



Hamilton

**MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, April 5, 2013
Rooms 192/193, Hamilton City Hall**

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

Regrets: Jeanne Mayo, Penelope Petrie, Bob Thomson

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

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Smithson welcomed the committee members and guests in attendance.

The Chair also acknowledged and congratulated Mary Sinclair on being awarded a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Additions/changes to the agenda to be added under Item 7 – New Business:

- 7.1 Housing & Homelessness Report (Ron Smithson)
- 7.2 Ontario Seniors' Secretariat Liaison Committee (Carolann Fernandes)
- 7.3 Vision 2020 (Emmy Weisz)
- 7.4 Letter to Editor (Mary Sinclair)

(C. Fernandes/M. Wahlman)

That the agenda for the March 1, 2013 Seniors Advisory Committee be accepted, as amended.

CARRIED

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

4. DELEGATION

4.1 Special Supports for Seniors

Committee members welcomed Bill Atanas, Director of Ontario Works Benefit Eligibility Division and Erica Brimley, Special Supports Program Manager who attended to provide an outline of the special supports provided by the City of Hamilton.

An information package containing a summary of the support programs and services, a Request for Special Support Funding for, an Affordable Transit Pass application form and 2 brochures was distributed to members in attendance. Erica Brimley went through these documents for the members and responded to questions.

Highlights of the discussion included:

- City has contracts with vendors for equipment, installation, services. Do not purchase first.
- Will work with HSR to address the means testing for the fare parity issue.
- Application forms have intrusive questions. Ensured that confidentiality is maintained.
- Need for this information to be communicated in places where seniors are.
- Are brochures, etc. available in alternate languages, large print, etc.?
 - Relooking at updating website and brochures.
- Information should be available in Parkdale/Melvin area

The Chair thanked Bill and Erica for attending and providing very timely information.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(B. Price/M. Wahlman)

That the March 1, 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

Vicki Woodcox advised that the smaller group had met last week and that the focus group discussions would be starting up in a few weeks.

b) Seniors Group Subcommittee

The notes from the March 2013 Seniors Group Subcommittee were distributed with the Seniors Advisory Committee agenda material for the April meeting. No discussion by members.

c) Housing Subcommittee

Doug Fraser advised that Bea McDonough is putting material together for the Subcommittee. The Housing & Homelessness Action is being reviewed to see where the Seniors Advisory Committee could participate. Questions will be forwarded to Gillian Hendry, Director of Housing Services Division. Carolann Fernandes provided an overview of the Ontario Seniors Secretariat Liaison Committee and will be providing this overview to the full committee under New Business.

d) Transportation Subcommittee

Jeanne Mayo was absent from the meeting. Discussion quickly turned to the confusion on what has been appearing in the newspaper regarding DARTS/ATS, HSR, seniors' fares, personal companions (free or not free), Presto cards, etc. Staff was requested to send an invitation to HSR to attend the next meeting to respond to questions from the members.

Committee members welcomed Councillors Duvall, Jackson and Morelli who attended and presented Bernice Price with her Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and a bouquet of flowers.

The Councillors provided updates which included:

- approval of 2013 budget
- fare parity issue still open
- long term care facilities will be receiving funds for upgrades to kitchens
- continuing with Scott Park facility
- Sackville receiving funding for roof, windows, A/C and outside shelters
- all recommendations / suggestions received from SAC have been approved
- ward redistribution possible with next term of Council

e) ACPD Transportation Subcommittee

Doug Fraser reported that the fare parity issue has not been resolved. Marj Wahlham advised that should parity come, DARTS tickets will be reimbursed or traded.

f) Community Heat Response Committee

No report.

g) Seniors Award Event

Vicki Woodcox advised that a draft report will be going to the May 13, 2013 Emergency & Community Services Committee regarding the Seniors Award Event.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Housing & Homelessness Report

The Chair reported that staff from the Housing Services Division would be attending the May 2013 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting. A report "**What We Heard ... Talking to People about Housing & Homelessness in Hamilton**" was distributed to members in attendance for review prior to the May meeting. This report will be mailed out to members who were absent.

7.2 Ontario Seniors' Secretariat Liaison Committee

Carolann Fernandes shared a report from the March 19, 2013 meeting of the Ontario Seniors' Secretariat Liaison Committee. A copy of this report is available upon request.

7.3 Vision 2020

Emmy Weisz would like this deferred to the May meeting.

7.4 Federal Income Tax

Mary Sinclair has requested the income tax form in large print. Her efforts to date have not been successful.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION SHARING

8.1 The Seniors Advisory Committee report regarding **KPMG Options** (Report #SAC13004) will be forwarded to the City Clerks Office for inclusion on the April 17, 2013 General Issues Committee meeting agenda.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

NEXT MEETING
Friday, May 3, 2013
10:00 a.m.
Rooms 192/193, City Hall