MINUTES:  Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, January 6, 2006 – 10:00 a.m.
Room 250, City Hall, 71 Main Street West

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

REGRETS:  Lorraine Meloche

Also Present:  Carolyn Bish – Corporate Services Department
Maureen Harmer- Public Health & Community Services Department
Don Hull – Public Works, Transit Division

1.  ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Additions to the agenda:
i)  Bob Slattery
ii)  OACAO – Shirley Glauser
iii)  Homemaking Services – Mary Sinclair

(Gordon/Smithson)
That the agenda of the January 6, 2006 meeting of the Seniors Advisory
Committee be approved as amended.  CARRIED.

2.  DECLARATION OF INTEREST
None declared.

2.1  Bob Slattery announced his intent to resign from the Seniors Advisory
Committee, effective immediately.

On behalf of the committee, the Chair expressed thanks and best wishes.

3.  PRESENTATION

3.1  Don Hull, Paul Thompson – Transit Division re Report PW05125 –
Consideration of a Transit Fare Increase

The committee welcomed Don Hull, Director of Transit, who appeared to discuss
the proposed increase in transit fares for 2006.  Mr. Hull outlined the
background and history around the proposed fare increase.  Much discussion,
questions and responses followed.

The following motions were passed by the Seniors Advisory Committee.
That Council for the City of Hamilton consider the plight of fixed income seniors, many of whom are dependant upon the bus transportation for day to day travel, and reduce the cost of the Seniors Annual Pass from the current $205.00 per year to a fixed cost of $100.00 per year.  

CARRIED.

That Council direct staff to explore the application of increased beltline services, in consultation with the Seniors Advisory Committee, for the City of Hamilton.  

CARRIED.

That Council direct staff to explore the feasibility of free ridership for seniors during the off peak hours of 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in consultation with the Seniors Advisory Committee.  

CARRIED.

That Council direct staff to explore the possibility of seniors, age 85 and over, to receive a gold bus pass to allow for free transportation at all times in the City of Hamilton in consultation with the Seniors Advisory Committee.  

CARRIED.

Bernice Price informed the committee that she is scheduled to appear before Council on Monday, January 9, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. regarding the fare increase and invited members of the SAC to join her.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 2, 2005

That the minutes of December 2, 2005 be approved as circulated.  

CARRIED.

In regard to Item 5.4 in the December 2, 2005 minutes, Thelma McGillivray requested that an invitation be sent to Ian Russell to attend the February meeting to address the committee on the status of the projects and the monies allocated to Hamilton.

5. CONSENT ITEMS (for information only)

5.1 Update: ACPD Transportation Subcommittee Report

Bella Brearley advised that she is new on the subcommittee and is still learning the process. She informed the members that the process for booking trips is not working. Bella will provide a copy of her notes for distribution with the minutes.

Shirley Glauser related that there are currently openings on the DARTS Board of Directors for those who have an interest.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.1 Partnering with Ontario Coalition of Seniors for June Event
Carol Ann Fernandes informed the committee that the Ontario Coalition of Seniors is hosting a multicultural event on June 27, 2006 open to approximately 300 seniors. She will provide more information to the committee as it becomes available. She inquired whether the Seniors Advisory Committee wanted to partner with the Ontario Coalition and, if so, how. After discussion, it was agreed that an ad-hoc committee would be formed consisting of Carol Ann, Thelma McGillivray and Ann Karow to investigate and report back to the SAC.

6.2 Plan Recommendations re June 3rd Presentation

Shirley Glauser expressed the need to go through the recommendations from the 2005 presentation and to begin planning for the “2nd annual”. It was suggested that fewer topics be discussed to allow for more depth in the presentations. Topics suggested were transportation, housing and health. It was suggested to form an ad-hoc committee consisting of Al Gordon, Thelma McGillivray (housing), Ron Smithson (transportation) and Mary Sinclair (health).

7. OTHER BUSINESS

i) Shirley mentioned that she received an email from the Older Adult Centres Association of Ontario (OACAO) that as a result of their recent meeting with the Assistant Deputy Minister of the Minister of Health, recipients of Elderly Persons Centres (E.P.C.) funding under the Elderly Persons Act will receive a 1.5% funding increase. This item was a concern brought up at Hamilton Seniors Advisory Committee's June 2005 Annual Meeting. It proves that advocating in many ways is listened to at times. The increase is small but it is a first step to recognizing the value the role of senior centres/clubs play in the health care system. The OACAO has committed to continue to advocate for centres/clubs that are qualified to receive funding but are on the waiting list.

ii) Mary Sinclair advised that on the December 3, 2005 agenda of the Public Health & Community Services Committee there was a report that the Province had capped home care service for the City to those who currently have it.

iii) Thelma McGillivray suggested that the Chair or her designate distribute a list of pertinent questions so that all members could attend their area candidates’ meetings and voice these questions, identifying themselves as a member of the Seniors Advisory Committee.

iv) Shirley Robinson advised that there are bachelor apartments being built behind Macassa Lodge. She will make further inquiries and report back.

v) Ron Smithson is co-chairing Acti-Fest 2006. A copy of the newsletter will be distributed with the minutes.

Ron also advised that 2 meetings of the Gas Tax Steering Committee have been held. A tremendous amount of reading is involved. They are currently comparing the statistics of various cities.
vi) Mary Sinclair requested that ATS & DARTS look at how reservations are made for medical appointments.

The committee was informed that the DARTS Board of Directors meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. in Room 110, City Hall.

8. ADJOURNMENT

On motion, the meeting adjourned.