

MINUTES
SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE OCTOBER 18, 2011
4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Attendance: Angela Morris, Chair, Ramma Chabra, Jaswant Dhanjal, Sandra Donin, Dennis Flaherty, Yash Kapur, Susan Leppington, Katy Kwan, Gail Leet, Marsha Mariani, Jeyasakthy Thayaparan Manickampillai Velauthapillai, and Ramanlal Patel and Laura Gold, Committee Clerk. Regrets: Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Warren Carroll	
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Item	Discussion	Action Item
1) CALL TO ORDER	The Senior's Advisory Committee meeting convened at 4:09 p.m. with Angela Morris presiding as Chair.	
2) ORIENTATION PRESENTATION	Laura Gold, Committee Coordinator, provided a Board/Committee Orientation.	
3) CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA	An item was added under new business regarding a survey being conducted by the Law Commission on seniors' issues.	
4) APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES	The date of the next meeting was updated, as it was changed after the meeting. That the Minutes of the September 13, 2011 Seniors Advisory Committee be adopted as amended. CARRIED.	
5) COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY RELATIONS PRESENTATION	The following Sub-Committee was formed to provide advice to Communications & Community Relations on seniors' materials (e.g. the Seniors section of Markham Life): Susan Leppington Gail Leet Yash Kapur Marsha Mariani Jaswant Dhanjal Mr. Dennis Flaherty, Director of Communication & Community Relations, presented the	

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	Seniors' section of Markham Life. The Committee made the following recommendations regarding Markham Life: 1) That the font size of the contact information and the seniors' section be enlarged; 2) That the colour contrast be reviewed, as it is difficult for persons who are visually impaired to read; 3) Add more colour tabs; 4) Look into the possibility of removing language barriers wherever possible; 5) Advertise events like the Seniors Extravaganza and the Seniors Hall of Fame in Markham Life. Mr. Flaherty questioned if seniors' would be willing to read Markham Life online. The Committee felt that most seniors' would prefer to read a hard copy of Markham Life. Although this could change in the future, as internet usage is increasing quickly amongst persons 50 years plus. Mr. Flaherty asked if Markham's Seniors Centres could benefit from having additional computers. It was thought that the Centre's could benefit from having additional software provided, noting there is no space for additional computers. The Committee felt it would be beneficial to hold sessions for seniors on how to use the internet. It was noted that the Town of Markham's website uses a program called Google translator to translate text on the website. However, it does not translate documents like Markham Life, which are in PDF format. It was explained there are a number of Town staff who help translate information for residents. Mr. Flaherty asked the Committee for its opinion on why seniors' enrollment at fitness centres is down. It was noted that the membership is quite expensive for Seniors' and that some Seniors' may be participating in recreational programs offered at a lower cost through Markham Seniors Centres.	
1) NEW BUSINESS	Mr. Noor Din, CEO, Human Endeavour, and Ms. Tazim Bhanji, Manager-Family Programs,	Add seniors space to

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(CONTINUED)	Social Services Network, were in attendance to discuss seniors' programs for Tamil and South Asians. There was a discussion on Tamil and South Asian programs for seniors' in Markham. It was reported that the cost of renting space in Markham is a challenge, noting that the City of Vaughan offers free space for seniors groups, which helps make seniors programs possible. It was explained that transportation can also be a barrier to participation. It was reported that the Social Services Network provides diverse programs for seniors at Armadale Community Centre every day from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. There is currently a wait list for the South Asian seniors' program. It was clarified that the space is not provided free of charge. It was noted that Markham Seniors' Clubs may apply for a seniors' grant to help cover its operating costs. Mr. Din advised he would email staff the Vaughan guidelines for providing space for seniors'. It was requested the Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation, come to a future meeting to review space available to seniors' groups in Markham. <u>Law Commission Survey for Seniors</u> Ms. Susan Leppington advised the Committee of a survey issued by the Law Commission of Ontario regarding seniors' issues and the law. The Committee was encouraged to complete the Survey	the next agenda – Laura Gold Invite Mary Creighton, Director of Recreation, to come to a future meeting to review space available to seniors' groups in Markham.
2) Next Meeting	The next meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee will be held on November 8, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. in the Canada Room.	
3) Adjournment	The Seniors Advisory Committee adjourned at 6:04 p.m.	