

**SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
(SAC)**

**May 9, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
Committee Room 2, City Hall**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wayne Benitez	- Alternate Chair/Community Member
Deanna Cavanagh	- Community Member
Joy Davies	- Community Member
Tracey Dermirbas	- Fraser Health Authority Representative
Rosemary Dunne	- Community Member
Tim Hicks	- Community Member
Donna MacLean	- Queensborough 50+ Social Club Representative
Val MacDonald	- Community Member
Carole Wylie	- Century House Association Representative

MEMBER REGRETS:

Councillor Chinu Das	- Chair
Calvin Donnelly	- Sapperton Old Age Pensioners' Association Representative
Betty McIntosh	- Senior Services Society Representative

STAFF PRESENT:

Robyn McGuinness	- Manager, Seniors & Youth Services
John Stark	- Supervisor of Community Planning
Dustin Ray-Wilks	- Manager, Aquatics
Carilyn Cook	- Committee Clerk

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

1.0 ADDITIONS / DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

1.1 MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the May 9, 2019 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting agenda be adopted, noting that Item 3.2 – Transportation Planning and Seniors would be moved to the next meeting as Lisa Leblanc, Manager of Transportation, was unable to attend today's meeting and with the addition of Item 4.3 – Lack of Seniors Advisory Committee Meetings During the Year by Donna MacLean, Queensborough 50+ Social Club Representative.

CARRIED.

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

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of March 14, 2019 Minutes

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Minutes of the March 14, 2019 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

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

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 New Westminster Aquatic Centre – Dustin Ray-Wilks, Manager, Aquatics

Mr. Ray-Wilks commenced with his presentation.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Ray-Wilks provided the following comments:

- Ongoing interior and exterior accessibility audits will be conducted with the Rick Hansen Foundation to ensure that the facility is as barrier free as possible;
- The City is exploring as many options as possibly to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) gold, including designing the building so that solar panels can be added in the future;
- It is anticipated that the recycling depot will be relocated to the Braid Street industrial area;
- Some of the change rooms will include beds, lifts, and showers and be accessible universal change rooms; however, that level of planning has not yet been reached;
- The moveable floor aspect of the pool will be located in shallow end and may be able to go as deep as two or three meters;
- Construction is expected to begin either later this year or early next year with the current facilities remaining open for the duration of the build;
- With respect to parking, the City is looking to hire a construction manager whose first priority would be to provide a transportation plan to address parking as approximately 187 spaces will be lost and parking for the construction workers will need to be considered as well;
- More detail will go into where the pedestrian crossings will be located in relation to transit drop offs;
- There will be a 14k square foot increase in space for the multipurpose rooms;
- Kitchen needs are currently being considered including a catering kitchen space which has been requested by the community, and which must be commercial grade;

- Other outreach for community input on the project consists of all city committees, two open houses, attendance at the City's Easter event, an online survey, etc.; and,
- Recently staff met with a Muslim women's group and a transgender consultant to determine what their needs are and how we can accommodate those needs in the new facility.

Committee members shared that they were excited about the project and that it looked fantastic and suggested the inclusion of outdoor activities and modifications such as a seniors' gymnasium and higher benches for those who may have difficulty rising from the sitting position.

A brochure, which included a survey link, was handed out for those Committee members who wished to provide further comments on the development.

3.2 Transportation Planning and Seniors

– **Lisa Leblanc, Manager, Transportation** – Moved to the next meeting.

4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Seniors Festival – Robyn McGuinness, Manager, Seniors and Youth Services

Ms. McGuinness shared that the Seniors Festival, which has found its home at Century House and includes things such as lectures, displays, food services, etc., is funded through the City. The Festival celebrates seniors and, last year, welcomed 32 organizations and community groups to the event. Past speakers include former broadcasters Red Robinson and George Garrett, and the City's own John Stark, Senior Social Planner, who gave a great talk about the City working with seniors. A trinket market was introduced 2 years ago for seniors to showcase and sell their wares for up to \$20.

With respect to this year's Festival, Ms. McGuinness advised that three or four members of the Seniors Advisory Committee are needed to sit on the Seniors Festival Committee (SFC).

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. McGuinness provided the following comments:

- The SFC will meet two or three times between now and September, with the Festival date being Saturday, October 19th;
- The SFC would make the following determinations with respect to the Festival: participants and who would be showcased, the theme, short lecture topics, etc.;
- Fraser Health's possible participation at the event will be brought to the SFC for further discussion and consideration; and,

- Coordinators will strive to provide a quiet space for conversations at this year's event.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Attendees particularly appreciate receiving swag bags to collect handouts that they can take home and review at the end of the day; and,
- There are a lot of new things such as Lifeline, medication dispensing systems, etc., that people may not know about and that Fraser Health can provide information on at the Festival.

4.2 Healthy Aging Municipal Caucus – John Stark, Senior Social Planner (on table handout)

Mr. Stark announced that he has been invited to sit on the Municipal Caucus for Healthy Aging by the United Way and proceeded to hand out a copy of the Caucus' Terms of Reference (TOR) to review with the Committee. The Caucus membership is comprised of elected officials and senior staff of local government staff who are committed to the promotion and support of policies and practices that facilitate healthy aging. Mr. Stark advised members that he would report back on the meetings to the Committee.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Stark and Ms. McGuinness provided the following comments:

- The suggestion to use the word “allies” in place of “champions” in the TOR will be forwarded to the writer, as Committee members noted that “allies” is more indicative of working alongside someone as opposed to on their behalf;
- Staff are working with the City of Burnaby with respect to childcare locations as there is a benefit to municipalities working and planning together. This could be expanded to include things such as accessibility (curb letdowns, etc.);
- The City's Meeting in the Middle initiative provided an opportunity for youth and seniors to engage with one another with the intent of relationship building and understanding each other's generations; and,
- The New West Hospice society encourages people to have meaningful conversations about the aging process and dying.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- This is pleasing to see and may encourage cities to replicate initiatives instead of starting from scratch; and,
- There are many missed opportunities to educate youth on what to expect with aging and understanding the flow from birth to death.

4.3 Lack of Seniors Advisory Committee Meetings – Donna MacLean, Queensborough 50+ Social Club Representative

Ms. MacLean voiced her concern that the Committee does not have enough time to get things accomplished with only four meetings a year. She also suggested that appointments to committees be longer than a one year term, possibly with staggered two year terms, in order to maintain consistency.

Mr. Stark advised members that the City had recently undertaken a committee review process and that he would bring Ms. MacLean's concern and suggestion forward for consideration, noting that all committee meetings require Council and staff representation at each meeting.

Committee members agreed that six meetings per year would be appropriate.

In response to a question from a Committee member, Mr. Stark advised that he would come back to the Committee to provide some oversight with respect to the dementia friendly actions that the City is taking.

5.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

5.1 Update on Mr. Benitez Representing SAC on the BC Association of Community Response Networks (BCACRN) – Wayne Benitez, Alternate Chair/Community Member

Mr. Benitez confirmed that while he cannot be an official representative of the Seniors Advisory Committee, he can continue to share information between BCACRN and SAC. He advised Committee members that he has invited a member of the BCASRN table, which is addressing elder abuse in the LGBTQ community, to the September meeting and will apprise Councillor Das of such.

5.2 New West Record 'As We Age' Column – John Stark, Senior Social Planner

Mr. Stark advised that he will be meeting with Chris Campbell and Theresa McManus of the New Westminster Record to explore the possibility of having a monthly article published in the "As We Age" column to address issues that affect seniors such as renovictions, social isolation, and hoarding.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. Stark and Ms. McGuinness provided the following comments:

- Issues to be addressed in the column can be generated by the Committee and include guidelines of where to go for assistance;
- Century House has launched a Friendly Visitor program to refer people who may be socially isolated so that they can have a call/visit paid to them.

- Professional counselling is also offered to seniors through Century House; and,
- The City is awaiting funding confirmation for the Hey Neighbour initiative which involves having a participant in a residential building to program movie nights, etc., to encourage neighbour interaction.

Discussion ensued, and the Committee provided the following comments:

- Since many seniors issues stem from social isolation, we need to figure out how to reach those who are isolated;
- Fraser Health offers a Home Health Service Line (1-855-412-2121) that people can call with concerns about their elderly parents, etc.;
- The article should include initiatives that Fraser Health and Century House have to offer, as well as the reassurance to seniors that self-identifying with issues does not mean loss of independence; and,
- We need to keep in mind that there are a lot of varied perspectives amongst the different aged seniors.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 Seniors Services Society Report – Betty McIntosh, Seniors Services Society Representative

No report was provided.

6.2 Century House Association Report – Carole Wylie, Century House Association Representative

Ms. Wylie shared the following updates with Committee members:

- Air conditioning is being installed in the building which is a safe site during summertime heat;
- Membership continues to grow and people are very active in the various programs run by the City and Century House. As a result, space is becoming limited so programs have been extended into weekends, dinnertime, and evenings, leaving Century House less available for rentals; and,
- Certified instructor Osteofit classes are offered in Sapperton with funding from the United Way and the Parks and Recreation Department.

In response to a question from a Committee member, Ms. Wylie advised that the Association is currently reviewing their agreement, policies, and procedures, noting that while there is a desire for expansion of the facility, that would have to be determined by the City upon completion of the New West Aquatic and Community Centre.

**6.3 Sapperton Old Age Pensioners Association Report – Calvin Donnelly,
Sapperton Old Age Pensioner’s Association Representative**

No report was provided.

**6.4 Queensborough 50+ Social Club
– Donna MacLean, Queensborough 50+ Social Club Representative**

No report was provided.

Ms. Demirbas announced that Fraser Health will be hosting the Advance Care Planning Information day on Monday, June 3rd for the public and health care professionals. A poster with event particulars will be forwarded to Committee members.

Procedural note: *Item 4.3 – Lack of Seniors Advisory Committee Meetings* was addressed at this point.

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

There were no items.

8.0 NEXT MEETING

Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. – Committee Room 2, City Hall

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 3:52 p.m.

Certified correct,

Original Signed _____
Wayne Benitez
Alternate Chair

Original Signed _____
Carilyn Cook
Committee Clerk