



Hamilton

**Amended MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, December 7, 2012
Rooms 192/193, Hamilton City Hall**

Present: Carolann Fernandes, Doug Fraser, Jeanne Mayo, Lorraine Meloche, June Noonan, Penelope Petrie, Bernice Price, Shirley Robinson, Carolyn Rosenthal, Mary Sinclair, Ron Smithson, Bob Thomson, Marj Wahlman, Emmy Weisz, John Winslow, Bill Wright

Regrets: Frank Brodnicki, Deirdre Chartrand, Vi Morgan
Eleanor Morton, Mike Richards

Also Present: Carolyn Bish – Corporate Services (Customer Service, Access & Equity)
Vicki Woodcox – Community Services (Macassa Lodge)
Bea McDonough – Public Health Services

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Smithson welcomed the committee members in attendance and acknowledged and congratulated Carolann Fernandes on her being awarded a Diamond Jubilee Medal.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

(M. Wahlman/P. Petrie)

That the December 7, 2012 agenda of the Seniors Advisory Committee be accepted, as circulated. **CARRIED.**

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(M. Wahlman/L. Meloche)

That the November 2, 2012 minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved, as circulated. **CARRIED.**

5. BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

5.1 Elder Abuse

Emmy Weisz spoke briefly about elder abuse and how she sees so much of it. She is making this a personal project in the new year and wants to form a subcommittee to review other Province's legislation regarding elder abuse. Ontario currently does not have legislation specific to elder abuse.

5.2 Update from November 2, 2013

a) KPMG Review of Municipal Services & Recommendations

Further to the raising of this issue by Councillor Jackson at the November Seniors Advisory Committee meeting, Ron Smithson suggested that Report CM11009(b)/FCS11056(b) Corporate Service Delivery Review – Opportunities for Service Improvement to be added to the January 2013 agenda for discussion.

b) Community Services Report CS12020(b) re 2013 Proposed Discretionary Benefits Budget Options

Vicki Woodcox advised that the Province is amending the amount that they will be paying for certain services. The subject report outlines the impact this will have on City services. Vicki reported that Council was not stopping any program at this point. Mary Sinclair suggested that perhaps the authors of the report could be invited to a future meeting. John Winslow thanked Council for their position on this.

5.3 Committee/Subcommittee Updates

(a) Housing Subcommittee

Bill Wright provided details on a staff report going to the Planning Committee regarding the regulation of rental housing. A draft motion was distributed with the agenda material. Discussion included the following points:

- concern with opposing this report
- motion needs to be more explicate
- recognize the need for licensing due to poor living conditions
- will tenants be out on the street if some rental facilities close
- Burris Lodge as an example – what arrangements are being offered to residents
- principals of “age friendly” should be considered when deciding

The motion was amended as follows and passed by the committee members.

(B. Wright/D. Fraser)

(a) That the Seniors Advisory Committee for the City of Hamilton supports, in principle, approving the Regulation of Rental Housing as outlined in Report PED10049(h) Regulation of Rental Housing, dated September 18, 2012 to the Chair & Members of the Planning Committee and respectfully requests that the Planning Committee and Council consider the negative consequences to seniors living on a fixed income.

(b) That it be noted that the Seniors Advisory Committee is concerned that the proposed regulation could result in less rental accommodation and increased rental rates. In order to comply with the new bylaw, landlords will be faced with renovation costs and will incur costs for fire, hydro, building inspections and ongoing registration fees. These costs will be passed on to tenants in the form of increased rents. The proposed regulation will impact the affordability and availability of housing for seniors living on a fixed income.

CARRIED.

(b) Transportation Subcommittee

Jeanne Mayo provided an update on the HSR fare structure. The new seniors rates will be available on the Presto Card. She went on to explain the use of the Presto cards. Committee members discussed two draft letters to HSR – one on additional Park-n-Ride sites and one on the waiving of the \$6 fee for seniors for one year.

(J. Mayo/M. Wahlman)

That a letter be sent to the Director of Transit requesting that the one-time fee of \$6 be waived for seniors purchasing a Presto Card during the whole year of 2013.

CARRIED.

(J. Mayo/M. Wahlman)

That a letter be sent to the Director of Transit commending HSR for the new park-n-ride facility at the Mountain Transit Centre and requesting consideration for two additional sites in the lower City – one in the east end and one in the west end.

CARRIED.

Councillors Bernie Morelli, Tom Jackson, Jason Farr and Scott Duvall stopped in to the meeting to extend holiday greeting to the members.

(c) Seniors Groups Subcommittee

Bob Thomson advised that Jay Adams of the City's website redevelopment team and Jane Lee had attended their November meeting. Jay provided them with a short presentation and advised that their priorities are based on redeveloping the web for the majority of used and most frequently hit issues. Testing of the redeveloped site

will be done by “real people”. Jay Adams indicated that the web redevelopment team will welcome further comments.

Changes to the current Seniors Advisory Committee webpage will be done through Jennifer Mak of the Access & Equity Office. The subcommittee members will investigate ways to spruce up the current webpage. Subcommittee members are also look into redeveloping the subcommittee’s priorities.

(d) ATS Eligibility Project Steering Committee

No update. No new meetings scheduled.

(e) Age Friendly City Subcommittee

No report. Meetings to resume in the new year.

Vicki Woodcox advised that a report on the Senior Strategy is on the agenda for the December 10, 2012 Emergency & Community Services (E&CS) Committee meeting.

(f) ACPD Transportation Subcommittee

Doug Fraser advised that under the Ontarians with Disabilities Act, effective January 1, 2013 fare parity comes into effect. Discussion, questions and answers followed regarding CNIB, DARTS, Taxi Scrip, etc.

(g) Community Heat Response Committee

No report.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Ron Smithson reminded members that he requires future plans of the subcommittees at the January meeting in order to prepare for the SAC report to E&CS Committee in February.

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION SHARING

Holiday greetings were exchanged by many.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Members then joined together for some holiday refreshments and friendship.

NEXT MEETING

Friday, January 4, 2013

10:00 a.m. – Rooms 192/193