MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, January 7, 2011
Council Chambers, 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

Also Present: Bev Neill, Carolyn Bish – Corporate Services, Customer Service, Access & Equity
Vicki Woodcox – Community Services, Macassa Lodge
Maureen Harmer – Public Health Services, Healthy Living
Councillor Jackson

1. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The following additions were made to the agenda:
- YWCA Newsletter (M. Sinclair)
- Rescue for Assistive Devices (M. Sinclair)
- Survey (M. Sinclair)
- Letter to Gillian Hendry (M. Sinclair)
- Ontario Health Study (M. Sinclair)
- Media (T. McGillivray)

The agenda was accepted as amended.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None declared.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(B.Price/M.Kirkpatrick)
That the December 3, 2010 minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved as circulated. CARRIED.
4. DELEGATION

Carmela Vidic, Superintendent, Parking and By-law Services Division, Municipal Law Enforcement – an amendment to the Property Standards By-law regarding closure of garbage chutes

The Committee welcomed Carmela Vidic, Superintendent, Parking and By-law Services Division, and Bill Young, Director, Municipal Law Enforcement seek an endorsement from the Seniors Advisory Committee with respect to an amendment to the Property Standards By-law regarding closure of garbage chutes.

Carmela outlined the steps and procedures a property owner must adhere to prior to submitting an application to close a garbage chute in order to participate in a recycling program and responded to some questions from committee members.

As a result of the discussion, the committee voted in favour of the following:

That the Seniors Advisory Committee endorse the Waste Chute Closure Permit Policy proposed by the Parking and By-law Services Division, Planning & Economic Development Department.

CARRIED.

5. BUSINESS/DISCUSSION

5.1 Update – Tour of MacNab Transit Terminal
Some members of the committee toured the MacNab Transit Terminal on December 15, 2010. Comments received from members included,
- safety concern due to openness of facility
- emergency call button is too high
- auto door opener should be moved to the right
- can’t reach the top pamphlets in the rack
- need a designated area for DARTS
  - the current drop off spot in front of Stelco Tower is too congested with traffic.
- no telephone
- confusion regarding “Watch for Gaps” sign
  - who is it directed at?

It was suggested that a further visit to the MacNab Transit Terminal take place in 6 months to reassess the facility.

The issue regarding a designated area for DARTS drop off / pick up will be forwarded to Maxine Carter. Ron Smithson will raise this issue at a
future Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities Transportation Subcommittee meeting.

6. **UPDATES**

6.1 **ACPD Transportation Subcommittee**
No December meeting – no report.

6.2 **Strategic Road Safety Program Subcommittee**
Ron Smithson advised that this subcommittee meets three times per year. Pedestrian collisions are on the rise.

Mary Sinclair commented on the number of pedestrian accidents in 2010. As a follow up to discussion, the following motion was made.

**(T.McGillivray/S.Robinson)**
That the Chair of the Seniors Advisory Committee write a letter to the Hamilton Spectator advising that the Seniors Advisory Committee was motivated in 2007 to explore the high volume of pedestrian accidents, including fatalities, which resulted in the production of a video entitled "Heads Up" – Road Safety Points for Seniors and Youth.  **CARRIED**

The next meeting of the Strategic Road Safety Program Subcommittee will be held on April 13, 2011.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

Bev Neill advised that she spoke with Councillor Jackson prior to the Christmas break and he advised that:

- he spoke with Dr. Margaret Denton from the Hamilton Council on Aging seeking. They are seeking a delegation from the Seniors Advisory Committee to assist with the age friendly city project. Councillor Jackson suggested that Dr. Denton be invited to a future SAC meeting.

- he requested at a Public Works Committee meeting that the report regarding the closure of the garbage chutes be tabled until such time that staff met with the Seniors Advisory Committee.

7.1 **YWCA Newsletter**
Mary Sinclair read an article from a recent YWCA Newsletter regarding the activities of the Seniors Centre at the YWCA. Short discussion followed.
7.2 Rescue for Assistive Devices
Mary Sinclair advised that McMaster is not conducting a study for the safety protocol for rescue when assistive devices breakdown. The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities is also investigating this issue. It was suggested that this issue should remain with ACPD.

Mary also informed the committee that the City will help with fixing assistive devices. Vicki Woodcox advised that the contact person is Erica Brimley.

7.3 Survey
Mary Sinclair inquired if the Committee had decided on its area(s) of focus for the upcoming year as a result of the survey. Discussion followed and the following points raised.

- focus on issues raised in Councillor Jackson’s article in the Brabant newspaper
- pedestrian safety when crossing roads
- explore automatic call backs for appointments (i.e. medical)

It was suggested that the committee be split so that members take ownership of various issues, i.e. recreation centres, library, housing, etc. and report back to full committee.

The committee needs to focus on City issues and advise City staff Council accordingly. Councillor Jackson informed members that he and Councillor Morelli will be referring a lost more issues to the Seniors Advisory Committee for their feedback and endorsement.

7.4 Letter to Gillian Hendry
As a follow up to the April 2010 minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee, Mary Sinclair inquired whether the letter to be sent to Gillian Hendry regarding a change in the application form for subsidized housing to reflect disabilities was sent. It was confirmed that the letter was sent.

7.5 Ontario Health Study
Mary Sinclair informed the members of the Ontario Health Study. Unfortunately, the only way to access take part in this study in on-line. Discussion followed. Points made included:

- computers are the way of the future and committee needs to encourage their use
- educate seniors on the value of and use of computers
- computers available at library for public use
- program/lessons at Sackville (cost involved for instructor’s time)
- Dundas and Winona Seniors Centres will be moving to computers
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- get information out regarding a grant from the Ontario government
- installation of Chinese version on a computer at Central Library to address multicultural issues

7.6 Media
Thelma McGillivray advised that she had written to the Hamilton Spectator in reference to ageism. Comments were expressed by some members about medical tests being cancelled after the age of 80 (mammograms), preventative health, being proactive.

8. INFORMATION SHARING

8.1 Councillor Jackson advised that new seniors housing is being built on Upper Gage at Royal Vista Drive.

8.2 In response to an inquiry, Councillor Jackson advised that new appointments to the Seniors Advisory Committee would probably take place in March or April of 2011.

8.3 Bernice Price read a letter she recently sent to the Mayor and Council.

9. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

NEXT MEETING
Friday, February 4, 2010
Council Chambers