Revised MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee  
Friday, January 8, 2010  
Room 207, Hamilton Convention Centre

Present: Lisa Campbell, Carolann Fernandes, Margo Kirkpatrick, Lorraine Meloche, Vi Morgan, Shirley Robinson, Mary Sinclair, Ron Smithson, Ly Minh Trinh

Regrets: Bernice Price, Colleen Stahlbrand

Also Present: Bev Neill, Carolyn Bish - Customer Service, Access & Equity Division, Corporate Services  
Maureen Harmer, Healthy Living Division, Public Health Services  
Councillors Tom Jackson and Bernie Morelli

1. **ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

The following wished to add items to the agenda:  
Mary Sinclair – safety  
The agenda was accepted as amended.

2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None declared.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

(C.Fernandes/ M.Sinclair)  
That the December 4, 2009 minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved as circulated. **CARRIED.**

4. **BUSINESS/DISCUSSION**

4.1 **The Age of Invisibility**

The Committee members discussed the article *The Age of Invisibility* that was distributed with the agenda material. All agreed that the article was very well written. The issues of lack of medical support, family support and shortage of physicians were highlighted and the question was raised on how the Seniors Advisory Committee could get involved. Suggestions included:

- writing a letter to Hamilton Health Sciences

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- inquire whether hospitals have advisory committee regarding discharges
- have someone in from Community Care Access Centres (CCAC) to discuss this issue
- ask the Council of Ageing and CCAC how we can assist

The Committee agreed that a letter with the article attached would be sent to the boards of Hamilton Health Sciences and St. Joseph’s Healthcare.

5. **UPDATES**

5.1 **The Gore Committee – V. Morgan**
Vi Morgan informed the committee that she has not yet received any notification of a February 2010 meeting. Item deferred to the February 2010 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting.

A concern was raised regarding the safety in the downtown area. Councillor Jackson suggested that a representative from Hamilton Police Services be invited to a future meeting to talk about safety, people who “hang around” downtown and what the police can and cannot do about this.

5.2 **ACPD Transportation Sub-Committee – R. Smithson**
Ron Smithson advised that there was no December meeting of this committee.

A concern was raised that DARTS fares increased effective January 1, 2010 and no notice was given to passengers.

Marj Wahlman from DARTS advised that passenger service bulletins were distributed in buses, newspapers and the DARTS website throughout December advising of the fare increase.

5.3 **Strategic Road Safety Program Subcommittee**
Ron Smithson advised that he attended a meeting of the Strategic Road Safety Program Subcommittee on December 16, 2009. He advised the group of the success of the Seniors Breakfast and representatives from the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board requested copies of the video.

5.4 **Council on Ageing**
There was no update.
6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6.1 It was decided that committee members would bring ideas/plans for the upcoming year to determine where our energy would go.

6.2 Due to the success of the Seniors Breakfast and the connection made with the students, it was suggested that the Seniors Advisory Committee liaise with the newly formed City of Hamilton’s Youth Advisory Committee to get the youth’s perspective on various issues. Mark Weingartner is the staff contact for this committee and Councillor Jackson is the Council representative.

6.3 Snow removal and the snow angel program were discussed. Committee members were informed to call 905 546-CITY (2489) with snow removal issues. Councillor Jackson advised that Council had approved funds for the snow angel program for 2010. Kerry Lubrick administers this program which is contracted to Volunteer Hamilton. There has been difficulty getting volunteers to assist with this program.

6.4 Mary Sinclair inquired about obtaining copies of the Safety calendar which is distributed by …

6.5 Mary Sinclair inquired about breakdowns of mobility devices. Committee members were informed that the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities have formed a working group to discuss this issue.

6.6 Maureen Harmer advised that Public Health Services will start flu clinics next week. People can obtain both the seasonal flu shot and the H1N1 shot.

6.7 Councillor Jackson advised that some time in the future the City will be building a city-owned seniors facility, similar to Sackville, in the downtown area. This will not replace the Seniors’ Active Living Centre at the YWCA.

6.8 Mary Sinclair feels that seniors’ input should be sought for the City’s Accessibility Plan and the Customer Service Standards report.

6.9 Marj Wahlman advised that DARTS has been nominated for the 2009 Service Awards for Geriatric Excellence and requested that the Seniors Advisory Committee send a letter of support.

6.10 A get-well card will be sent to Bernice Price.
7. **ADJOURNMENT**
   The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.