MINUTES:  Seniors Advisory Committee  
Friday, December 2, 2005 – 10:00 a.m.  
Room 250, City Hall, 71 Main Street West

PRESENT:  Isabella Brearley, Carolann Fernandes, Al Gordon, Ann Karow, Kay Lodge, 
Thelma McGillivray, Lorraine Meloche, Bernice Price, Shirley Robinson, 
Mary Sinclair, Ron Smithson

REGRETS:  Shirley Glauser, Bob Slattery

Also Present:  Bev Neill, Carolyn Bish – Corporate Services Department 
Jane Lee – Corporate Services Department 
Councillor Tom Jackson 
Councillor Bernie Morelli 
Maureen Harmer- Public Health & Community Services Department 
Paul Thompson – Public Works, Transit Division

1.  ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Additions to the agenda:
  i)  Letter from Councillor Whitehead
  ii)  Bus Fare Increase
  iii)  Announcement – Carol Ann Fernandes
  iv)  Update – Thelma McGillivray

Item 4.3 of the December agenda will be deferred to the January meeting.

(Smithson/Brearley)  
That the agenda of the December 2, 2005 meeting of the Seniors Advisory 
Committee be approved as amended.  
CARRIED.

2.  DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

3.  APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 4, 2005

(Smithson/Gordon)  
That the minutes of November 4, 2005 be approved.  
CARRIED.

4.  BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1  Update – ATS Appeals Committee

Paul Thompson provided some background on this committee.  He stressed that 
it is important to keep this committee small.  It is currently made up of a DARTS 
representative, Paul Thompson or a representative from ATS and a member of 
ACPD or an individual appointed by ACPD.
He advised that ACPD has 2 members on a policy steering committee and that perhaps a representative from SAC could be on this committee.

Carol Ann Fernandes and Ann Karow expressed interest.

(Sinclair/McGillivray)
That Carol Ann Fernandes and Ann Karow represent the Seniors Advisory Committee on the ATS Policy Implementation Steering Committee.

CARRIED.

Paul Thompson will notify the members when the meetings will be held.

Mary Sinclair asked that a copy of a DARTS bulletin issued to passengers on the policy be distributed with the minutes.

4.2 Update – Safety Issues on DARTS Buses

The Committee welcomed Paul Thompson, Manager – ATS. Mr. Thompson advised that he met with Jane Lee and Councillor Jackson to discuss safety concerns on DARTS buses in relation to lifts and ramps. At the meeting, they also discussed doing a brief survey of opinions on the lifts. A survey was distributed to 100 passengers on November 22, 23 and 24, 2005. A total of 43 people completed the survey. Mr. Thompson went through the survey questions and summarized the responses. He also advised that another larger survey will be done in 6 or 8 months once passengers have had some experience with the lifts.

Comments from Committee members included:
- DARTS drivers are great.
- When people can be identified, they fear being negative. Future surveys would ensure confidentiality.
- A survey had been done by Seniors Advisory Committee in the past.
- How did this survey compare to past surveys? This survey was positive and pointed out some issues.
- What prompted change from ramp to lift? Only one company manufactures ramps resulting in a “sole source” vendor. Wanted some competition in tendering. Low floor lift buses are approximately 55% of the cost of low floor ramp buses.
- It was felt that a lot of information was obtained from such a short survey. Suggestion that SAC be consulted to provide input on the design and content of future surveys.
- Drivers need to be taught to take advantage of curbs.
- Use “simulators” and invite passengers and drivers to practice using. Can take to seniors residents and workshops for practice.
- Councillor Jackson advised that he did get on a lift and was pleased overall with it.

4.3 Plan Recommendations re June 3rd Presentation

Deferred to January 2006 meeting.
5. OTHER BUSINESS

5.1 Letter from Councillor Whitehead
A letter was sent to the SAC advising that a review of ATS and DARTS services was being undertaken and inviting a representative of SAC to present and identify critical factors relating to Seniors. Shirley Glauser will attend as SAC’s representative to make a 10 minute presentation. The time set aside for the SAC presentation is on Tuesday December 13, 2005 at 2:45 p.m. in Room 250, City Hall.

(McGillivray/Gordon)
That Ron Smithson be invited to attend and observe the presentations in preparation for the gas tax use meeting to be held later that day.

CARRIED.

5.2 Bus Fare Increase
Councillors Morelli & Jackson advised that bus fares will not be increasing.

5.3 Announcement – Carol Ann Fernandes
Carol Ann advised the committee that the Ontario Coalition of Seniors is hosting an event in June regarding Ontario Seniors Make a Difference. They want to host this event in Hamilton. Would the Seniors Advisory Committee want to partner in this event. This item will be added to the January 2006 agenda for discussion.

5.4 Update – Thelma McGillivray
Thelma asked that a copy of a presentation re Affordable Housing Program Facilitation Branch be circulated to the committee with the minutes. She also suggested that the committee invite Dean Russell, Provincial Service Manager, to inform the committee of the Housing Initiative Progress.

Councillor Morelli advised that the CP Holiday Train would be coming to Hamilton (Gage Park) on Sunday December 4, 2005 at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Regarding the upcoming election, Mary Sinclair inquired whether DARTS would wait while client voted. Paul Thompson advised that DARTS intends to do this.

6. ADJOURNMENT

On motion, the meeting adjourned.
A luncheon and conversation followed the meeting.