agreed that they do not want 100 accessible taxis. They prefer a sufficient number to meet the "on demand" needs
- need to define "accessible"
- this needs to be discussed by the SAC Transportation Subcommittee
- power chairs could lose power due to interference with magnetic field
- City is not dictating type of vehicle that the licensed holder will purchase as long as it complies with the standards
- City of Hamilton is paying for the training of the first 16 drivers
- City of Toronto is conducting the training

Hara Associates, BMA Management Consulting and Ritta Nazi were thanked for the attendance and presentation.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(M. Wahlman/P. Petrie)

That the June 7, 2013 minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved, as circulated.

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

6.1 Committee / Subcommittee Updates

a) Age Friendly City Subcommittee

Jeanne Mayo is hoping that more members of the committee step up in support of the seniors' strategy. In response to a query about forming another subcommittee, she felt that this project affects all the subcommittees and that the whole committee should be on board. In future, perhaps each subcommittee could take a piece of the strategy to discuss.

b) Seniors Group Subcommittee

No report.

c) Housing Subcommittee

An email was received from Doug Fraser advising that he was resigning as Chair of the SAC Housing Subcommittee. A new chair will need to be appointed at the next meeting.

d) Transportation Subcommittee

Jeanne Mayo advised that the next meeting of the SAC Transportation Subcommittee would be on Thursday, September 19, 2013 at 3:00

pm, City Hall. She added that they are looking for additional members on this committee. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

e) ACPD Transportation Subcommittee

Chair Ron Smithson advised that Doug Fraser had also resigned as the SAC representative on the ACPD Transportation Subcommittee. Ron, Mary Sinclair and Carolann Fernandes attended the August meeting of the ACPD Transportation Subcommittee and reported that:

- an open accessibility meeting by HSR will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2013 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Hamilton Convention Centre
- cost for training for accessible taxi drivers is \$425 per driver
- a task force has been formed for the DARTS Service Review. Councillors Duvall, Farr, Ferguson, Merulla & Whitehead will sit on this committee.

Mary Sinclair volunteered to act as the Seniors Advisory Committee representative on the ACPD Transportation Subcommittee and received the approval of the committee.

f) Community Heat Response Committee

No report.

g) Seniors Award Event

Ron Smithson advised that a meeting will be held next week.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Mary Sinclair raised a few issues, as follows:

a) Hamilton Health Sciences Ontarians with Disabilities Act Advisory Council

Mary has not received notification of a meeting in some time. Staff will contact HHS to determine if this group is still active.

b) Seniors Award Event

It was confirmed that this event will recognize seniors age 65 and over.

c) Elevators Not Working

This issue will be discussed at the SAC Housing Subcommittee to bring back to SAC.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION SHARING

8.1 Flyer Distribution

The following flyers were distributed by members:

- **Seniors Bollywood Dance Exercise** – Monday evenings from 5 to 6 pm, Dundas Town Hall
- **Finance Workshop** – Friday, October 4, 2013, 9am to 12 noon, St. Peter's Hospital
- Hamilton Urban Core Community Health Centre **Serenity N' Motion** – Tuesdays from noon to 2:00 pm, 71 Rebecca Street

Discussion followed regarding the Seniors Bollywood Dance exercise.

(E. Weisz/J. Kennard)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee refer the issue of recreational activities specific to ethno-cultural communities (i.e. Bollywood Dance Exercise) to the SAC Seniors Group Subcommittee for review & investigation and return to the whole committee with a recommendation on getting these events included in the City of Hamilton's Recreation Guide.

CARRIED

8.2 Mary Sinclair advised that the **Be Aware Take Care – Safety Guide for Seniors** has recently been republished by Hamilton Police Service and Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire (IODE). It is available on the HPS website.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

– Friday, October 4, 2013, 10:00 a.m., Rooms 192/193, City Hall