PRESENT: Lisa Campbell, Carolann Fernandes, Margot Kirkpatrick, Thelma McGillivray, Lorraine Meloche, Vi Morgan, Mary Sinclair, Ron Smithson, Ly Minh Trinh

REGrets: Bernice Price, Shirley Robinson

Also Present: Carolyn Bish – Corporate Services
Colleen Stahlbrand – Public Health Services
Vicki Woodcox – Community Services (Macassa Lodge)
Keith Extance – Community Services (Housing)
Christine Nenadovich – Community Services (Housing)
Councillor T. Jackson – City of Hamilton

1. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA
Additions to agenda:
ATS Eligibility Steering Committee – L. Campbell

(Fernandes/McGillivray)
That the agenda March 6, 2009 Seniors Advisory Committee agenda be accepted as amended. CARRIED.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST
None declared.

3. PRESENTATION:

3.1 Keith Extance and Christine Nenadovich from Community Services Department – Housing Division
The committee welcomed Keith Extance and Christine Nenadovich from the Housing Division who attended to provide information on social housing issues in the City of Hamilton. The Seniors Advisory Committee has previously submitted inquiries to Housing Division for response. Comments and feedback included:
Process to Keep Housing if Hospitalized
- guided by the Provincial Social Housing rules & regulations
- have some flexibility
- review on a case by case basis
- emphasis on keeping people at home
- suggested that issues be discussed with the housing provider first and contact City staff only when intervention is required
- City meetings quarterly with housing providers
- Building & Licensing Division looks after lights, heat, housekeeping issues

State of Housing
- currently have 4,482 people on waiting list for housing of which 10% is seniors
- the numbers are rising and the vacancy rate is declining

Who Gets Housing
- according to the provincial guideline the following is the list of priorities for housing:
  - victims of abuse
  - urgent (terminally ill / people being stalked)
  - homeless
  - youth and newcomers
  - chronological by date of application (these people often don’t get placed)

Money Received from Province
- DOORS dollars received from federal to provincial government and allocated to municipalities
  - report sent to Council with suggestions on how to spend
- federal government has announced new housing for seniors – waiting for details

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(Meloche/Fernandes)
That the February 13, 2009 minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee be approved as circulated. CARRIED.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Update: Council of Ageing
No report. Next meeting coming up.
5.2 **Road Safety Program Committee**  
Mary Sinclair asked for direction from the committee regarding how to deal with the actions coming out of the Road Safety Program Committee, specifically for breakdowns / repairs to assistive devices. Committee members will consider this for discussion at the April meeting.

5.3 **“The Gore” Committee**  
Vi Morgan updated the committee on a recent meeting of the Gore Committee. A “walk through” was done to point out problems in the area. A list of issues is attached. The next meeting will be in April.

5.4 **ACPD Transportation Subcommittee**  
Ron Smithson reported that the ACPD Transportation Subcommittee supported the free bus pass for everyone over 80 years of age and that this also be extended to include DARTS clients.

5.5 **Changes to Eligibility for Accessible Transportation Services**  
Lisa Campbell announced that a public information centre was being held to discuss the changes to eligibility for Accessible Transportation Services (ATS) on Wednesday March 11, 2009 from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the Webster Room of the Hamilton Convention Centre. A notice was handed out to committee members.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6.1 Thelma McGillivray wished everyone a good International Women’s Day week.

6.2 Vi Morgan announced that a 100th birthday celebration will be held for Bella Brearley on Sunday March 15, 2009 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Sackville Hill Seniors Recreation Centre.

6.3 Ron Smithson advised that there are changes coming to the Recreation Division affecting seniors. Vicki Woodcox will arrange for the Director of Recreation or her designate to attend the April meeting to discuss these changes.

6.4 Mary Sinclair informed the committee that the door on York Boulevard (beside the fitness centre) where DARTS will drop passengers off during the renovations to the market and library, does not have an automatic door. Councillor Jackson suggested that a contact be made with Anna Bradford (for the Market renovations) and
Ken Roberts (for the Library renovations) to bring this issue to their attention. They will have to work with the property manager (Yale) to accomplish this.

6.5 Following a conversation with Bev Neill, Colleen Stahlbran informed the committee that there is still $8,000 remaining in the New Horizons “Heads Up” project budget. A suggestion to further market the DVD to faith groups, secondary schools and driving schools was agreed to by committee members. Colleen will set up a meeting of the “Heads Up” Subcommittee to brainstorm ideas for spending this budget and bring their ideas back to the full committee.

Mary Sinclair gave the Chair a letter from Hamilton Cares regarding the “Heads Up” DVD.

7. **NEXT MEETING**

   Friday, April 3, 2009
   10:00 a.m.
   Room 207, Hamilton Convention Centre

8. **ADJOURNMENT**
Motion to adjourn – 11:15 pm
1. Ash Trees (majority of tree population in park) will be infested by Ash Borer disease within next 5 years. New trees of a different variety (tolerant of urban conditions) needs to be planted now.

2. Gardens in the park are shallow and at sidewalk level therefore difficult to maintain plant life in them as well as people walk all over them. Need to be deepened and have a curb treatment around them to define them as gardens.

3. Electricity in park has many issues:
   - problems with fountain and lighting
   - problems with power for events
   - problems with power vault (in old washroom)
   - system requires a licensed electrical contractor to be on site for major events (at a cost to city)
   - needs more power for events
4. Fountain – recreated in 1996 (only 12 years old) and should not have deteriorated so quickly. Needs to be redone in bronze not fixed in cast iron. It is the most prominent feature of the park and should be adapted to be a focal point with lighting that is attractive both when water is on and when off. Current lighting in the fountain bowl will only work when water is on.

5. Old washrooms under mound at Hughson and King location – ground above washrooms is so shallow and topped by trees that prevent grass from growing on the top of the mound. Needs a different treatment if washrooms are to stay.

6. Two older evergreens at Hughson and King end of park are dying and should be removed to make way for other treatments. (Why not consider planting a permanent Christmas evergreen tree instead of cutting down one every year and bringing it in at great expense to the city not to mention the loss of a giant evergreen to our environment.)

7. Irrigation systems are constantly broken and therefore endanger anything planted in the park.

8. Pigeon population is very high in the park and cause cleaning & health issues. Bylaw in place should be enforced to discourage people from feeding the pigeons and a program be put in place every 2 years to reduce the population by 1/3.

9. Overhead wiring in park should be reviewed and removed if possible. Most of it is redundant or used only once a year.

10. Need a full-time gardener to care for downtown public spaces including Gore Park, City Hall, Wellington Park, McMaster Downtown Centre, and other city owned facilities within the core.

11. Need more CCTV cameras in area especially at King and Hughson.

12. Need piped music into the park (will influence loitering in the park)

13. WIFI Hamilton spotty in connections in area

14. Old water feature at Connaught end needs to be redesigned to open up space.

15. Area needs a new road allowance surface (not using interlocking brick which is difficult to walk on).
16. Area needs removal of curbs and integration of sidewalks with larger pedestrian areas.

17. Restaurants along south side of King should be encouraged to use sidewalks for outdoor cafes with consistent and standardized patio amenities, and elimination of fees permanently.

18. Bus depot pedestrian connections from MacNab Street to Gore Park needs to be incorporated into design.

19. City needs to address and solve the social issues that cause homeless and unemployed to loiter in Gore Park.


21. Access to water at east end of park is needed for cleaning purposes.

22. Small park for so many important functions that mark the life and history of the city. Should be a moratorium on any more memorials or statues in the park.

23. A historic plaque used to be located in the park describing the history but was vandalized 2 years ago. Needs to be repaired and returned.

24. Fence along the north side of the park acts as a barrier to the north side of the street. The city needs to address this issue with some design treatments and access.

25. If temporary vendors are going to be allowed in the area, there needs to be some conditions for approval of the types of business and the space they occupy.