MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, December 3, 2010
Room 264, Hamilton City Hall

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

Regrets: Lisa Campbell
Vicki Woodcox – Community Services, Macassa Lodge
Maureen Harmer – Public Health Services, Healthy Living

Also Present: Bev Neill, Carolyn Bish – Corporate Services, Customer Service, Access & Equity
Coralee Secore – Community Services, Recreation
Bea McDonough – Public Health Services
Councillors Jackson and Morelli

1. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The following additions were made to the agenda:
- Housing (M. Sinclair)
- Public Works (M. Sinclair)
- Snow Clearing (R. Smithson)
- MacNab Transit Terminal (R. Smithson)

The agenda was accepted as amended.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(B.Price/L.Meloche)

That the November 5, 2010 minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved as circulated. CARRIED.
4. PRESENTATION: Terry Quinn, Community Services Dept. re Seniors Active Living Centre – YWCA Hamilton

The Committee welcomed Terry Quinn, Director of Strategic Services, who attended to discuss the issue of the Seniors Active Living Centre at the YWCA. Questions were asked and comments were expressed by committee with regard to budget, spacing and access to a bequest left to the Seniors Centre. Suggestions/comments included:

- agreement between City & YWCA in place but yet unsigned
- will Seniors Centre be receiving interest on the bequest monies
- will bequest money be moved from YWCA when new senior centre opens in the lower city
- need to establish a criteria, in writing, for access, spending and monitoring bequest money
- can be problematic when two functions are in one building
- accountability by the YWCA to the Seniors Active Living Centre
- significant donation by the ALC for the mountain facility that has never been built

It was suggested that the Senior Executive of the YWCA be invited to a future meeting.

5. BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

6. UPDATES

6.1 ACPD Transportation Subcommittee
Ron Smithson advised that the ATS quarterly report was distributed at this meeting. The report shows a decrease in the number of trips provided by DARTS and a decrease in taxi scrip use as well. Discussion also took place on policies, Rapid Transit, A-line from James Street to the Airport.

6.2 Strategic Road Safety Program Subcommittee
Ron Smithson advised that there was no meeting of this subcommittee.

Thelma McGillivray advised that the Seniors Advisory Committee’s “Heads Up“ video was now in Auckland, New Zealand and Thailand as a result of her recent trip.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Housing
Mary Sinclair informed the committee about an editorial in today’s Spectator concerning the province’s long-term affordable housing
strategy. The strategy does not propose building any new housing or providing funding so people can better afford existing housing. There is a concern about how people will manage and if this will result in more people being on the street.

Mary also expressed concern about the closing of garbage chutes in apartment buildings. It is believed by some members of the committee that this is being done to comply with City’s waste management goal for waste reduction. Apartment dwellers are being asked to take waste down to designated area where they have various bins for recyclables and waste.

7.2 Public Works
Mary Sinclair expressed concern regarding the 2-way conversion of traffic on Wilson Street between Bay and James and the lack of urban Braille as on King Street and the designs in the asphalt at the intersections. The designs do not create a smooth ride for people in mobility devices and riding on these designs can be painful.

7.3 Heat Response
Thelma McGillivray advised that she was not able to attend the November 4, 2010 meeting of this committee. She is following up to obtain minutes and will forward them to staff for circulation to the SAC members.

She expressed hope that another committee member will represent the Seniors Advisory Committee on the Heat Response Team in the new term.

Beatrice McDonough advised that the Public Health Services Department does monitor temperatures and will act when necessary.

7.4 Snow Clearing
Ron Smithson noted an Information Update provided to Council from Beth Goodger, Public Works Department, regarding 3 winter control related programs pilots – i.e. rural snow fencing, alternative ploughing methods and windrow removal at pedestrian crossing. These 3 pilot projects will continue in the upcoming 2010/2011 winter season.

7.5 MacNab Transit Terminal
The tour of the MacNab Transit Terminal originally scheduled for this morning was cancelled. Transit offered to future dates. Staff will advise Don Hull’s office that the seniors will tour the MacNab facility on Wednesday, December 15, 2010 from 3 to 4 p.m.
8. INFORMATION SHARING

8.1 Trip to Auckland, New Zealand
Thelma McGillivray gave a short report on her recent trip to Auckland, New Zealand and shared her speech regarding the awareness of ageism.

8.2 Vi Morgan informed the committee about a course project through McMaster’s Gerontology Program. Several two-member teams of seniors work with first year students discussing subjects such as health, aging, myths on aging, different ethnic attitudes on seniors etc. The students have to do a presentation on a given subject. The project runs for 10 weeks and accounts for 10% of the student’s term mark.

8.3 Councillor Jackson distributed a copy of his article entitled Time to make Hamilton an ‘age friendly’ city that appeared in the November 11, 2010 edition of the Mountain News.

9. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m. Members then joined together for some holiday refreshments and camaraderie.

NEXT MEETING
Friday, January 7, 2010
Council Chambers