

**SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**March 9, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.  
Council Chamber Meeting Room  
City Hall**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Councillor Patrick Johnstone - Chair  
Helen Bodner - Community Member  
Lois Brassart - Community Member  
Cal Donnelly - Sapperton Old Age Pensioners' Association Representative  
Rosemary Dunne - Community Member  
Ann Griffiths - Community Member  
Sylvester Helmink - Queensborough 50+ Social Club Representative  
Betty McIntosh - Senior Services Society Representative  
Elizabeth Philip - Century House Association  
Julia Schoennagel - Community Member

**GUESTS:**

Councillor Mary Trentadue - City Council  
Dustin Lupick - UBC School of Community and Regional Planning  
Amy McDonald - UBC School of Community and Regional Planning  
Vivian Wong - UBC School of Community and Regional Planning

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Robyn McGuinness - Manager of Seniors and Youth Services  
Tristan Johnson - Planning Analyst  
Tanya Fink - Social Planning Consultant  
Lauren Blake - Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 p.m.

## **1.0 ANNUAL HOUSEKEEPING**

### **1.1 Orientation**

Lauren Blake, Committee Clerk, distributed and reviewed the following documents with the Committee members:

- Rules of Conduct: Advisory Committees & Bodies of Council
- Respectful Workplace and Human Rights Policy
- Social Media Policy
- Permission Forms

Members are to contact Ms. Blake regarding attendance at each meeting. If a member is unable to fulfill their duties, they are asked to notify staff as soon as possible so the position can be refilled.

### **1.2 Oaths of Office**

Lauren Blake, Committee Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to the Committee members.

### **1.3 Introductions**

Committee members provided an introduction and an overview of their background.

### **1.4 Selection of Vice Chair for 2016**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT Betty McIntosh be selected as the Vice-Chair for the 2017 Seniors Advisory Committee term.*

**CARRIED.**

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

## **2.0 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

#### **MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the agenda be amended by adding Item 5.3 – Councillor Trentadue; and,*

*THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.*

**CARRIED.**

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

### **3.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

#### **3.1 Adoption of November 10, 2016 Minutes**

**MOVED and SECONDED**

*THAT the minutes of the November 10, 2016 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.*

**CARRIED.**

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

### **4.0 PRESENTATIONS**

#### **4.1 Age-Friendly Community Strategy**

Dustin Lupick, Amy McDonald and Vivian Wong, UBC School of Community and Regional Planning (SCARP), summarized the New Westminster Age-Friendly Community Strategy.

Mr. Lupick, Ms. McDonald and Ms. Wong collected feedback regarding a list of preliminary actions from the Committee. Additional comments can be provided until March 16, 2017 to [wongviv3@gmail.com](mailto:wongviv3@gmail.com).

### **5.0 NEW BUSINESS**

#### **5.1 Seniors Festival**

Councillor Patrick Johnstone requested volunteers to serve on the Seniors Festival Subcommittee. The following members volunteered:

- Calvin Donnelly;
- Helen Bodner;
- Lois Brassart;
- Sylvester Helmink;
- Ann Griffiths; and,
- Rosemary Dunne.

#### **5.2 Location of Mailbox at Century House**

Robyn McGuinness, Manager of Seniors and Youth Services, advised that a letter has been received requesting that a mailbox be located at Century House.

Tristan Johnson, Planning Analyst, advised that he has contacted Canada Post, and provided the following information:

- Canada Post would not provide a new mailbox; however, they may relocate an existing mailbox to a requested location;
- Requests to relocate mailboxes must be emailed to Canada Post, and include name, organization, address, the requested location for the mailbox and why it is being requested to be relocated; and,
- The closest mailbox to Century House is located at Eighth Street and Seventh Avenue.

In response to questions from the Committee, Councillor Patrick Johnstone, Chair, advised that Century House would not be able to drop mail off personal mail to a mailbox due to privacy and safety issues.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee noted the following comments:

- A multiple box mailbox unit could be useful near Century House;
- Relocating the mailbox from Seventh Avenue may cause inconvenience for residents of the apartment buildings in that area;
- It was questioned if Century House is located along an existing pick-up route; and,
- Century House staff could partner with disabled individuals to transport their personal mail to a mailbox. This could also assist with social isolation.

The Committee requested that staff report back at the May 4, 2017 meeting with the following information:

- Can a specific type of mail box be requested;
- Can a specific mailbox be requested for relocation; and,
- Can Canada Post provide statistics on the use of local mailboxes.

### **5.3 Councillor Trentadue**

Councillor Mary Trentadue thanked the Committee for their hard work during her tenure as Chair of the Seniors Advisory Committee.

## 6.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 6.1 Dementia-Friendly Community Action Plan

Tristan Johnson, Planning Analyst, provided the following updated regarding the Dementia-Friendly Community Action Plan:

- January 2017 was recognized as Alzheimer Awareness Month at a Regular Council meeting on January 9, 2017 through the reading and receipt of a Council Proclamation;
- Educational materials regarding dementia have been displayed at the New Westminster Public Library;
- The City will be developing a bookmark with links to enable the public to access the full range of educational materials as produced by the Alzheimer Society of B.C.;
- Dementia-friendly clubs, groups and organizations will be incorporated into the City's Community and Social Services Asset Map;
- A presentation regarding dementia-friendly built environments will be included as part of an orientation for the Advisory Planning Commission and New Westminster Design Panel; and,
- Staff will be working with the New Westminster Secondary School Initiative for Neuroscience and Dementia, which is a club that is facilitating awareness amongst younger people about dementia and its impacts.

Tanya Fink, Social Planning Consultant, advised that Century House will be hosting a screening on March 28, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Potential movies or clips could include *Still*, *Alice* and *Jim's Story*. There will also be guest speakers regarding early onset dementia.

Lisa Zetes-Zanatta, Fraser Health Representative, advised that Fraser Health has reviewed dementia caregiver burnout, and will be implementing a pilot site for a Dementia Friendly Day Program, which could be implemented at Queen's Park Care Centre. The program would be the first of its kind in British Columbia. It is anticipated that there would be 20 spaces available, five days a week, with two days consisting of four hour sessions for each participant. The program is intended to provide respite for caregivers.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Zetes-Zanatta provided the following information:

- The program is for individuals with early onset dementia. Individuals with progressive dementia would not be accepted into the program;

- The feedback received from dementia caregivers indicated that caregivers require lengthy breaks from providing care in order to recuperate; and,
- Fraser Health would work with a family physician regarding program placement.

The Committee suggested that Fraser Health could consider working with an existing day program for progressive dementia, in order to provide a transition and make programming last for longer.

## **6.2 Access to Washrooms in Emergent Situations**

Tanya Fink, Social Planning Consultant, summarized the document regarding the proposed “Relief for Seniors” washroom access in emergent situations decal program.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Fink advised that the Business Improvement Associations (BIA) and Chamber of Commerce would be requested to survey their members to gauge interest in the program.

The Committee expressed support for the program, and noted the following comments:

- The proposed decal does not indicate that the program is for washroom use;
- The program could include businesses outside of “washroom deserts”;
- Seniors may have concerns regarding public washroom safety and cleanliness;
- There could be an education campaign to accompany the decal program;
- The program could have a catchy name, such as “Can Go”;
- There could be accessibility issues for seniors.

## **7.0 REPORTS**

There were no items.

## **8.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items.

**9.0 NEXT MEETING**

**May 4, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in Council Chamber Meeting Room**

**10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

**ON MOTION**, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Certified correct,

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**  
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**PATRICK JOHNSTONE**  
**CHAIR**

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**  
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**LAUREN BLAKE**  
**COMMITTEE CLERK**