

Seniors Advisory Committee

March 10, 2020

Canada Room

2:30 PM

Attendance:

Present:

Members: Gail Leet, (Chair), Diane Gabay (Vice-Chair), Councillor Amanda Collucci, Patricia Anderson, Lily Liu, Anthony Ko, Arul Rajasingam, Satya Arora, Kwong Chu, and Laila Jiwa

Staff: Portia Lee, Jason Tsien, Ragavan Paranchothy, and Laura Gold

Regrets: Councillor Keith Irish, Richard Tu, Alice Chao, Kirk Macdonald, Mithan Lal Kansal, George George, and Javaid Khan

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	The Senior's Advisory Committee convened at 2:33 PM with Gail Leet in the Chair.	
2. Brain Project	<p>Harman Singh Malhi, Manager of Cornell Public Library spoke to the Committee about the Brain Project. The project is developing programs for seniors with Dementia and Alzheimer. The programs will be available at all Markham library branches, and most of the programs will be free of charge. Some of the programs that will be offered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An art program that helps with memory – Varley Art Gallery• A tour for people suffering from Dementia and Alzheimer – Markham Museum• Workshops for seniors with Dementia and Alzheimer's– Markham Public Libraries• Recreational Programs for seniors with Dementia and Alzheimer - Recreation <p>The Committee provided the following feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reach out to retirement homes and cultural groups regarding the project;• Reach out to Markham Seniors' Clubs regarding the project;• Add the project to the Senior's webpage once it is ready to be launched;• Promote the programs on the City Page of <i>Markham Economist & Sun</i>, and <i>Thornhill Liberal</i>;	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide some of the workshops or seminars online; • Hold a Coffee Talk on Dementia and Alzheimer; • Look into the possibility of providing seniors with Dementia and Alzheimers with access to software like Cogfit that helps with improving memory. <p>The Committee noted that the noise level in Markham Libraries can be distracting for seniors, and asked about the actions taken to manage the noise level at libraries. It was also suggested that students meet in different areas of the Community Centre if they are not studying.</p> <p>Staff advised that libraries are being used differently than in the past due to residents living in more confined spaces, which can create more noise. Library staff are managing this issue by adhering to the library policies regarding noise.</p>	
<p>3. Update on Older Adult Strategy</p>	<p>Jason Tsien, Senior Manager of Business Development provided a presentation on the “Older Adult Strategy”.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need new subsidy program that is more agile – 30% off is still too expensive <p>Areas focused on in the strategy include:</p> <p>1) Community support services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City currently has a registry of 90 active agencies that support seniors in Markham; • Work with partners to improve services for seniors, for example working with York Region Transit to adjust the bus route so that seniors do not have to walk so far to get to the Community Centre, and coordinating program start times with the bus schedule. <p>2) Outdoor Spaces and Building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaced recreational chairs so that they are senior friendly – must have a back and arms; • Include shade and age friendly amenities in City parks to allow for for intergenerational programming; • New parks are being designed to be more accessible; • Added older adult exercise equipment to new and existing Markham parks. 	

Item	Discussion	Action
	<p>3) Social Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnering with 211; • Working on improving the older adult section of the City’s website so that seniors information is located in one area of the website; • Bringing forward a new subsidy program that better fits the needs of the community. <p>The Committee provided the following feedback on the older adult strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seniors do not know where to find seniors information; • Many places are also not accessible for seniors with mobility challenges (e.g. doctors’ offices, the trail at Too-Good Pond); • Should promote seniors programs on the City page of the <i>Markham Economist & Sun</i> and <i>Thornhill Liberal</i>, in the Councillor Newsletter, and in the Mayor’s messaging; • Suggested that the Senior’s Clubs should be represented on the Senior’s Advisory Committee; • Suggested that a Senior’s Forum be held to get older adults’ opinions on the Older Adult Strategy, and on other concerns or needs they may have; <p>It was noted that all City plans, and policies are looked at through a seniors lens when being considered by Council. The City is working with the Catholic School Board to try and use some of its space for seniors programs in the summer months when the Community Centres are being used for camps.</p> <p>A standing item will be added to the Senior’s Advisory Committee agenda - “Councillor Update- Seniors Initiatives” to improve the communication between Council and the Committee on the City’s seniors initiatives.</p>	<p>Add “Councillor Update – Seniors Initiatives” to the agenda.</p>
<p>4. Approval of the Minutes</p>	<p>Committee Recommended:</p> <p>That the Minutes of the February 11, 2020 Seniors Advisory Committee be approved as presented.</p>	

Item	Discussion	Action
	Carried	
5. Meeting Date	Laura Gold, Council/Committee Coordinator will propose a new meeting schedule for the Senior's Advisory Committee at the next meeting, as many of the meeting dates currently conflict with the Standing Committee meeting schedule. Meetings will continue to be held on a Tuesday at 2:30 PM, but will be scheduled on an alternate Tuesday when there is conflict with a Council meeting.	Propose an new meeting schedule at the next meeting – Laura Gold
6. Fashion Show	Gail Leet provided an update on the Fashion Show. The Sub-Committee is currently looking at having some indigenous models in the fashion show, and a DJ has been booked for \$200.	
7. Senior's Hall of Fame Awards	The final version of the Senior's Hall of Fame Awards Committee poster will be posted at Community Centres and Libraries. Nomination forms will be provided to the Committee at the next meeting. Award information and forms will be uploaded to the City's website.	Provide Committee with nomination forms at the next meeting – Emma Girard, and Ragavan Paranchothy Update website to include new form and poster for the Senior's Hall of Fame event – Emma Girard, and Ragavan Paranchothy
8. Business Cards	The Committee reviewed the proposed business card for the Senior's Advisory Committee. The following edits were suggested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove the telephone number, and replace it with the Committee's email address; • Put the name of Committee at the top of the business card. 	Update business card based on the Committee's suggestions - Emma Girard

Item	Discussion	Action
9. Markham Life	The Committee suggested that the older adults club information be updated in the recreation section of Markham Life instead of including an article on the clubs in the Seniors section of the magazine at this time.	
10. New Business	<p><u>COVID-19</u></p> <p>The Committee was advised to avoid crowded places for the next few weeks due to Covid-19 virus. Mayor and Members of Council have requested a video conference with a Public Health Officer on the COVID-19 virus. The City will continue to monitor the development of the virus in Markham. It was suggested that the April be cancelled if there is a community outbreak.</p> <p><u>Community Outreach</u></p> <p>It was noted that seniors in the community can bring ideas and concerns to the Senior's Advisory Committee.</p>	Cancel April meeting if there is a community outbreak of the virus – Laura Gold
11. Adjournment	The Seniors Advisory Committee adjourned at 4:30 PM.	