

SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 4, 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
Ann Griffiths - Community Member
Sylvester Helmink - Queensborough 50+ Social Club Representative
Elizabeth Philip - Century House Association
Julia Schoennagel - Community Member

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Rosemary Dunne - Community Member
Betty McIntosh - Senior Services Society Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

John Stark - Senior Social Planner
Robyn McGuinness - Manager of Seniors and Youth Services
Jamie Brovold - Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of March 9, 2017 Minutes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the March 9, 2017 Senior Advisory Commission minutes be amended as follows:

- In section 6.1, bullet three, the word "include" be removed;

THAT the amended minutes of the March 9, 2017 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 101: An Introduction

John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, summarized the presentation *Our Changing City*.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee noted the following comments:

- Common issues affecting seniors include:
 - Affordability in housing;
 - Programming for participation;
 - Home support and assisted living;
 - Day programs for adults;
 - Residential care options; and,
 - Civic involvement (how do we reach out to seniors living alone);
- Future redevelopment plans for Canada Games Pool will need to look at the diverse needs of seniors and universal accessibility;
- Some housing issues affecting seniors include:
 - Living alone;
 - Heating;
 - Three storey walk ups; and,
 - Dementia and isolation.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Renovictions and Seniors

John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, made a presentation on the topic of *Renovictions: Questions and Answers* and discussed the following:

- A bulletin has been developed as a resource to provide information and education, as not every situation is a renoviction;
- The issue of renovictions is being reviewed and the City is dedicated due diligence and making it a difficult process, by checking all permits and conducting reviews to see if landlords are following the Residential Tenancy Act;
- Two tenant's rights workshops have been held and another is planned in order to get the information out;
- Some properties have been red flagged for potential situations;
- The City has been working with the Seniors Services Society on advocating for tenants and putting supports in place.

Councillor Patrick Johnstone added that City staff are doing excellent work on this issue with the limited options available in the short term. He further commented that in the long term, there remains a lack of vacancy and this will need to be

addressed through changing the Residential Tenancy Act and talking to higher levels of government.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee noted the following comments:

- The Seniors Services Society is already overwhelmed, and are unable to help with the lack of housing, however they are participating in the issue with providing counselling to seniors;
- Pets are becoming a huge issue, as many people being evicted are those with long-term leases, who have nowhere to go with their pets. This in turn creates a crisis for animal control; and,

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Seniors Festival

Robyn McGuinness, Manager of Seniors and Youth Services, gave the following updates on the Seniors Festival.

- Selected Date: October 21st, 2017;
- Selected Theme: Set No Limits;
- A call has been put forward to Red Robinson as a Key Note, with reply still pending;
- Anticipated attendance is roughly 800 people; and,
- Subcommittee is working hard on it, Cal Donnelly is Chair and Lois Brassart has also volunteered.

Cal Donnelly, Sapperton Old Age Pensioners' Association Representative, discussed the changing layout for the festival and how the new floor plan will be able to use the space better throughout the day.

5.2 Location of Mailbox at Century House

Robyn McGuinness, Manager of Seniors and Youth Services, advised that the process of securing a mailbox at Century House may be more difficult than originally discussed. Ms. McGuinness has followed up with the resident who had asked about the mailbox and let the resident know that there is no solution yet, but they are following up.

5.3 Age Friendly Community Strategy

John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, updated the committee on the Age Friendly Community Strategy, stating that the Strategy is about 95% formatted. The Strategy is derived from a partnership with the School of Community Planning at UBC and was presented at a forum at the Anvil Centre.

Mr. Stark further reported that a working group will be established to create an annual action plan. The report will be going to Council on May 29th and

subsequently, the Seniors Advisory Committee will play a role in bringing the strategy forward.

Councillor Johnstone gave an update about the Curb Cut Program, indicating that every sidewalk on every corner in the city will have a ramp by the end of 2017. 250 curbs are being replaced this year and once they are complete, old curbs will be fixed.

5.4 Dementia-Friendly Community Action Plan

On March 28th there was a screening of *Still Alice* and conversation circle about dementia. It had a good turnout and people who attended were looking for resources for family members, as well as learning about their own cognitive health. Alzheimer's awareness month will be ready to run to next year.

5.5 Bookmark for Alzheimer's Society

John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, discussed the bookmark for Alzheimer's information and resources and gave the following updates:

- Bookmarks are being distributed through Canada Games Pool, the Library and other civic facilities;
- The bookmark will say the "first dementia friendly city council in Canada"; and,
- The purpose of the bookmark is to inform the public about the resources that are available to them.

6.0 REPORTS

7.0 NEXT MEETING

September 14, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in Council Chamber Meeting Room

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Certified correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED

PATRICK JOHNSTONE
CHAIR

ORIGINAL SIGNED

JAMIE BROVOLD
COMMITTEE CLERK