

## Seniors Advisory Committee

Tuesday October 11, 2016

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Canada Room

### Minutes

**Attendance:**

Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong  
Councillor Colin Campbell  
Ramma Chabra, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Amanda Collucci  
Diane Gabay  
Laila Jiwa  
Yash Kapur  
Gail Leet, Chair  
Dr. Devendra Mishra  
Asad Shariff  
Manickampillai Velauthapillai  
Christine Wong

**Regrets:**

Katy Kwan  
Faiz Mohyuddin  
Bala Ponniah  
Sajeda Shirazi

**Staff:**

Janet Beatty, Recreation Coordinator  
Michael Blackburn, Marketing & Communications Advisor  
Vanessa Rhodes, Legislative Coordinator, Committee Clerk  
Kiran Saini, Manager of Access & Privacy  
Jason Tsien, Community Manager, North

Item	Discussion	Action Item
<b>1. Call to Order &amp; Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest</b>	The Seniors Advisory Committee convened at 3:02PM, with Gail Leet presiding as Chair.	
<b>2. Approval of the August 9, 2016 Seniors Advisory Committee Minutes</b>	Dr. Devendra Mishra raised a concern that the discussion from the previous Seniors Advisory Committee held on August 9, 2016 pertaining to a commitment of \$10,000.00 from Regional Councillor Armstrong to support an event in Spring	Kiran to add the discussion of Regional Councillor

	<p>2017 was not captured in the minutes.</p> <p>The minutes are approved; pending the discussion is included in the minutes.</p>	<p>Armstrong's commitment to the minutes.</p>
<b>3. 2016 Health Fair</b>	<p>In preparation for the upcoming Health Fair, Gail Leet and Janet Beatty will meet on October 18 or 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss the logistics and number of vendors, as their numbers were inconsistent. Janet confirmed that there are 30 vendors.</p> <p>The Chair requested the committee's assistance in securing more vendors for the fair. For members who require vendor applications, Gail will send the applications electronically.</p> <p>Michael Blackburn will work with Janet to develop a one-page advertising plan for the event. Once the plan has been developed, it will be sent to Gail for review.</p> <p>In an effort to increase awareness of the Senior's Extravaganza, Michael will connect with Lisa Lombardo in Corporate Communications to put some messaging on the City's social media outlets (e.g., Facebook, Twitter).</p> <p>Laila Jiwa has obtained bags, and requires letters on City stationary. Gail will send the letter to Janet to place on City letterhead.</p>	<p>Gail and Janet will meet on October 18 or 19<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Michael and Janet will develop a one page advertising plan.</p> <p>Michael will speak to Lisa about social media promotion.</p> <p>Gail will provide Janet letters for the City letterhead.</p>
<b>4. Older Adult Strategy</b>	<p>Jason Tsien provided an update to the Committee on the Older Adult Strategy.</p> <p>Two surveys were undertaken for the Older Adult Strategy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Community Service Providers (e.g., non-profit organizations)</li> <li>2. Public Survey</li> </ol> <p>The Community Service Provider survey has a low response rate. There are currently only 47 organizations that have completed the survey to date; however, the minimum target is 65. To obtain the target of 65, the deadline to complete the survey is extended until October 21<sup>st</sup>.</p> <p>Vanessa Rhodes will send the link for Community Service Providers survey to the Committee so members can distribute the link to organizations to complete.</p>	<p>Vanessa will send the survey link to the committee.</p> <p>Vanessa will schedule a second meeting in November.</p> <p>Jason will circulate the Region's report.</p>

	<p>For Committee members who require hard copies of the survey, advise Jason and he will deliver it to the appropriate members.</p> <p>1007 surveys have been completed for the public survey, which exceeded the minimum threshold required for a reliable response rate.</p> <p>4 community consultations took place at 4 locations in Markham:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Centennial</li><li>2. Armadale</li><li>3. Thornhill</li><li>4. Angus Glen</li></ol> <p>The findings obtained from the data will be provided to Jason at the end of the month.</p> <p>Next steps: The responses from the consultations, in addition to the data received online, will be consolidated into a package. The Committee will receive a copy of the package when the consultants present the Report to the Committee in November 2016.</p> <p>Vanessa will schedule a second meeting in November (after November 17<sup>th</sup>) for 90 minutes for the consultants to present the Report to the Committee.</p> <p>Preliminary findings show that communication, transportation and programming are the 3 most important issues that will need to be addressed in the Older Adult Strategy.</p> <p>Regional Councillor Armstrong discussed the Region's Task Force. Their Report is online on their website. Jason will send the link to the committee.</p>	
--	---	--

<p><b>5. New Business</b></p>	<p>Gail Leet raised the item that was missing from the last minutes, relating to a commitment of \$10,000 from Regional Councillor Armstrong to fund a Spring event.</p> <p>Regional Councillor Armstrong agreed that the commitment should be added to the minutes, but the event was not voted on as it was an idea that was discussed. A committee will be created after the Health Fair, to begin organizing a Spring event. Once an event has been decided on, the funding dollars will be discussed.</p> <p>Gail discussed that the City used to have a bus that took Seniors on a tour of Markham to look at Christmas lights and the various community centres in the area. Regional Councillor Armstrong will follow-up on the Christmas tour and bus.</p> <p>Regional Councillor Armstrong provided an update to the Committee on the community consultation. The consultation takes place on the first Saturday in October, and there were 60 people in attendance. The topics included: housing, transportation and Seniors needs.</p> <p>Councillor Collucci noted that she attended the Angus Glen public consultation session and Seniors in her area are concerned about transportation and a lack of gathering spaces designated for Seniors in Markham.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the various community centres that have an Older Adults Club. For example, Angus Glen has an Older Adults Club and their annual fee is \$60.00, which provides access to most activities in the Club.</p> <p>The Committee members discussed that there is a lack of communication and information sharing to residents and community members about events taking place across the City. Councillor Collucci mentioned that she distributes community information via Facebook to her constituents. Regional Councillor Armstrong noted that she posts pictures of the events that she attends on her Facebook page.</p> <p>Dr. Devendra Mishra shared with the committee that he received an International Award for his literary contributions to the Hindi literature; the award was circulated to Committee members.</p> <p>Michael will speak to Dennis Flaherty to find out if Dr. Devendra Mishra's poem can be highlighted in an upcoming Markham Life magazine.</p>	<p>Michael will connect with Dennis about Markham Life.</p> <p>Gail will provide Councillor Collucci 20 tickets for the Seniors Extravaganza.</p>
-------------------------------	---	---

	Councillor Collucci requested 20 tickets for the Seniors Extravaganza on October 17 <sup>th</sup> – Gail will provide Councillor Collucci with the tickets after this meeting.	
<b>6. Adjournment</b>	The Seniors Advisory Committee adjourned at 4:28 PM.	