REvised
MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, October 1, 2010
Room 193, Hamilton City Hall

Present: Carolann Fernandes, Thelma McGillivray, Lorraine Meloche,
Vi Morgan, Bernice Price, Shirley Robinson, Mary Sinclair,
Ron Smithson (Chair), Ly Minh Trinh

Regrets: Lisa Campbell, Margo Kirkpatrick
Councillors Jackson and Morelli

Also Present: Bev Neill, Carolyn Bish – Corporate Services, Customer
Service, Access & Equity
Maureen Harmer – Public Health Services, Healthy Living
Vicki Woodcox – Community Services, Macassa Lodge
Coralee Secore – Community Services, Recreation

1. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The following wished to add items to the agenda:
Mary Sinclair – Spectator article, health forum, election
Carolann Fernandes – Ontario Seniors Secretariat Liaison Committee
Ron Smithson – Rapid Transit Committee

The agenda was accepted as amended.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Thelma McGillivray noted that she was in attendance at the September
2010 meeting but is wasn’t in the minutes. She also pointed out that
the minutes did not reflect the lengthy discussion that took place
regarding the survey results or the decision by the committee that
they would focus on Seniors Centres as a future project. She also
noted that the survey results were not attached to the minutes as
indicated.
4. PRESENTATION: Coralee Secore, Recreation Division

The Committee welcomed Coralee Secore, Director, City-Wide Services for the Recreation Division. Coralee informed the members that she will be attending Seniors Advisory Committee meetings going forward as a staff resource to the committee. She advised that the Recreation Division is currently undergoing major reorganization, focusing on service and the she has been newly appointed as the Director of City-Wide Services. The Recreation Division will want to partner with the committee on certain events such as the Hamilton Senior of the Year Award event.

Coralee distributed a handout and provided an outline on the role of the Recreation Division within the senior community, the present structure of seniors centres and clubs and future building planning.

She fielded many questions / concerns, such as:
- membership fee review
- inclusion of ethno-cultural seniors
- community development
- facilities in Stoney Creek
- indoor use study conducted in 2008
- language barrier
- issues at Hamilton YWCA

With regard to the issues at the Hamilton YWCA, Coralee will invite Terry Quinn to attend the November meeting.

5. BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

6. UPDATES

6.1 The Gore Committee –
Vi Morgan advised that no meetings will be held until 2011. Once the buses are relocated to McNab Street Terminal, the Gore Committee meetings will restart. Ron Smithson informed the group that the construction of the McNab Street Terminal has been delayed.

6.2 ACPD Transportation Subcommittee – R. Smithson
Ron Smithson reported:
   i) that Vince Ormond from the Parking & By-law Services Division attended the ACPD Transportation Subcommittee meeting to discuss accessible taxis. It was noted that the current by-
law is being updated to reflect the fees & surcharges charged for accessible cabs.
ii) that cameras will be installed on DARTS buses and taxis in future.
iii) that the software for PRESTO cards is not up & operating yet.
iv) that the onboard announcements for bus stops not loud or clear enough on certain buses

6.3 Strategic Road Safety Program Subcommittee
Ron Smithson passed around a chart with accident statistics as of August 2010. The report indicated 14 fatalities as of August 2010. There were 15 fatalities in the year 2009. The chart is not age specific. Ron will ask for this breakdown.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Scooterville Article
Mary Sinclair commented on the recent Scooterville article in the Hamilton Spectator. She feels that people with mobility devices and scooters are being portrayed in the wrong light and that the majority of abusers of scooters are by people who are not qualified to use them.

7.2 Senior Health Forum
Mary Sinclair noted that there have been numerous Spectator articles on the issue of senior health. There has been reference to a list of 12 things to watch. Maureen Harmer will investigate and bring a copy of this list to the next meeting.

7.3 Elections
Mary Sinclair reminded the committee of a Mayoral Candidates debate to take place on Monday, October 4, 2010 at the Jamesville Community Centre.

She also passed around an ad from today’s Spectator regarding the election outlining the forms of identification required in order to vote.

7.4 Ontario Seniors Secretariat Liaison Committee Report
Carolann Fernandes reported that a meeting of this committee was held yesterday and the following items discussed:
- 3 committees interconnected - Housing, Health & Long Term Care
- representatives from many seniors groups (i.e. Veterans, Pensioners, Francophone seniors, Older Women’s Network, Multicultural Seniors)
- great way to advocate for seniors issues and be the voice for seniors issues to advocate for policy changes- non partisan group
• Ministers are invited to address issues and they do adjust policy as a result
• politicians in attendance (Deputy Minister Valentine & Minister Sophia Aggelonitis)
• discussion re inspection of Retirement Homes

7.5 Rapid Transit Open House
Ron Smithson reported that he attended the Rapid Transit Open House on September 30, 2010 at City Hall. Presentations were given on light rail transit. The B Line, running east/west, will be constructed first followed by the north/south line.

7.6 SAC Survey Results
Thelma McGillivray reported that 19 people had requested the results of the Seniors Advisory Committee survey.

(T.McGillivray/M.Sinclair)
That the Seniors Advisory Committee Survey results be forwarded to those persons who expressed interest in the results. CARRIED

Thelma will provide contact information to staff for these individuals.

7.7 Elder Law Conference
Thelma McGillivray will be attending the Elder Law Conference on October 28, 29 and 30, 2010 regarding the legislation for the protection of older adults.

7.8 Bill 21 – Retirement Homes
Thelma McGillivray, referencing Bill 21 of the Retirement Homes Regulation Act, advised that there are concerns about older adults living in poverty and not getting the nutrition and services they need. It would help if people living in private licensed retirement homes were covered under the Landlord/Tenant Act. They could then complain and receive the help they deserve.

Carolann Fernandes will provide information to Thelma regarding ethnicity issues and multicultural seniors issues.

7.9 Bill 140 – Long Term Care Homes Act
Thelma McGillivray reported that as of July 2010, there are no legislated hours of care for residents. It was advocated for 3.5 hours but it was lost and therefore, there are no designated hours of care. If there were, nursing homes would be obligated to hire more staff to meet the care needs of the residents.

Hamilton is fortunate that our two nursing homes are subject to unannounced inspection visits. Vicki Woodcox advised there are no
specific hours of care there either because they are under the LTCHomes Act. The average age in the nursing homes are age 81 and the seniors are usually very frail.

7.10 Seniors Advisory Committee 2011 Budget
Bev Neill advised that the 2011 Budget Submissions for the advisory committees are due to Finance. Discussion took place regarding the financial planning for 2011.

(L.Meloche/B.Price)

a) That the 2011 Budget for the Seniors Advisory Committee, in the amount of $1,500.00, be approved as presented.

b) That the Chair be authorized to sign on behalf of the Seniors Advisory Committee.

c) That any remaining funds from 2010 Budget be transferred to the Reserve Fund for the Seniors Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

8. INFORMATION SHARING
Today (October 1, 2010) is International Day of Older Persons. The Hamilton Council on Aging is hosting a Mayor Candidates meeting to share their views on seniors issues to be held at St. Peter’s Hospital from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. today.

9. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

NEXT MEETING
Friday, November 5, 2010
10:00 a.m.
City Hall Council Chambers