MINUTES: Seniors Advisory Committee
Friday, April 7, 2006 – 10:00 a.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall, 71 Main Street West

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

Also Present: Bev Neill, Carolyn Bish – Corporate Services Department
Maureen Harmer - Public Health & Community Services Department
Councillors Bernie Morelli and Tom Jackson

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA
Additions to agenda:
i) Ontario Coalition Event
ii) Women of India
iii) Senior of the Year Award
iv) Provincial Council AGM
v) Property Assessment

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST
None declared.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 3, 2006

(Smithson/Fernandes)
That the minutes of March 3, 2006 be approved as circulated. CARRIED.

4. BUSINESS ITEMS

4.1 2006 June Presentation Progress

Al Gordon requested that the committee encourage members of all seniors groups that they are affiliated with to attend the June 2nd presentation.

Staff to contact transit to inquiry about availability of buses to pick up at various seniors' centres. Staff will also investigate about acquiring a quantity of City pins.

i) Transportation Subcommittee
Ron Smithson provided the committee with an update on the gas tax steering committee and noted that there would be a change to the amount of taxi scrip a person could purchase in a month. This was going to be increased from $80 to $120 per month.

Ron will be addressing issues from this meeting in the June presentation.
Al Gordon suggested that presentations should define the needs and let staff find the way to accomplish these outcomes.

Bella Brearley informed the committee that she had written a paper on DARTS. They need to find out what clients’ needs are. Informed the committee of an incident that occurred at St. Joseph’s Hospital.

The committee welcomed Councillors Morelli and Jackson. Councillor Morelli thanked everyone for their support during his recent illness and provided an update on Actifest, First Place and Councillor Ferguson. Councillor Jackson updated the committee on several Council matters. He stressed that there should be a representative from the Seniors Advisory Committee on the Poverty Roundtable.

ii) Housing Subcommittee
Thelma McGillivray, Shirley Robinson and Kay Lodge met with Marla Adams and Keith Extance of Housing to obtain updates on the housing situation in Hamilton. Their presentation will focus on the issues and recommend improvements to seniors housing. Thelma commented that there are vacancies downtown but people don’t want to live there, locations are intimidating.

iii) Health Subcommittee
Mary Sinclair provided her information to Al Gordon.

Another meeting of the subcommittees should take place to collaborate information. Al Gordon will start working on the presentation.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Carolann Fernandes informed the group that the Ontario Multicultural Event will take place on Tuesday June 27, 2006 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Multicultural Centre (former Salvation Army building). Invitations will be sent to take to your various seniors groups.

5.2 Carolann distributed a Women for Women of India pamphlet. Event to take place on Saturday May 31, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

5.3 Bev Neill advised that she has received a nomination package for Senior of the Year Award from the Province. Deadline is April 28th. The committee decided that they will deal with this issue within their own seniors groups.

5.4 Thelma McGillivray informed the committee that:
   i) over 20,000 complaints had been received by the Ontario Ombudsman regarding the property assessment.
   ii) Human Rights Commission is being restructured and democracy for low income people is being removed. She stressed that members keep aware of this issue.
   iii) The Hamilton Chapter of the Provincial Council of Women is hosting the Annual General Meeting at the end of April, 2006. Will distribute information
when available.
5.5 Mary Sinclair distributed "Doctor, who can visit me at home?". Event to take place on Saturday April 22, 2006.

6. ADJOURNMENT

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.