MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, September 9, 2011
Room 264, Hamilton City Hall

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

Regrets: May Ferguson, Lorraine Meloche, Shirley Robinson, Marj Wahlman
Councillor Wahlman

Councillor B. Morelli

Also Present: Jill Laskey – Community Services, Recreation
Bea McDonough – Public Health Services
Vicki Woodcox – Community Services, Macassa Lodge
Bev Neill – Corporate Service, Customer Service, Access & Equity
Carolyn Bish – Corporate Services, Customer Service, Access & Equity
Councillor Jackson

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
Chair Smithson welcomed the committee members in attendance.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA
Items added to the agenda included:
- Priorities for the Aging Population (C. Fernandes)

The September 9, 2011 Seniors Advisory Committee agenda was accepted as amended.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST
None declared.

4. PRESENTATION

4.1 Hamilton Council on Aging regarding the Senior’s Collaborative Initiative and the Age Friendly Cities Project
The Committee welcomed Dr. Margaret Denton and Denise O’Connor from the Hamilton Council on Aging. Dr. Denton presented at the February 2011 Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting and, due to the end of term and change in membership of the committee, she was asked to return once the new SAC was established. PowerPoint notes were distributed and Dr. Denton and Ms. O’Connor outlined the history, mission, vision and accomplishments to date of the Council on Aging, as well as, the World Health Organization’s (WHO) global network of age-friendly cities. The Hamilton Council on Aging wishes to establish a partnership with the Seniors Advisory Committee and is requesting that the Seniors Advisory Committee:

1. appoint 2 representatives to sit on a community-wide roundtable, and

2. lead a delegation to the Emergency & Community Services Committee of Council requesting that the City of Hamilton pursue a WHO age-friendly community designation

A question & answer period followed. Vicki Woodcox expressed the need to work collaboratively, the SAC’s ability to reach Council and quoted statistics regarding the increasing senior population. Bev Neill cautioned that further background information is required prior to a presentation to the Emergency & Community Services Committee.

Dr. Denton and Denise O’Connor were thanked for their presentation.

4.2 Housing & Homelessness Action Plan and Community Engagement Strategy

The Committee welcomed Jennie Vengris and Dave Brodati from the Community Services Department - Social Housing and Homelessness Division, who attended to seek the committee’s input on the community engagement portion of the Housing & Homelessness Action Plan. A overview of the Action Plan’s FAQs was reviewed. Comments were made around the table with both Jennie and Dave making notes. Committee members were asked to contact either Jennie or Dave if they had any further comments. They will take back the question regarding including a Seniors Advisory Committee representative on the multi-stakeholder planning group and advise the committee of the response.

Jennie Vengris and Dave Brodati were thanked for their attendance.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
That the August 5, 2011 minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved as circulated. CARRIED.

6. BUSINESS / DISCUSSION

6.1 Update: Pedestrian Advisory Committee
Mary Sinclair attended the September meeting of the Pedestrian Advisory Committee and provided an update on issues discussed. She feels that the pedestrian strategy should be meshed with the road safety committee.
Mary reminded everyone about the upcoming Public Information Centre on this topic to be held on Saturday, September 10, from noon til 3:00 pm at Turner Park Library and encouraged people to attend.

6.2 Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Program Report
Ron Smithson updated the committee on a recent meeting of the Hamilton Strategic Road Safety Program and advised that a consultant had been hired to look at road safety.

6.3 Workplan
Committee members reviewed the list of proposed priorities for the Seniors Advisory Committee workplan generated at the July 2011 meeting and the following are the top four issues:

1. Housing
2. Age Friendly City
   • link in or promote the work being done by the Hamilton Council on Aging
3. Transportation
   • HSR, Accessible Transportation (ATS), Bus & Light Rapid Transit, Car Share, GO Train
4. Seniors Groups in Hamilton

Further to the presentation by the Hamilton Council on Aging, Penelope Petrie and Deirdre Chartrand volunteered to represent the Seniors Advisory Committee on Age-Friendly Hamilton Roundtable. John Kennard and Emmy Weisz volunteered to act as backup representatives.

Bev Neill will send an email to Margaret Denton advising of the representatives and to ask for further information with regard to meeting date, locations, etc. She will also advise the Hamilton Council on Aging that the Age Friendly City project was selected as one of the priority items on the committee's work plan.
7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Priorities for the Aging Population of Ontario
Carolann Fernandes distributed a document entitled Priorities for the Aging Population of Ontario and urged committee members to read and ask questions of the Provincial candidates.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS / INFORMATION SHARING

8.1 Resignation
The Chair advised that the resignation of Virbala Kumar from the Seniors Advisory Committee had been received.

8.2 Bed Bugs Campaign
Bev Neill advised that Public Health Services are launching an awareness campaign regarding the bed bug issue. Handouts were available to those who wanted them.

She also circulated a list of seniors groups and requested that members check to see that their group was on the list.

8.2 Next Meeting
The next meeting will be held on Friday, October 7, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 264, City Hall.

9. ADJOURNMENT
On motion, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.