



## **SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**March 13, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.  
Committee Room No. 2  
City Hall**

### **MINUTES**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Councillor Bill Harper                | - Chair  |
| Lois Brassart                         | - Community Member                             |
| Calvin Donnelly                       | - Sapperton Old Age Pensioners                 |
| Giuliana Graves                       | - Community Member                             |
| Sylvester Helmink<br>(exited at 3:10) | - Queensborough 50+ Social Club Representative |
| Annette Oakes                         | - Century House Association Representative     |
| Patricia Smith                        | - Community Member                             |
| Ravi Teja                             | - Community Member                             |
| Susan Zygmunt                         | - Community Member                             |

#### **MEMBERS REGRETS:**

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Helen Bodner | - Seniors Services Society Representative |
| Brian Pybus  | - Community Member                        |

#### **GUESTS:**

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| Brian Dodd | - Manager, Operations, Seniors Services Society |
|------------|---|

#### **STAFF PRESENT:**

- |               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Sarad Reynard | - Recreation Leader |
| Lauren Blake  | - Committee Clerk   |

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

#### **1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

No additions.

#### **2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

##### **2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of February 13, 2014**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the minutes of the February 13, 2014 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## 3.0 PRESENTATIONS

### 3.1 Seniors Services Society Funding Challenges – Brian Dodd

**Brian Dodd, Manager, Operations, Seniors Services Society**, provided information regarding the programs that Seniors Services Society (SSS) offers to the community, and reported the following information:

- There are two sectors of SSS: housing and services;
- The housing sector of SSS works with under-housed or homeless seniors, as well as seniors that are at risk of losing their housing and includes the following programs:
  - An online housing directory, which provides a list of resources within a community for seniors;
  - Housing information packages, which provides tailored information to an individual and their needs, such as the type of housing required, budget, location and amenities;
  - Housing Counsellor training course, which specializes in at-risk and homeless seniors; and,
  - Temporary Housing Program, which provides temporary housing and assistance with rent.
- The housing sector serves the entire Lower Mainland, and consists of four staff members, who work with each client individually;
- SSS retains 20 fully-loaded units as a temporary housing solution for seniors that are leaving hospital, a shelter or an abusive situation; and,
- The services sector of SSS is specific to New Westminster and includes the following services:
  - The Better at Home program, which provides light housekeeping, and transportation for appointments;
  - The Meals on Wheels program; and
  - A bus program that provides transportation to events and activities, such as lunches and dinners, shopping trips and movies.

Mr. Dodd reported that the United Way of the Lower Mainland has traditionally provided funding to SSS; however, the United Way's Board of Directors have recently decided to take their funding in an alternative direction. Mr. Dodd noted that contracts that are due to expire will not be renewed, and that this action will mainly affect senior related organizations. Mr. Dodd advised that SSS will investigate partnering with other organizations, exploring alternative sources of funding, and negotiating with suppliers to get costs down.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Dodd provided the following information:

- People between the ages of 60 and 65 may receive a limited pension, and the SSS Temporary Housing Program can help subsidize these individual's rent until they become eligible for their full pension amount;

- SSS would like to expand the Temporary Housing Program into other communities, as the units that they currently have access to are all in Burnaby; and,
- The Seniors Advisory Committee and the City can put pressure on the United Way of the Lower Mainland to provide guidance regarding the success of these programs without their support.

Mr. Dodd invited the Committee to attend the SSS Annual General Meeting that will be held on June 24, 2014 at 11:00 a.m.

#### **4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Seniors Festival – Chair**

**Councillor Bill Harper, Chair**, provided an update regarding the Seniors Festival and reported that the date for the event has yet to be determined, although it will be held in either September or October.

Councillor Harper requested additional volunteers to serve on the Seniors Festival Committee. Susan Zygmunt, Community Member, volunteered to serve on the Committee.

Councillor Harper requested nominees to serve as Chair for the Committee. Annette Oakes, Century House Association, volunteered and will serve as Chair.

#### **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

##### **5.1 Fraser Health Parking Rates and Policies – John Stark**

**Councillor Bill Harper, Chair**, reported that a letter has been distributed regarding Fraser Health Parking Rates and Policies, including information pertaining to how and where passes may be purchased. It was noted that the rates appear to be below previous rates.

#### **6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION**

##### **6.1 Dementia-Friendly Community Initiative – John Stark**

**John Stark, Social Planner**, provided an on-table update regarding the Dementia-Friendly Community Initiative.

## **6.2 Seniors Planning and Action Network – Annette Oakes, on behalf of Lesley Cole**

**Annette Oakes, Century House Association**, reported the following information from the February 26, 2014, Seniors Planning and Action Network meeting:

- A presentation from TransLink was provided regarding the Compass Card program;
- The Welcoming and Inclusive New Westminster (WINS) event was a success;
- Mariam Larson discussed the United Way of the Lower Mainland funding cuts, and an additional update will be provided at the next meeting;
- Advanced Care Planning Day will be held on April 16, 2014, and will provide seniors and physicians with an opportunity to discuss advanced health care. Individuals interested in attending may RSVP to Mariam Larson at 604.515.1718 or [manage@mariamlarson.com](mailto:manage@mariamlarson.com);
- An agency networking event was held at Centennial Lodge which provided 16 representatives from 14 organizations an opportunity to discuss the services they provide;
- Century House received a New Horizon Grant for new chairs;
- Funding to the Vital Connections program has been cut; however, it was noted that four months of funding has been secured to continue the program. It was suggested that a small fee could be charged for the counselling training to provide additional funding for the program.

## **6.3 Meals on Wheels Fundraiser – Calvin Donnelly**

**Calvin Donnelly, Sapperton Old Age Pensioners**, reported that while fewer tickets were sold in comparison to last year's event, more people provided donations. Mr. Donnelly noted that the success of this year's event will benefit the fundraiser next year.

## **6.4 Sapperton Pensioners Hall – Calvin Donnelly**

**Calvin Donnelly, Sapperton Old Age Pensioners**, thanked the City for their support with respect to the Sapperton Pensioners Hall, and the grants that were provided. Mr. Donnelly reported that updates that have been implemented will assist with growing the rental potential of the hall.

## **6.5 Income Tax Reminder – Giuliana Graves**

**Giuliana Graves, Community Member**, reminded the Committee to file their tax returns, and noted that there are free tax accountants for low income individuals. Ms. Graves reported that many services depend on a tax return.

## **7.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

**8.0 NEXT MEETING**

**Next meeting April 16, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Council Chambers**

**9.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

Certified correct,

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**COUNCILLOR BILL HARPER  
CHAIR**

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**LAUREN BLAKE  
COMMITTEE CLERK**