



SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**October 10, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.
Committee Room No. 2
City Hall**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Councillor Bill Harper	- Chair
Helen Bodner	- BC Seniors Services Society Representative
Jacqueline Buchanan	- Community Member
Calvin Donnelly	- Sapperton Old Age Pensioners
Sylvester Helmink	- Queensborough 50+ Social Club Representative
Alana McIntyre	- Community Member
Annette Oakes	- Century House Association Representative
Brian Pybus	- Community Member
Patricia Smith	- Community Member

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Giuliana Graves	- Community Member
<i>Vacancy</i>	- <i>Fraser Health Authority</i>

GUEST:

Jim Mann	- Guest Speaker
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STAFF PRESENT:

Lesley Cole	- Manager, Seniors & Youth Services
John Stark	- Senior Social Planner
Lauren Blake	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

The agenda was amended by:

- Adding item 5.2 - Sapperton Old Age Pensioners items

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of September 12, 2013

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the Seniors Advisory Committee meeting held on September 12, 2013 be received and adopted.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favor of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 Seniors: A Snapshot of Facts and Trends – John Stark

Mr. John Stark, Senior Social Planner, provided a presentation of facts, trends and statistics regarding senior citizens in New Westminster. The information was obtained from the 2011 Census. Handout attached.

3.2 Guest Speaker on Dementia – Jim Mann

Ms. Annette Oakes introduced Jim Mann. Mr. Mann, in his presentation, described his experiences as an individual living with Alzheimer's. Mr. Mann spoke to the future challenges for the City in dealing with an ageing population and an increase in individuals who have dementia and Alzheimer's. Mr. Mann reiterated that education is an important factor in dealing with dementia and Alzheimer's. However, it was noted that the elderly population is often unaware of the resources that are available to them or they are unable to access the resources, often due to technological ability restraints. Mr. Mann advised that inter-Departmental cooperation within the City will be required to provide solutions for issues that face individuals with dementia and Alzheimer's.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

4.1 Dementia Friendly Communities Update – John Stark

Mr. Stark reported that the recommendation from the September 12, 2013 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting regarding Dementia Friendly Communities had been passed by Council at the October 7, 2013 Council meeting. Mr. Stark provided the following updates regarding the motion:

- The City website will be used to communicate information regarding dementia and Alzheimer's to raise public awareness.
- Revisions to the Official Community Plan will include planning for an age and ability friendly community.
- Mr. Stark confirmed that New Westminster Police Department has a Mental Health Liaison Patrol Member. Furthermore, beginning in November, all patrol members will be receiving information on mental health issues, including dementia.

Speaking to the recommendation that the City lobby the Provincial government for a fully funded Dementia Plan, Mr. Stark noted that there will be communication with other municipalities, prior to bringing a motion forward to the Lower Mainland Local Government Association conference in 2014.

Procedural note: Annette Oakes left at 2:36 p.m. and returned at 2:41 p.m.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Fraser Health Participation at the 'In My Back Yard' Fair – John Stark

Mr. Stark spoke to concerns with respect to an email that was received regarding Fraser Health staff participation at the "In My Back Yard" fair. The email stated that Fraser Health employees will not be allowed to work outside of their standard hours, which will impede their ability to participate in the fair and other community events. The Committee noted that this is an important event for seniors and service providers. It was decided that Ms. Lesley Cole, Manager, Seniors and Youth Services, will investigate the situation, as well as explain the importance of the fair to Fraser Health. Ms. Cole will report back at the next meeting and the Committee will determine if further action is required.

5.2 Sapperton Old Age Pensioners

Mr. Calvin Donnelly, Committee Member, brought forward two items on behalf of the Sapperton Old Age Pensioners. The first item discussed was a two-dollar charge for paper billing by TELUS. It was noted that there are customers that do not own or have access to a computer or do not have the computer skills required to access online billing services. It was noted that there may be customers unaware of the additional charge.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Council be requested to direct staff to draft a letter to TELUS to expressing concern regarding the two dollar charge for paper billing.

CARRIED.

All members of the Committee present voted in favor of the motion.

The second item discussed was the Translink Compass Card. The Committee discussed various potential problems with the new system and it was noted that there is misinformation amongst the public. Mr. Stark will invite a Translink representative to attend the next Seniors Advisory Committee meeting to provide the Committee with more information.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Seniors' Festival Debrief – Councillor Harper and Annette Oakes

Ms. Annette Oakes provided a brief report regarding the Senior's Festival. Ms. Oakes reported that the event was a success and was well received by the attendees. For next year's event, it was noted that there should be two sessions with Dr. Jakeman, as not all of the attendees were able to participate at the time it was taking place. Furthermore, it was noted that attendees at the back of the room had difficulty hearing Dr. Jakeman and he should have had a microphone. Ms. Oakes stated that Dr. Jakeman was offered an ear microphone, however he chose not to use it. Compliments were extended to Councillor Bill Harper, Annette Oakes, Helen Brodner and Ruby Campbell for

their role in festival. Further, a letter of thanks is to be written for Ms. Campbell, as well as to the staff at Century House.

6.2 Seniors Planning and Action Network – Lesley Cole

Ms. Cole provided an update regarding the Seniors Planning and Action Network. Ms. Cole reported on the following:

- A report from Ms. Christine Spinder, Ministry of Health, regarding funding towards the development of Community Response Networks aimed at preventing and stopping elder abuse, neglect and self-neglect.
- The election of Mr. Bill Zander as Vice-Chair of the Senior's Planning and Action Network.
- Various projects, including Age Friendly New Westminster, the "In My Back Yard" fair, an Agency Networking Event to be held in 2014, updating the Seniors Services Directory.

The next Seniors Planning and Action Network is scheduled for November 27, 2013, beginning at 1 p.m. in the Birch or Cedar Room at Century House. Ms. Cole extended an invitation to the Seniors Advisory Committee members.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 Troubling Economic Trends for Metro Vancouver Seniors – Darah Hasen

This correspondence was circulated for information.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Next meeting November 14, 2013 at 2:00 p.m. in Committee Room No. 2

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Certified correct,

COUNCILLOR BILL HARPER
CHAIR

LAUREN BLAKE
COMMITTEE CLERK