I would like to thank the Emergency & Committee Service committee for allowing me to present you with a summary of the Seniors Advisory Committee activities since October 2010 when the last report was given.

The seniors advisory committee presently has 21 members of which 6 were from the last Seniors Advisory Committee. We normally meet the first Friday of each month except July and August.

Counselors Morelli and Jackson, assigned to this committee are great help and resource.

The video we produced in 2009 has now been widely distributed around the world. Copies have been distributed to Auckland New Zealand, Thailand, Paris France, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and many cities here in Ontario as well as Hamilton police.

A member of SAC is on the Hamilton Strategic Road Safety program to ensure that seniors issues are addressed in road safety.

There was a member who attended the presentation of the walk ability presentation which ties into the road safety program. There were nine recommendation presented to Steve Molloy

A SAC members is involved in the Heat alert Program to ensure that all seniors especially the most vulnerable seniors are informed of the locations were they can get relief from the heat or cold.

Some members toured the Mac Nab Street terminal and made some recommendations such as
- Emergency button was too high
- Automatic door opener was on the wrong side of the door.
- The pamphlet rack was too high.
- Confusion over the term “WHATCH FOR GAP”
- A need for a display to tell when the next bus is leaving the terminal
These recommendations were done before the terminal was open to accept buses. We will have to review the terminal again with the new committee now that it is in full operation.

Recreation for Seniors
SAC received complaints from seniors about the treatment the YWCA was handling the seniors affairs.
Since the City donates money to the YWCA for the senior portion we asked Terry Quinn, Director of Strategic Services to attend a SAC meeting and address the issues before renewing the contract with YWCA. There were a number of recommendations that SAC members made which Mr. Quinn assured they will be addressed in the new contract.

Core Lee from the Recreation Department made a presentation on the projects that are in place or being planned. The ones that were underway she advised expected dates for completion and the ones that are planned to start.
The first one to be started in 2011 was the expansion of the Winona Seniors which was removed from the budget. SAC feel’s it should appear in the 2012 budget.
Winona Seniors is City owned building with no operating staff it is operated by senior volunteer. There is one main room and the programs are varied between cards and physical activities and they are constantly putting up and down tables and chairs which is difficult for seniors.
The washrooms are not fully accessible and storage space is not adequate which would have been corrected with the addition.

The one recommendation we have continually made, to senior recreation planners is do not plan to include seniors in the same building as a Recreation Centre. We realize there are savings in capital funding but every time this happens the seniors loose out, which in turn doesn’t make for an age friendly city

The amendment to the property standards by-law regarding the closer of garbage chutes was presented by Carmela Vidic and Bill Young and they asked for SAC to endorse the amendment to the by-law.
SAC had concerns that the garbage bins would be outside or in places were seniors would have difficulty navigating to them. Carmela Vidic then outlined the steps and procedures that a property owner must agree too prior to submitting an application to close the chutes.
With the clarification of the property owner responsibility the SAC committee fully endorsed the waste chute closing by-law.

The other concern that SAC has is the infestation of bed bugs in Hamilton run senior’s buildings. We are not sure the proper methods are being used to eradicate the infestation. With the ban on some types of chemicals used that could do the job properly it may be necessary to use those non friendly chemicals to get rid of the bed bugs. SAC feels’ this is a very serious problem that need’s to be fixed.

There is a member of SAC on the Gore committee which gave updates of the plan for the Gore Park which the SAC gave there approved. The Gore committee stopped meeting because they had to wait till the Mac Nab terminal was finished so the buses could be moved to the new terminal. The terminal is finished but still no meetings of the Gore Committee. In fact there are parking meters were the plan called for walk able open space. The question is what is happening to the plans for Gore Park? SAC would like an answer.

A SAC member attended the Hamilton Air Quality Health Index AQHI workshop. The testing for AQHI is a different set of checks than the Air Quality Index. The items that were checked in the AQI are not in AQHI and are items that could affect a persons health. It was recommended that AQHI should have all the items checked.

The last meeting of the previous SAC committee was in February. At that meeting Dr Margaret Denton gave a talk on Age Friendly Cities. We agreed it was a project for SAC but because it was the last meeting of this committee we didn’t feel it was right to commit the new committee at that time. We did recommend that she come back when the new committee was formed.

The new Sac committee was formed and our first meeting was in May 2011. This meeting was an orientation meeting for the members of the committee. The June meeting was to designate the Chair Vice Chair and appoint a member on the various committees that SAC is represented on. At this meeting it was agreed that we would meet through the months of July and August. With the new committee being 70% new members decided they wanted to discus and arrive at a work plan for the next four years.
The September meeting Dr. Margaret Denton was invited back along with Denise O’Conner to talk on Age friendly Cities.

The council on aging wishes to establish a partnership with SAC and they requested that SAC appoint two members to sit on a community wide Roundtable and to lead a delegation to council through the E&CSC.

Two members of the committee have volunteered to represent the Seniors Advisory Committee on Age Friendly Hamilton Round Table.

The council on Aging have been notified of the SAC’s decision.

In the September meeting produced a long list of items that the committee decided that could be worked on. Each member of the committee selected four items from the list. The votes were tallied and the four areas with the most votes were:-

1- Housing:- support in the home and aging in place
2- Age friendly City:- this project has a lot of work to understand what is an age friendly city. They will collaborate with THE Council on Aging
3- Transportation:- safety on HSR, transit more user friendly, availability and customer service
4- Seniors groups in Hamilton:- To review the needs of seniors in recreational facilities including ethno cultural seniors.

The members were asked on which sub committee they would like to be on. The four sub committees will meet separately and this will be our work plan for the next four years.

Three of the four sub committees have already had a meeting to lay out there plan for the next four years.

The members of SAC are actively involved in a variety of City of Hamilton committees in an advisory roll, we request the Emergency and Community Service Committee members continue to consult with the Seniors Advisory Committee, on any new and/or ongoing initiatives that may have an impact on seniors.

The Senior advisory members have a significant experience and expertise, and can assist to ensure that new policy directions that come from the City reflect the current and future needs of our senior population.

Thank you, are there any questions