

SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**May 10, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.
Committee Room #2, City Hall**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

| | |
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| Wayne Benitez | - Acting Chair, Community Member |
| Chinu Das | - Community Member |
| Rosemary Dunne | - Community Member |
| Sylvester Helmink | - Queensborough 50+ Social Club Representative |
| Betty McIntosh | - Senior Services Society Representative |
| Elizabeth Philip | - Community Member |
| Carole Wylie | - Century House Association Representative |

MEMBERS REGRETS:

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|------------------------------|--|
| Helen Bodner | - Community Member |
| Lois Brassart | - Community Member |
| Calvin Donnelly | - Sapperton Old Age Pensioners' Association Representative |
| Leanne Frechette | - Fraser Health Representative |
| Councillor Patrick Johnstone | - Chair |

GUESTS:

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| Kara-Leigh Bloch | - Senior Services Society |
| Filippos Gkekas | -Community and Regional Planning Student, University of British Columbia, |
| Alex Taciuk, | -Community and Regional Planning Student, University of British Columbia, |

STAFF PRESENT:

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| Robyn McGuinness | - Manager of Seniors and Youth Services |
| John Stark | - Acting Manager of Planning |
| Carol Lee | - Recording Secretary |

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

1.0 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Procedural Note: Item 3.0 was considered prior to Item 1.0.

1.1 Adoption of May 10, 2018 Agenda

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the agenda of the May 10, 2018 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be adopted with the following additions:

- *Item 5.4 –60th Anniversary of Century House; and*
- *Item 6.1 – Report from the Senior Services Society.*

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Procedural Note: Item 3.0 was considered prior to Item 2.0.

2.1 Adoption of March 8, 2018 Minutes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the March 8, 2018 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be adopted.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

Procedural Note: Item 3.0 was considered prior to Items 1.0 and 2.0.

3.1 Great Streets for Seniors

Filippos Gkekas and Alex Taciuk, School of Community and Regional Planning students, University of British Columbia, jointly provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Great Streets for Seniors project. The following additional information was provided:

- Statistics regarding fatal motor vehicle accidents involving seniors
- Details of the study site
- Senior-friendly design principles
- Examples of the 134 recommendations in each of four categories:
 - Site wide:
 - Regular leaf clearance
 - Benches every 100 metres
 - Sidewalk spots:
 - Remediate ponding, buckling and cracking problems on sidewalks
 - Intersections:
 - Increase length of walk signals by 10 seconds
 - Install high visibility crosswalks
 - Upgrade corner letdowns

- Install curb extensions
- Corridors (e.g. Sixth Street):
 - Decrease right-of-way for vehicles to increase sidewalk width
 - Install center boulevards with trees
 - Install clear wayfinding signs.

In response to questions from the Committee, Messrs. Gkekas and Taciuk provided the following information:

- The installation of high-visibility crosswalks increases safety
- The study did not consider the prohibition of right turns on red lights
- Restricting parking within 10 metres of a crosswalk would enhance intersection safety.

The Committee made the following comments:

- Challenge of implementing recommendations in areas that are not undergoing redevelopment
- Flashing amber crossing lights at pedestrian crosswalks should be changed to a red flashing light to require drivers to stop
- Suggestion that a universally recognized crossing signal button that provides longer crossing times, if required, be installed at intersections
- The Engineering Department can take immediate action to address the ponding, cracking and buckling on sidewalks
- The raised intersections installed at Westminster Quay have resulted in slowed vehicular speeds
- MunicipalE and Planning Departments must take action to address issues related to the aging population.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Changes to the Strata Property Act and Potential Impacts

John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, summarized the on-table information regarding the potential impact of changes to the *Strata Property Act*. Mr. Stark welcomed feedback from the Committee regarding the potential for the presentation of a resolution at the September 2018 Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Convention to amend the legislation to increase the percentage of supportive owners required to terminate a strata corporation.

In response to a question from the Committee, Mr. Stark advised that the City is developing inclusionary housing and affordable rental housing policies.

The Committee made the following comments:

- Need to balance the rights of owners and tenants
- Tenants, many of which are seniors, are the most vulnerable
- The age-in-place owner occupants typically do not have the funds to purchase another home
- There is not enough information to determine whether the 80% voting requirement is appropriate
- Need to determine if the 80% voting requirement established under the current legislation was an arbitrary figure or based upon research
- Tenants are not safeguarded, even with a 100% voting requirement
- Block voting by owners of multiple units must be addressed
- Suggestion to increase the voting requirement to 90%
- Need to protect seniors who own units in older housing stocks from unanticipated significant special assessments for building maintenance or rehabilitation.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 2018 Seniors Festival

Robyn McGuinness, Manager of Seniors and Youth Services, reported that the 2018 Seniors Festival has been scheduled for Saturday, October 13, 2018 at Century House. Ms. McGuinness welcomed suggestions on ideas and feedback on potential themes for the festival.

The Committee suggested that safety be considered as a theme to align with the City's focus on safety initiatives for seniors.

Ms. McGuinness advised that the 2018 Seniors Festival Sub-Committee is seeking a health and wellness speaker for the festival.

5.2 Age Friendly Community Strategy Designation and Recognition

John Stark, Acting Manager of Planning, advised that funding for the 2018 Seniors Festival may be available from the City's age-friendly community initiative. Further information will be provided when it is available.

The Committee suggested that the "Own It" theme for the 2018 Seniors Festival would align with age-friendly community initiative.

5.3 Free Weekly Exercise Program at Sapperton Hall

Robyn McGuinness, Manager of Seniors and Youth Services, reported a weekly exercise program is being offered at Sapperton Pensioners' Hall to introduce seniors to a regular exercise program. Participants are required to pay a small fee

to support the cost of the instructor and Century House is providing free transportation.

Ms. McGuinness advised that funding for the exercise program is being sought.

5.4 60th Anniversary of Century House

Carole Wylie reported that 2018 is the 60th anniversary of Century House and informed the Committee of events that are planned to celebrate the milestone. Additional information will be published in the Clarion when it is available.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Report from the Senior Services Society

Kara-Leigh Bloch, Executive Director, Senior Services Society, distributed the Declaration of the Community-based Seniors' Services Sector in BC (Declaration) that was passed at the November 2 – 3, 2017 Provincial Summit in Aging Agenda.

Ms. Bloch requested that the Committee recommend to Council that the City endorse and become a signatory to the Declaration.

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

- Plans to hold the Provincial Summit on Aging Agenda every two years
- The objective of the Raising the Profile project is to ensure that seniors are considered in decision-making
- Discussions are in progress regarding the funding sources available for community-based services and the quantification of the value of the services provided.

The Committee made the following comments:

- Social connectedness is missing from community-based services
- Need to develop programs that meet the continuum of needs, over and above health care needs
- Social isolation is the most debilitating factor facing seniors and leads to poor health
- Financial benefit of investing in prevention and support.

MOVED and SECONDED

That the Seniors Advisory Committee recommend that Council endorse the Declaration of the Community-based Seniors' Services Sector in B.C.

CARRIED.

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

Ms. Bloch summarized the on-table Senior Services Society document titled “Seniors Housing Information Navigation Ease BC”.

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

- The Province has not designated a Minister of Seniors
- Need for a distinctions-based approach in addressing seniors’ needs.

The Committee noted that seniors’ housing challenges are unique.

Ms. Bloch reported that the Senior Services Society Annual General Meeting will be held on June 26, 2018 and will be followed by a social from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

September 20, 2018 in Committee Room #2 at City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Certified correct,

Original Signed _____
Patrick Johnstone
Chair

Original Signed _____
Carol Lee
Recording Secretary
CLERK