

Seniors Advisory Committee

Tuesday November 8, 2016

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Ontario Room

Minutes

Attendance:

Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong
Councillor Colin Campbell
Ramma Chabra, Vice-Chair
Councillor Amanda Collucci
Laila Jiwa

Yash Kapur
Gail Leet, Chair
Dr. Devendra Mishra
Faiz Mohyuddin
Bala Ponniah
Asad Shariff
Christine Wong

Staff:

Andy Taylor, CAO
Brenda Librecz, Commissioner, Community & Fire Services
Janet Beatty, Recreation Coordinator
Michael Blackburn, Marketing & Communications Advisor
Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation
Vanessa Rhodes, Legislative Coordinator, Committee Clerk
Jason Tsien, Community Manager, North

Regrets:

Diane Gabay
Katy Kwan
Sajeda Shirazi
Manickampillai Velauthapillai

Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. Call to Order & Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest	The Seniors Advisory Committee convened at 4:03 PM, with Gail Leet presiding as Chair.	

2. Approval of the October 11, 2016 Seniors Advisory Committee Minutes	<p>October 11, 2016 minutes were approved by the Committee.</p>	<p>.</p>
3. Overview of Services Provided to Seniors	<p>Andy Taylor, CAO and Brenda Librecz, Commissioner Community & Fire Services attended the Committee meeting to communicate how the Older Adults Strategic plan aligns with the committee, and the overarching goals of the City.</p> <p>Before the presentation began, Andy Taylor, CAO introduced himself to the committee and discussed his role and responsibilities as the City's CAO. Brenda Librecz, Commissioner of Community & Fire Services then introduced herself to the committee and explained her role and responsibilities as the Commissioner. Commissioner Librecz, and then introduced Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation to the committee.</p> <p>Commissioner Librecz presented an overview of services that are offered to Seniors.</p> <p>The Region of York offers programs and services to Seniors, including programs that are integral to health care. The City of Markham is not responsible for the oversight of health care.</p> <p>Region of York is responsible for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health care services • Housing and Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Low-income housing • York Regional Social Services • York Regional Police <p>City of Markham responsibilities/oversight for Seniors include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30% discount offered on all recreational programs for Seniors. • Markham Public Libraries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Computer tutorials, book clubs, homebound – library delivers to older adults who are unable to leave the house. • Asset Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessibility guidelines and retrofitting city facilities to ensure they 	

	<p>are easily accessible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ public education on fire safety workshops • Environmental services (Waste & Water): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assistive recycling, supports residents who are unable to place waste materials at curbs for waste pick-up (residents are required to call to be placed on a list). • Operations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ snow windrow program helps individuals who require assistance with windrow removal (residents are required to call to be placed on a list). • Contact Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ provides translation services • Corporate Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessibility features for the City's website and other platforms, for example text size • Revenue & Property taxation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ property tax deferral program for persons who require financial assistance • By-law & Licencing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discounted rates for pet licencing • Planning & urban design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Accessibility guidelines; the planning of communities and how the City can make them more accessible to seniors. • Culture & Economic Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Senior theatre tickets, Varley Art gallery and the Markham Museum offer discounts for Seniors. <p>Ramma Chabra raised the issue that the above noted programs and discounts that are offered to Seniors is not widely communicated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brenda identified that there is a lack of communication and knowledge surrounding the programming opportunities available, and will work with Mary Creighton to increase awareness of the programs and discounts offered by the City. • Gail Leet mentioned that Senior rates for theatre tickets are not offered 	
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	<p>online. Mary Creighton will reach out to Eric at the Theatre to resolve this issue.</p> <p>Commissioner Librecz identified four corporate initiatives that are currently underway, and each addresses Seniors' needs in various capacities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity Action Plan: Review program promotion, and community services • Integrated Leisure Master Plan: dedicated seniors space in new and expanded major community centres • Older Adult Strategy: Reviewing definition of age range for Seniors, and affordable and sustainable pricing of programs • Accessibility Design Guidelines <p>Commissioner Librecz concluded the presentation by providing a brief update on the status and timeline of the City's Older Adult Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 2015 funding for the Strategy was received • Presently – the consultant is working with various stakeholders to develop a first draft of their findings • Q1 of 2017, the draft will be reviewed by staff, and it will be presented to the committee and revised, as required. <p>There are currently 3 outcomes of the Older Adult Strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome #1: Definition of age range for corporate use. • Outcome #2: Affordable and sustainable pricing framework (e.g., ability to pay model, subsidy based on needs). • Outcome #3: Age-friendly components to space planning: outdoor spaces and buildings, social participation, and more outdoor benches <p>The objective of the project is to align City services with the Region and Markham-Stouffville Hospital, and assess gaps in services.</p> <p>Jason Tsien mentioned that Markham-Stouffville Hospital began their Older Adult Strategy approximately a month ago. Their Strategy's objective is to identify how to connect Seniors with community services and programs once they leave the</p>	
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	<p>hospital.</p> <p>Regional Councillor Armstrong thanked the CAO and Commissioner for attending the meeting to provide an overview of the services the City offers to Seniors.</p>	
4. 2016 Health Fair	<p>Janet Beatty provided the Committee with an update on the Health Fair. The Health Fair will be held at the Thornhill Community Centre at 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Committee members and volunteers have been asked to arrive at 9:00 a.m. to assist the vendors with set-up.</p>	
5. New Business	<p>The committee discussed the City's Christmas bus tour that would drive Seniors around to see different Christmas lights in various parts of the City. As there is insufficient time to plan a bus tour for 2016, this event will not proceed this year. The CAO, however, is supportive of this initiative for future years.</p> <p>Councillor Collucci advised the Committee that a Committee has begun planning the City's 2017 Canada Day event, and the Senior's luncheon will be hosted again in 2017 on Canada Day.</p> <p>Commissioner Librecz discussed that an advisory committee cannot apply for grants, as it is an advisory committee of Council. Raising funds to support events or programs organized by an advisory committee would be obtained through sponsorships acquired through community sponsors.</p> <p>Regional Councillor Armstrong raised a concern regarding the lack of communication about events and services occurring in the community that pertain to Seniors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Librecz and Director Mary Creighton will look into alternative methods of advertising what programs the City offers and events that are held for Seniors. 	

6. Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 5:44 p.m.	
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