



Hamilton

**MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, October 4, 2013 – 10:00 a.m.
Rooms 192/193, Hamilton City Hall**

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

Also Present: Bea McDonough, Public Health Services
Lisa Maychak – Community and Emergency Services
Ritta Nazi, Project Manager – Taxi Study re Accessible Taxis, Driving Training
Councillor Tom Jackson

Regrets: Mike Richards, Carolyn Bish – Customer Service, Access & Equity
Vicki Woodcox – Macassa Lodge
Eleanor Morton – Recreation
Councillor Bernie Morelli

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 (V. Morgan, C. Fernandes, M. Sinclair)
- ii) Delegation/Discussion, Item 4.1 (Lisa Maychak)

6.2. (b). That 'B. Wright' be corrected as 'B. Thomson'

(E. Weisz/M. Wahlman)

That the October 4, 2013 agenda of the Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be accepted, as amended.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. DELEGATION/DISCUSSION

4.1 Ritta Nazi, Project Manager- Taxi Study re Accessible Taxis, Driver Training, etc.

Committee members welcomed R. Nazi back, as she updated committee on the Driver Training and responded to questions from the committee.

Questions and comments included:

- Variation in fares to encourage, attract and provide incentive to seniors who ride often
- Possibility of shared rides
- Pre-booking for recurring/ regular appointments
- Is Hamilton Cab adding to their fleet of accessible vehicles?
- Were any physical constraints observed during the driver training?
- Does wave cab accept taxi scrip tickets?
- What types of vehicles will new license drivers be mandated to operate?
- Are seat belts required?

Responses included:

- Variation in fares and incentives will be discussed as the study progresses, but it largely depends on the discretion of the cab companies or cab owners
- Shared rides are logistically difficult and not a viable option
- It is yet to be determined whether Hamilton Cab will increase its fleet of accessible cabs or which company the new license drivers will drive for
- During the training, visual cues were observed for physical constraints. Training is coming along well with 14 drivers over a 3 day period consisting of 8 hours of practical and theory, including a Customer Service training and wheelchair accessible component. All drivers passed. A second session is scheduled for November.
- Once legal taxis are on the street, enforcement will begin
- Yes, wave cab accepts taxi scrip tickets
- Vehicles must meet Highway Safety Act with rear entry and side entry capabilities. Though drivers are not mandated as to which brand of vehicle they should purchase.
- Seat belts will be required and locked in 4point restraint system with harness and shoulder strap.

R. Nazi was thanked for her attendance and presentation.

4.2 Seniors Award Event

Committee members welcomed Lisa Maychak and she presented the draft logos of the Seniors Award. Two logo samples were handed out for review by committee members.

Comments included:

- Awards to be branded as a prestige event scheduled for June 2014
- Currently reviewing venues, creating awards and seeking sponsorships
- Awards will be based on a nomination system
- Awards to be promoted in the media to create awareness
- Challenges in getting nominations; seeking help from committee members to promote awards event
- cultural diversity to be reflected
- Nominations to commence in January

Questions included:

- Will the logo be given on as a paper or statue design?
- Suggestion to explore the possibility of partnering with local artists to donate a statue design
- Will awards be given over a 2 year span since last year was missed
- Samples not impressive, sloppy, does not reflect seniors, hand sign resembles racism symbol or heart association and has no mention of Hamilton
- Blue looks dynamic; purple reflects a subtle notion of seniors
- A 7/7 split in vote for each logo design
- Other suggestions include inserting pictures of seniors or the Hamilton bridge symbol, to replace the heart sign.
- Colours such as red or darker blue is easier to read than light blue and purple
- Ethno-cultural seniors to be recognized in the award categories, as well as cultural diversity (LGBTQ, persons with disabilities etc.).
- That the awards event be promoted in the media including front page coverage in the Hamilton Spectator
- Ethnic press to also be approached for promotion
- Hamilton Spectator to do an editorial on senior volunteers doing good work in the community
- Advertisement and event promotion to go beyond seniors centres
- Suggestion that staff redesign the logo, taking committee comments into consideration

Lisa thanked committee members for their feedback and will take comments back for discussion and review with the design and marketing team. Committee thanked Lisa for her efforts.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Item 8.1 – Seniors Bollywood Dance Exercise

J. Mayo and B. Thomson expressed concerned about the wording of the motion, indicating that the motion's intent is not clear, does not reflect the committee's discussion and seems to be watered down. It was expressed that motion had a much broader intent and more things should be included in the motion especially incorporating activities which will be attractive to diverse and ethno-cultural seniors.

Suggestions and comments included:

- That other activities specific to ethno-cultural communities be included in the Hamilton Recreation Guide
- Leave the motion as stated and pass it onto the appropriate department for further action
- That the motion be revised or indicate that it will be addressed at a future meeting

It was agreed that the sub-committee will reconvene and address the motion at the next meeting.

(M. Wahlman/J. Winslow)

That the September 6, 2013 minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved, as amended.

CARRIED

6. BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

6.1 2014 SAC Business Plan (Budget)

Committee members reviewed the budget and inquired about the amount of the reserve. It was requested that the reserve amount be disclosed to committee members at the next meeting.

(M. Wahlman/P. Petrie)

That the 2014 Business Plan for the Seniors Advisory Committee be accepted as circulated and submitted to Council for consideration during the 2014 budget deliberations.

CARRIED

6.2 Committee / Subcommittee Updates

a) Age Friendly City Subcommittee

Jeanne Mayo reported that committee has not met. The project is underway and a report will be presented to the committee in due time.

b) Seniors Group Subcommittee

B. Thomson reported that the City's web redevelopment group has requested volunteers to help with design and testing. Two committee members (E. Weisz and B. Thomson) have volunteered and B. Thomson has been asked to do a couple of exercises.

Committee also discussed introduction of ethno-cultural activities in Senior's Centres and have basically reached the 'what' stage. Committee will discuss the 'who' and 'how' at the next meeting and report back with recommendations.

Committee also discussed the development of a free, distinctive directory of seniors' services and activities within the city. There was also a suggestion of expansion of services for seniors in the City's Recreation Guide and another directory of ethnic communities.

- P. Petrie stated that Hamilton Council on Aging has 4 directories on its website and will call the office to inquire its location on the website and forward the information to B. Thomson

c) Housing Subcommittee

Subcommittee had a meeting and the presentation was well received with good discussion. Action recommended was that Ron report to Council. Housing Subcommittee members should attend to provide input.

- Workplan was received and prioritized for the next 2 years.
- Bill Jenson to present at the November 21st meeting. Committee will draft questions addressing senior friendly housing at the October 24th meeting.
- Paul Johnson from the City's Neighborhood Strategy has been invited to discuss senior strategy. Questions will be drafted for P. Johnson's presentation at the December 6th meeting.
- Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association is hosting its 2013 conference on October 18-20 and will be presenting workshops focused on senior housing. A single day attendance costs \$425 for non-members. Discussions ensued and it was suggested by Councillor Tom Jackson that committee send a letter to the Hamilton Non-Profit Housing Board Chair, requesting that a member of SAC be added to their conference delegation, if possible.

Councillor Jackson will advise the Hamilton Non-Profit Housing Board about the pending letter and copy C. Bish.

As an option, committee approved the following motion:

(C. Fernandes/M. Wahlman)

That SAC approve \$425 to register one committee member to attend Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association conference in Toronto.

CARRIED

Committee agreed that C. Fernandes will attend the conference and that transportation costs be added to the expenses. Committee requested that C. Fernandes submit a written report to committee, after the conference.

d) Transportation Subcommittee

Jeanne Mayo reported that the committee met and new members attended, but old members did not. The committee will now meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 3:00 pm and the next meeting will be on October 16, 2013. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

- Subcommittee is also requesting to change its name to 'Mobility Subcommittee' instead of 'Transportation Subcommittee', to accommodate all the necessities of moving around. The Complete Streets report will be coming out shortly, which is why the subcommittee wants to be inclusive by broadening its mandate. Committee discussed but did not approve the requested name change, on the basis presented.
- Subcommittee reported that Transcab to Binbrook is now available and hopes this becomes a permanent service. It was stated that one of the stops does not have a bus shelter.
- Councillor Jackson reiterated that Transcab is a trial to gauge good use. Council approved 56 shelters to be built, so committee was advised to submit their request for a bus shelter promptly for consideration, due to the limited timeframe.

(J. Mayo/P. Petrie)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee write a letter to HSR to appreciate their efforts and to request that a bus shelter be built on Rymal Road at the Transcab stop and that the stop to connect with the Transcab be clearly indicated on the bus, both verbally and visually.

CARRIED

The issue of vandalism was also discussed and committee members expressed their anger, requesting that City/CBS/Transit become more vigilant in maintaining shelters by setting up surveillance or penalties for perpetrators.

- Councillor Jackson informed committee members that the issue is largely a federal and provincial matter, beyond the scope of municipalities and is governed under the Juvenile Act.
- Committee members were advised that that if they witness an incident of vandalism, they should take notes such as license plate numbers and send it to police.
- It was also suggested that seniors make presentations at schools.

e) ACPD Transportation Subcommittee

Subcommittee met and Transportation Standards requirements were discussed. Lots of areas are compliant but work is in progress. Questions remain regarding the Accessible Taxi by-law.

- HSR is hosting an accessibility public meeting on October 10th (Hamilton Convention Centre) and October 24th (Sackville Seniors Centre)

f) Community Heat Response Committee

Meeting is scheduled for October 10th and a final report will be provided on how to it improved. Report will be provided at the next meeting.

g) Seniors Award Event

Ron Smithson advised that a meeting will be held on October 9, 2013.

h) Hamilton Health Sciences AODA Committee

Mary Sinclair advised that a meeting was held on September 30th. There were mostly agencies in attendance.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION SHARING

8.1 Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging at McMaster University- September 18th at St. Peter's hospital (R. Smithson/V. Morgan)

Chair Ron Smithson attended the session which is trying to find out what seniors feel about the situation in Hamilton. Additional sessions will be held.

8.2 Study re Age-related Vision Loss (ARVL) Email from Colleen McGarth, PhD Candidate from Western University (J. Winslow)

M. Sinclair and J. Winslow were subjects to the study and reported that it was very informative and provided good insights, though research may be a bit skewed. Information was provided to staff for distribution to committee members.

8.3. Councillor Morelli – Regrets (Councillor Jackson)

Councillor Jackson stated that Councillor Morelli could not attend the meeting due to health constraints, and sent his regrets. J. Winslow and committee members extended warm regards to Councillor Morelli.

8.4. Law Commission of Ontario Study (C.Fernandes/E. Weisz)

Law Commission of Ontario is conducting a study to develop a framework to assist municipalities to look at how law affects older persons. Staff lawyer, Lauren Bates is willing to present to the Seniors Advisory Committee at an upcoming meeting and will be awaiting an invitation from C.Bish.

(C.Fernandes/ E. Weisz)

That the Seniors Advisory Committee invite Lauren Bates, staff lawyer from the Law Commission of Ontario, to attend a single or joint committee meeting.

CARRIED

C. Fernandes to provide Lauren Bate's contact information to C. Bish.

8.5. New Horizons Commission Grants

C. Fernandes informed Committee that the New Horizons grants have been expanded to \$2.5 million and application process will get underway soon for approximately \$25,000 seed money per applicant.

8.6. Accessible Pedestrian Signals

Committee acknowledged Councillor Jackson's efforts for the new zebra stripes painted on the crosswalk on Upper Gage & Mohawk, and Upper Gage & Fennell.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING
November 1, 2014
10:00 a.m.
Rooms 192/193, City Hall**