

Senior's Advisory Committee

October 8, 2020

3:00 PM

Attendance:

Present:

Members

Gail Leet (Chair), Diane Gabay (Vice-Chair), Councillor Amanda Collucci, and Councillor Keith Irish
Patricia Anderson, Javaid Khan, Lily Liu, Anthony Ko, Satya Arora, Yash Kapur, Kirk McDonald, K Wong Chu, and Laila Jiwa

Staff

Portia Lee, and Laura Gold

Absent: George George, Alice Chao, Mithan Lal Kansal

Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to Order	The Senior's Advisory Committee convened at 3:00 PM.	
2. The Passing of Arul Rajasingam	Committee discussed ideas to remember Arul Rajasingham. Ideas suggested included: renaming the Annin Community Centre Café "Arul's Place", or putting a plaque up to remember him for the contributions he made to the Café. Gail Leet, and Portia Lee will evaluate these options and report-back to the Committee.	Evaluate Options to remember Arul Rajasingam – Gail Leet and Portia Lee
3. Approval of the Minutes, and Review of Action Items	<p>A correction was made to the spelling of a Member's last name in the attendance section of the minutes.</p> <p>Committee Recommended: That the Minutes from the March 10, 2020, Seniors Advisory Committee be approved as amended. Carried</p>	
4. Personal Update From Committee Members	<p>Each Committee Member provided a personal update. Some of the subject matters discussed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The status of Markham's Senior Centres;• Resuming Coffee Talks in 2021;• A What's Up Group Seniors created for seniors in the Armadale community to provide support to each other during the pandemic;	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free programs being offered by the YMCA for seniors (Anthony Ko to email information to Committee); • Seniors programs at the Unionville Home Society Community Centre; • Seniors that are unable to participate in online programs; • The impact the pandemic has had on seniors in long term-care facilities; • The future of long-term care facilities in Ontario, and requiring that personal support workers have more education. 	Email information about free YMCA seniors programs – Anthony Ko
5. Parking Issue	Gail Leet briefly discussed a parking issue she was experiencing. The issue will be resolved offline.	
6. Road Safety Issue	<p>Anthony Ko provided a presentation highlighting the road safety results that were presented to the Development Services Committee on September 29, 2020.</p> <p>A Committee Member expressed concern regarding cyclist riding at high speeds on sidewalks, or on multi-use pathways where seniors and other pedestrians walk. Anthony Ko agreed to express this concern to the Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee, and report back to the Committee.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to email Anthony Ko any additional concerns regarding seniors and road safety.</p>	Provide the Committee's feedback on road safety to CPAC – Anthony Ko
7. Markham Life & Senior's Page on City Website	<p>Portia Lee advised that Markham Life has been issued in a digital format with less content during the pandemic. Markham Life in its traditional format will not be produced during the pandemic.</p> <p>Draft plans for the seniors page on the City's website have been proposed, but this work has been put on hold due to the pandemic.</p>	
8. Seniors Not Well Looked After During the Pandemic	Laila Jiwa expressed concern that seniors are not being financially taken care of during the pandemic, particular concern was expressed in regards to the need to increase old age security.	

	<p>It was noted that the City deferred property tax deadlines for all residents, including seniors. Many grocery stores have also created seniors hour so that seniors can shop safely.</p> <p>Committee recommended that she bring her concerns to the Association of Retired People, which advocates on behalf of seniors.</p>	
9. Snow Shoveling and Walkways (not windrows)	<p>Gail Leet inquired if the Mayor's Youth Council would be interested in helping seniors shovel their pathways this winter. Portia Lee will bring this up at the next Mayor's Youth Council meeting, and report-back to the Committee.</p> <p>Committee suggested that it should think about how it can help support seniors this winter.</p>	Ask Mayor's Youth Council about snow shoveling (not windrows) – Portia Lee
10. New Business	<p><u>Hospice Update</u> Councillor Keith Irish provided a brief update on creating a hospice in Markham. A property on Bayview Avenue is being looked at as a possible site for a hospice in Markham. The Mayor will also be hosting a virtual Housing Summit in November, which Members were encouraged to attend. Councillor Keith Irish agreed to follow up with Regional Councillor Jack Heath on the hospice initiative and report back to the Committee.</p>	Ask Regional Councillor Heath for a hospice update – Councillor Keith Irish
11. Next Meeting Date	The next Senior's Advisory Committee meeting will be held on November 12, 2020 at 3:00 PM via Zoom.	
12. Adjournment	The Senior's Advisory Committee adjourned at 5:01 PM.	