

**MINUTES**  
**SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**February 8, 2011**  
**2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M**

Attendance: Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Councillor Valerie Burke, Councillor Carolina Moretti, Angela Morris, Chair, Warren Carroll, Ramma Chabra, Jaswant Dhanjal, Katy Kwan, Susan Leppington, Ivy Ng, Sandra Donin, , Manickampillai Velauthapillai, Lori Wells, Manager of Programs, and Laura Gold, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Jeyasakthy Thayaparan

Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. Call to Order	The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting convened at 4:11 p.m. with Angela Morris presiding as Chair.	
2. Approval of Minutes, November 9, 2010 Seniors' Advisory Committee	Moved by Warren Carroll Seconded by Jaswant Dhanjal  That the Minutes from the Seniors Advisory Committee held on November 9, 2010 be adopted as presented.  <div style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</div>	
3. Changes or Additions to the Agenda	There were no changes or additions to the agenda.	
4. Presentation on Seniors Clubs and Organizations	Ms. Lori Wells, Manager of Programs, and Ms. Susan Watts, Seniors Coordinator, provided a presentation entitled "Presentation on Existing Seniors' Services in Markham". An overview of Markham's Recreational Services was provided, advising that seniors age 65 and older receive a discount on all recreational programs offered by the Town and seniors age 55 or older are eligible to join a seniors club. The Town offers a variety of programs and events for seniors (e.g. swimming, cooking, the Canada Day Luncheon and the Seniors Extravaganza). The following Seniors Clubs and Groups were discussed: Thornhill Seniors Club; Milliken on the Move; Older Adults in Action; Angus Glen; Armadale Community Centre; Amici; and Viva Italian Seniors.	

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	<p>The membership fee for Town Seniors' Clubs is \$25. It was noted most of these clubs are full. The issue of space was discussed. Shared space was explained to be ineffective, as user groups are constantly competing for space. Scheduling was also problematic, as Seniors programs run 12 months a year and the Town's recreational programs run on 8 week intervals.</p> <p>The issue regarding seniors belonging to more than one club was discussed, as there are a limited number of spots and most of the seniors' clubs have waiting list. The issue of seniors' from other clubs being able to participate in programs for less than the cost members are charged was noted. A suggestion was made that the Town rent space for seniors at vacant schools or at private clubs.</p>	
<p>5. Presentation On Seniors Clubs &amp; Organizations</p>	<p>Mr. Warren Carroll provided a presentation entitled "The Seniors are Coming". There are 58,355 seniors' from 55 to 85 living in Markham. The number of seniors' living in Ontario is projected to more than double by 2036, noting this age group will grow faster than any other age group in Markham. Immigrants have a long tradition of caring for their elderly parents. With Markham having a large immigrant population, there will likely be an increase in the demand for seniors' services over the coming years.</p> <p>There was a discussion regarding having a centralized seniors' club, which would centralize both the use of space and programs offered. This structure permits for information to disseminate from numerous agencies, the Province and the Town.</p> <p>Drop in programs for seniors were explained to have a need, but risk being suspended at any time. A recommendation was to transform drop-in seniors' centers with more than 250-300 users into a seniors' club with a Board/Committee to provide it with direction.</p> <p>Currently, some seniors' are using Seniors' Clubs as a form of daycare. Seniors' are being dropped off at the centers' for long durations of time. This leads to a growing need to provide nutritious lunches for seniors. The centers provide a place for seniors to go who otherwise would be alone in their homes. The support and expertise of trained professionals is needed to aid members to understand the grants available to them and to assist with members with health issues.</p>	

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	<p>If a club decides to become "not for profit" it can raise its own funds. It must then pay its own insurance and it may apply for grants. It was highly recommended that these clubs be audited.</p> <p>It was recommended that a Town policy be created that provides consistent rules for all Seniors' Clubs to follow. Currently, there is a lack of consistency regarding who can join, residency requirements, fees and activity costs. It was suggested that each seniors' club have a staff liaison assigned to the club to ensure that: decisions are not being made that impact the Town; staff are available to answer questions and to provide solutions; and for safety and security reasons.</p>	
<p>6. Business Arising From Minutes</p> <p>A. Response to Committee's inquiry regarding affordable housing</p> <p>B. Response to Committee's inquiry regarding a York Region Transit bus without destination Stops</p> <p>C. Celebrate Markham Grant</p>	<p>An email response by Murray Boyce, Planning and Urban Design, was circulated to the Committee.</p> <p>It was reported that York Region Transit routes 40 &amp; 41 run without destination stops after 7:30 p.m. This is part of York Region's small bus strategy.</p> <p>This item was deferred to the next agenda.</p>	<p>Add Celebrate Markham Grants to the next Agenda.</p>
7. Next Meeting	The next meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee will be on March 8, 2011 in the Canada Room.	
8. Adjournment	The Seniors Advisory Committee adjourned at 6:05 p.m.	