

Seniors Advisory Committee

Tuesday July 11, 2017

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Council Chambers

Minutes

Attendance:

Patricia Anderson
Satya Arora
Yash Kapur
Anthony Ko
Gail Leet, Chair
Arul Rajasingam
Dr. Devendra Mishra
Christine Wong
Alam Muhammad
Councillor Colin Campbell
Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong

Regrets:

Councillor Amanda Collucci
Laila Jiwa
Kamla Malhotra
Diane Gabay
Ramma Chabra, Vice-Chair
Mithan Lal Kansal
Almas Mawani

Staff:

Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer
Mary Creighton, Director, Recreation Services
Janet Beatty, Recreation Coordinator
Josh Machesney, Acting Legislative Coordinator, Committee Clerk
Jason Tsien

Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. Call to Order & Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest	The Seniors Advisory Committee convened at 3:04 PM with Gail Leet presiding as Chair.	
2. Approval of the May 9, 2017 Seniors Advisory Committee Minutes	That the May 9, 2017 minutes be approved. Carried.	
3. Unionville Home Society – Rick Farrell, York Region	<p>Gail Leet, Chair, introduced Rick Farrell, General Manager of Housing Services for York Region.</p> <p>Mr. Farrell provided a brief presentation on affordable housing initiatives in York Region, and discussed the role of the Unionville Home Society in helping to provide long term care to seniors in Markham. He explained that affordable housing in York Region is scarce, with approximately 6,800 housing units available for 14,000 families seeking affordable housing.</p> <p>Mr. Farrell advised that Heritage Village for seniors will be redeveloped into a senior's affordable housing project. York Region has received several provincial and federal grants to help with the capital costs of the project. The rental price per residence is expected to range from \$400-\$1700. He explained that residents who can afford to pay a higher rental price will help to offset the operational costs for residents who need affordable housing options.</p> <p>Mr. Farrell explained that York Region Housing Services is working with a community liaison committee to ensure that the new affordable housing facility will have the amenities and senior's programs that are reflective and supportive of the diverse senior's community in Markham. The presentation was concluded with a picture slideshow of other current affordable housing projects currently underway elsewhere in York Region.</p> <p>Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong thanked Mr. Farrell for his presentation and expressed her concern about the rash of seniors in Markham receiving eviction notices. She inquired about what York Region was doing to address this issue in Markham, and what York Region Housing Services is doing to address the issue of cultural sensitivity in senior's residences. Gail Leet also inquired about</p>	

	<p>what York Region is doing to let seniors know what their housing options are.</p> <p>Mr. Farrell responded by explaining that York Region is committed to offering rental prices in housing units that are affordable. York Region receives between \$10-13 million on average per year from the Federal Government to help them keep up with the increasing demand for affordable housing in the Region. With respect to addressing the issue of cultural sensitivity in senior's residences, Mr. Farrell assured the Committee that they are looking at implementing an "inclusive model" in their housing initiatives and encourage residents to form cultural groups within residences and use hubs and common rooms for cultural purposes.</p>	
4. Art Showcase & Sale – Conclusion	<p>Gail Leet informed that the Art Showcase and Sale was successful, with over 150 pictures on display. She thanked the show sponsors.</p> <p>She advised the Committee that she booked the new Aaniin Community Centre and Library on June 19, 2018 for a Craft Show, as next year's project.</p>	
5. Free Dental Care for Markham Update	<p>Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer, reiterated that it is outside of the City's scope of responsibility, though the City would be willing to educate and work with private dentists who would be willing to provide free dental care to Markham seniors.</p> <p>Gail Leet advised that Arul Rajasingam provided her with a report on the matter, and will review and send to Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong for her comments and direction.</p> <p>Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong informed the Committee that she would be taking the matter to the York Region Seniors Advisory Committee, as public health is the jurisdiction of upper-tier governments.</p>	
6. Hall of Fame Awards	<p>Yash Kapur advised the Committee of the deadline for submitting nominations for this year's Seniors Hall of Fame Awards is September 8th. Nominees must have been a resident of Markham for at least 7 years and be at least 60 years of age or older.</p> <p>The awards presentation will take place October 2nd, 2017, with CTV's Lloyd Robertson as the keynote speaker. He encouraged members to submit</p>	

	nominations.	
7. Seniors Extravaganza	Gail Leet advised that the Seniors Extravaganza will take place October 16 th at Flato Markham Theatre. She asked other members to help spread the word. She also invited interested members to join the sub-committee to help with fund-raising.	
8. Facebook Page	<p>Andy Taylor, Chief Administrative Officer, stressed that the views expressed on the Committee's Facebook page should reflect the collective view of the Committee and not the views of individual members.</p> <p>Gail Leet assured Staff that Facebook group is disseminating seniors-related information and not for expressing political views.</p>	
9. Healthy Aging in a Diverse Ontario with the Honourable Dipika Damerla, Minister of Seniors Affairs	Satya Arora described the Healthy Aging in a Diverse Ontario presentation, given by Dipika Damerla, Minister of Seniors Affairs that she and Anthony Ko attended.	
10. New Business	There was no new business.	
11. Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 4:19 PM	