

## Seniors Advisory Committee

Tuesday February 19, 2019

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Committee Room 4

### Minutes

**Attendance:**

Satya Arora  
Arul Rajasingam  
Patricia Anderson  
Gail Leet, Chair  
Anthony Ko  
Mithan Lal Kansal  
Diane Gabay  
Councillor Amanda Collucci (arrived at 3:45 pm)

**Regrets:**

Almas Mawani  
Alam Muhammad  
Ramma Chabra, Vice-Chair  
Christine Wong  
Yash Kapur

**Staff:**

Josh Machesney, Elections & Council/Committee Coordinator  
Marta Wrzal, Recreation Coordinator – Programs & Outreach  
Heather Hogan, Communications Coordinator

Item	Discussion	Action Item
<b>1. Call to Order &amp; Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest</b>	The Seniors Advisory Committee convened at 3:06 PM with Gail Leet presiding as Chair.	
<b>2. Approval of the January 8, 2019 Seniors Advisory</b>	That the January 8, 2019 Seniors Advisory Committee Minutes be approved.  Carried	

Committee Minutes		
<b>3. Jan Pearce, Executive Director, Evergreen – Presentation on Compassionate Communities</b>	<p>Jan Pearce, Executive Director, Evergreen, was in attendance to deliver a PowerPoint presentation regarding Evergreen Hospice. She explained that Evergreen is a Community Hospice that provides services in people's homes and other places in the community, and services Markham, Thornhill and Stouffville.</p> <p>Evergreen specializes in addressing emotional needs of those who have been given a life-threatening or life-limiting illness diagnosis and their families. They offer wellness oriented support (psycho-social support) for adults, teens and children with 7 FTE's, over 170 trained volunteers, and serve over 870 families annually.</p> <p>Evergreen works directly with Local Health Integration Networks and their associated contracted agencies, hospital clinics, community care teams, social service organizations, transportation organizations, Boards of Education, faith communities and cultural groups.</p> <p>Ms. Pearce discussed Evergreen's support programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-Home Visiting Program</li> <li>• C-Care Support Group for women with cancer</li> <li>• Living Room</li> <li>• Caregiver Support</li> <li>• Complementary Therapy with professional practitioners</li> <li>• Bereavement Program</li> </ul> <p>Evergreen provides all of its services for no charge. Referrals can be made by anyone.</p> <p>Ms. Pearce showed a short video regarding "compassionate communities". She explained that compassionate communities is a movement originating from the UK based on the understanding that less than 10 percent of care</p>	<p>Josh will send Committee Members information from Jan Pearce.</p>

	<p>is provided by professional/formal caregivers, while the other 90 percent must come from friends, family, and the community.</p> <p>Gail advised that she would work with Ms. Pearce to have Evergreen featured in Markham Life magazine.</p> <p>Ms. Pearce advised that Evergreen is working with various community groups to establish partnerships to serve more individuals in the community that need support.</p>	
<b>4. Health Fair</b>	Gail advised that the 2019 Health Fair will take place at Aaniin Community Centre in September or October.	
<b>5. New Business</b>	<p><u>Coffee Talk</u> Marta Wrzal, Recreation Coordinator – Programs &amp; Outreach, advised that she had a discussion with Luke Hiltz regarding coffee talks that are already being organized in Markham East. She advised that they receive a \$42,000 grant that allows them to hire someone to help facilitate 3 or 4 sessions per month, and the coffee and snacks are generally donated (\$50-\$100) by the organization that comes in to speak. There are also a number of administrative tasks associated with facilitating these talks. Marta suggested that the Committee take on hosting one coffee talk to start, to get a better sense of the workload associated with hosting one. She asked the Committee for feedback about whether or not they would like to host one.</p> <p>The Committee consented to allowing Marta and Satya work to move the coffee talk initiative forward.</p> <p><u>Digital Payment Initiative</u> Councillor Collucci advised that City Council is currently considering a recommendation from City Staff to eliminate the acceptance of cash and cheques for services at the Markham Civic Centre, and that Staff and Council are seeking input from the Committee. Josh Machesney further</p>	<p>Josh to send staff report regarding Digital Payment Initiative to Gail for review and feedback for submission to General Committee.</p>

	<p>explained that this would impact how many residents pay their property taxes, as the proposed changes would mean that residents could no longer pay their property taxes with a cheque.</p> <p>After minimal discussion, Gail advised that she would circulate the Staff Report and solicit feedback from Committee members, and submit written correspondence regarding the Committee's position in time for the March 4, 2019 General Committee meeting where the matter will be considered further.</p>	
<b>6. Adjournment</b>	The meeting adjourned at 4:56 PM	