

**City of Niagara Falls
Seniors Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday March 10th, 2022 1:00pm**

The meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee of the City of Niagara Falls was held on Thursday February 10th, 2022 via Zoom with Otto Penner chairing. Otto welcomed all in attendance. Meeting called to order at 1:10 pm.

Present: Otto Penner, Karen Fraser, Joe Szabo, Phyllis Wells Giel, Ewald Kuczera, Fred Hodder, Jack Widder, Anne Wylie, Councillor Wayne Campbell, Kathy Moldenhauer, Hanya Nagy, and DJ Brooks

Regrets: Donna Mills

Absent: Linda Winston and Councillor Chris Dabrowski

Agenda: *a motion* “to approve the agenda of the March 10th, 2022 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting” made by Ewald Kuczera - seconded by Fred Hodder and *carried*.

Minutes: *a motion* “to approve the minutes of the February 10th, 2022 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting” made by Karen Fraser - seconded by Joe Szabo and *carried*.

Business Arising from Minutes

a) Flag

- a. Hanya showed the proof of the flag that had been ordered.
- b. Kathy advised a formal request must be made in one of the May meetings to fly the flag for seniors month.

a motion “to request that the Seniors flag be flown for the month of June; as time permits with other flag requests” made by Ewald Kuczera - seconded by Karen Fraser and *carried*.

DJ/Hanya to make a formal request for the May 10th meeting.

b) Trail Etiquette

- a. Kathy advised there is no update at this time.

New Business

a) Water/Sewer Bills (Seniors Rebate)

- a. Ewald broke down the increase in the water/sewer bills.
- b. With the increase Ewald suggested the committee advocate for a larger seniors rebate.
- c. Kathy advised we could bring in a supervisor or manager from finance with a deeper understanding of the sewer/water billing process in to advise the group.

- d. Ewald suggested reviewing the nuts and bolts of the process was not his intent rather that the increase was significant and as such higher savings would be needed to maintain the goal of the rebate.
- e. Otto and Wayne agreed that having even a high-level conversation regarding the process could help inform the committee if they go to the council asking for a rebate.
- f. Ewald suggest some very specific questions for the potential guest.

a motion “to bring in a finance staff member to make a presentation and answer questions regarding sewer/water billing increases for the June SAC meeting” made by Wayne Campbell - seconded by Fred Hodder and **carried**.

- g. Ewald to forward questions to DJ to disperse to the group and the potential guest.

b) **In Person Meetings**

- a. Hanya explained the boardroom is available for hybrid meetings where members could come in or via zoom depending on their comfort level.
- b. Joe asked about masking and vaccine certifications.
 - i. DJ explained that the province had changed the rules around masking and screening and the city facilities were following prescribed guidelines
 - ii. Wayne was unhappy of the change of protocol without council’s direction. Kathy advised the EOC was following provincial guidelines.
 - iii. Wayne to follow up at council meeting in March.

c) **Seniors Month**

- a. Suggested any events or ideas be forwarded to DJ.
- b. Joe suggested potentially arranging on event around the flag raising.

d) **Free Busing for Seniors**

- a. Wayne advised that transportation is still in flux as it transitions to a Regional system.
- b. Wayne also explained that free busing for seniors is still on that table and a priority.

e) **News & Views**

- a. Karen discussed that idea for a flashback episode. Also for their 1 year anniversary in June to have Hanya, Kathy, and the Mayor back as they did the first episode. Also, this would be an opportunity to promote the MacBain reopening with City programming.

f) **Rack Cards**

- a. Hanya showed the rack card design created by the communications department.

- b. DJ/Hanya to get quotes for printing.
- c. Wayne suggested that since the material on the cards are not time sensitive we purchase in bulk for a greater savings.

a motion “to spend up to \$500 on printing for high quality rack cards” made by Anne Wylie - seconded by Fred Hodder and ***carried***.

a) **Seniors Signage at MacBain**

- a. Hanya advised that the signage colour choice of black was selected and the signs will be made and installed.
- b. Ewald brought up that the signs are not enforceable and Hanya agreed but was hopeful that people would respect the signage.

Adjournment

a motion “to adjourn the meeting” was made by Phyllis Wells Giel, seconded by Ewald Kuczera. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Next Meeting – Thursday April 14th, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.