

SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**September 14, 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
Calvin 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
Ron Zapp	- Community Member

MEMBERS REGRETS:

Lisa Zetes-Zanatta	- Fraser Health Representative
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STAFF PRESENT:

Claudia Freire	- Housing/Social Planner
John Stark	- Acting Manager of Planning
Robyn McGuinness	- Manager of Seniors and Youth Services
Heather Corbett	- Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

2.1 Adoption of September 14, 2017 Agenda

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the agenda of the September 14, 2017 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of May 4, 2017 Minutes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the May 4, 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 Demographics

Mr. John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, summarized the on-table item on seniors' housing needs statistics and advised that there will be more statistics forthcoming in the coming months as the 2016 Census data continues to be released. The report included information about demographics on seniors, vulnerability, housing statistics and challenges, and City initiatives.

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

- Individuals living in care homes still qualify as living alone in the Census, even though they are in a home;
- The City is aware of 10 recent building renovations, and possibly two more;
- Copies of the Tenant Survival Guide are sent out by the City whenever rental buildings change ownership or are flagged for renovations;
- There are a number of new developments in New Westminster that will include secured market housing; and,
- It was not known (at the meeting) exactly how many BC Housing units are present in New Westminster.

Discussion ensued and the Committee noted the following comments:

- The BC Housing wait list is long, which is a growing concern;
- While increased support is needed for the New Westminster Rent Bank, there is also a need for more rental facilities to house people;
- The SAC should be kept updated as to the resolution going to UBCM about funding and housing;
- It is important to sustain the housing that is already available and it would be ideal for upper levels of government to fund infrastructure of these buildings; and,
- Many challenges are being experienced by volunteer boards, including housing boards and stratas, whereby volunteer board members are aging and are not being replaced, which, in turn, makes it difficult for passing changes and improvements.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Walk and Be Seen Program

Elizabeth Philip, Century House Association Representative, discussed the Walk and Be Seen Program, which originated out of Kits House/Westside Seniors Centre in Vancouver, and is now running in New Westminster out of Century House. It is an initiative promoting wearing high visibility items when out walking. The Century House organizers have ordered high visibility gear and thread and have asked craft groups to make products, such as headbands, bags, and attachments for clothing. They are also looking for ambassadors to organize walks, and will be at the Seniors Festival. There is an upcoming training session on October 4 and the project is planned to roll out in November.

The Committee suggested getting in touch with the New Westminster Walkers' Caucus, which is a group advocating for walkability in the City.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Seniors Festival: October 21, 2017

Lois Brassart, Chair of the Seniors Festival Committee, gave the following update on the event:

- There are numerous speakers lined up, including:
 - Red Robinson, who should be a good draw;
 - Mayor Jonathan Coté;
 - Colin Milner: an authority on health and well-being of the older adult;
 - Bobby Bacchus: “a crooner”;
- All Councillors have been invited and most are attending;
- The theme this year is “Set No Limits”;
- There are 25 non-profit exhibitors and 10 companies signed up;
- Several sponsors, including media, have been secured; Thornbridge and QP Healthcare have both given \$250 in sponsorship; and,
- The committee will be sending out posters and tickets for distribution shortly – a ticket is valuable as it has the door prize number printed on it.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Brassart provided the following information:

- Volunteers are still needed – please contact Lois if interested; and,
- The Seniors Festival Committee is still accepting door prizes.

Robyn McGuinness, Manager of Seniors and Youth Services, complimented the Committee in pulling together such a wonderful program.

Calvin Donnelly thanked the City for the grant funds.

5.2 Age Friendly Community Strategy Designation and Recognition

John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, updated the Committee on the City's Age Friendly Community Strategy, stating that, in conjunction with the UBC School of Community and Regional Planning, public consultation had been conducted which looked at 160 recommendations that were narrowed down to 35. As a result, the City will be moving forward with applying for the Age-Friendly BC Designation.

Mr. Stark further discussed the steps and timeline that are ahead in applying for the designation, and indicated that the City will likely receive a financial reward once the process is complete.

Discussion ensued and Councillor Johnstone suggested that the Committee could be involved in putting forward suggestions on how to use the reward.

5.3 Dementia-Friendly Community Action Plan

John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, introduced Claudia Freire as the City's new Housing/Social Planner and discussed that Claudia would be taking a lead role with the Dementia-Friendly Community Action Plan and the age-friendly designation.

Mr. Stark discussed the bookmark that the City has produced to allow citizens to obtain information about the Alzheimer's Society in an easily accessible format, condensing the nine informational brochures that are also available. The bookmark will be distributed in every book at the library and in all civic buildings, and the goal is to give out 2,000 bookmarks over the fall. In January, which is Alzheimer's awareness month, there are plans to have a speaker and/or events, and to ask the Mayor for a proclamation.

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

- Ms. Freire will help with providing directed education for staff, as specified in the community action plan; and,
- In terms of sustainability of the program, the New Westminster Design Panel, whose role is to review all developments planned in the City, will receive an orientation in regards to considering a dementia-friendly environment and evaluating various design pieces in their reviews of developments, for example with wayfinding.

Discussion ensued and the committee made the following comments:

- The bookmark could be made available to schools in the District for children to bring home;
- This is very important work and this bookmark will be important for sustaining the vision and getting awareness out there; and,

- The Committee commended the City for the age friendly and dementia friendly initiatives presented at the meeting.

5.4 Renovictions Action Plan Update

John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, discussed the Renovictions Action Plan, including the following strategies:

- Three resolutions concerning housing have been endorsed by Council to be presented at UBCM;
- City staff have been educated on how to answer inquiries about renovictions in a diplomatic manner; and,
- When sending out the Tenant Survival Guide, it is mailed in a plain envelope in order that it does not attract attention.

Councillor Johnstone asked that the committee members send any further ideas on this subject matter through to him.

6.0 REPORTS

6.1 Seniors Services Society:

Ms. Betty McIntosh reported that the Seniors Services Society had held a successful Annual General Meeting on June 22, 2017; which had garnered a large response for new board members. Ms. McIntosh also circulated postcards regarding the Society's major fundraiser "Evening in Tuscany", which is taking place on October 1, 2017, at La Perla Ballroom.

6.2 Sapperton Old Age Pensioner's Association & Community Hall:

Mr. Calvin Donnelly reported the following information in regards to the Sapperton Old Age Pensioner's Association:

- A large amount of work has been completed on the Hall, including the installation of air conditioning and improvements to the parking lot, resulting in an increase in rentals;
- A free exercise program occurs every Thursday at the Hall, in conjunction with the Parks Department;
- The Association held an 'Over 90 Birthday Party' this past June, celebrating eight residents; and,
- The Association is pleased to serve as a community facility in the City.

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

- It is not necessary to be a Sapperton resident to join the Association; and,
- The cost to rent the Hall is fairly reasonable, however it depends on the day and the space, and it is in high demand, so best to request rental space as early as possible.

6.3 New Westminster Hospice Society

Julia Schoennagel reported that the New Westminster Hospice Society is holding a River Walk for Hospice event on October 14, 2017, at 6:30 p.m.

7.0 NEXT MEETING

November 9, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. in Council Chamber Meeting Room

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Certified correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED
PATRICK JOHNSTONE
CHAIR

ORIGINAL SIGNED
HEATHER CORBETT
COMMITTEE CLERK