

MINUTES
SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
September 13, 2011
4:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Attendance: Deputy Mayor Jack Heath, Angela Morris, Chair, Ramma Chabra, Jaswant Dhanjal, Dennis Flaherty, Yash Kapur, Katy Kwan, Gail Leet, Susan Leppington, Jeyasakthy Thayaparan Manickampillai Velauthapillai, Susan Leppington, and Laura Gold, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Warren Carroll, Sandra Donin, Marsha Mariani, and Ramanlal Patel

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. OPENING REMARKS	<p>The Seniors Advisory Committee thanked Ivy Ng and Shirley Burchell for their contributions to the Committee and for serving on the Seniors Advisory Committee.</p> <p>Ms. Angela Morris, Chair, welcomed the new members. An overview of the issues focused on in 2010-2011 was provided. The issues included transportation, space for seniors, affordable housing, and awareness of seniors' services.</p>	
3. CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA	There were no changes of additions to the Agenda.	
4. COMMUNICATION & COMMUNITY RELATIONS PRESENTATION	<p>Mr. Dennis Flaherty, Director of Communication & Community Relations, suggested that the committee develop a work plan with tangible goals. It was noted that the Committee could work with Communications & Community Relations to establish/finalize a brochure for the Seniors Advisory Committee and to improve the seniors section of Markham Life. It was suggested that a targeted marketing approach be used to improve communications to seniors.</p> <p>It was recommended that the seniors section of Markham Life be reviewed in detail on an overhead projector at the next meeting and that feedback be provided to Communications</p>	<p>Review the seniors section of Markham Life in detail on an overhead projector at the next meeting – All Committee Members</p> <p>Invite a representative from communications</p>

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	<p>& Community Relations. A sub-committee will then be formed to work with staff to improve the section. It was requested that a representative from Communications & Community Relations be invited to the next meeting to participate in this exercise. Mr. Flaherty requested that he be added to the Seniors Advisory Committee distribution list.</p>	<p>to participate in the review of the seniors' section of Markham Life – Laura Gold</p> <p>Form a Sub-Committee at the next meeting to work on the seniors section of Markham Life – All Committee Members</p> <p>Add Dennis Flaherty to the Seniors Advisory Committee distribution list – Laura Gold</p>
<p>5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES</p>	<p>A minor typo was corrected.</p> <p>That the Minutes of the June 14, 2011 Seniors Advisory Committee be adopted as amended. CARRIED.</p>	
<p>6. NEW BUSINESS</p>	<p><u>Space for Seniors</u></p> <p>It was noted that transportation issues cannot be easily resolved due to the cost of providing the service. Consequently, it was suggested that the Committee focus on space for seniors and on improving the awareness of services offered to seniors'. It was agreed that travel would be less of an issue if seniors clubs were located close to people's homes. Agreements could be made to use the facilities of local schools and places of faith to host the clubs.</p> <p>It was suggested that staff investigate the model used for planning seniors' space. Currently, seniors' space is incorporated into community centres. The Markham Seniors Centre, which is a standalone facility, was previously used as the model.</p> <p>It was requested that seniors' space be added to the next agenda.</p>	<p>Add seniors space to the next agenda – Laura Gold</p>

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	<p><u>Defining Seniors</u> The Committee discussed the age at what a person is considered a senior and how seniors should be referred to in Town communications (e.g. older adults, or seniors). It was suggested that 55-65 be referred to as older adults and 65 plus be considered as seniors.</p> <p><u>Accessible Taxi Cabs</u> It was reported that new legislation prohibits taxis from charging a premium fee for an accessible taxi cab and that going forward Markham will be issuing more transferable accessible taxi cab licenses.</p>	
7. Next Meeting	The next meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee will be held on October 19, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.in the Canada Room.	
8. Adjournment	The Seniors Advisory Committee adjourned at 5:43 p.m.	