

**City of Niagara Falls  
Seniors Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday November 18 2021 1:00pm**

The meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee of the City of Niagara Falls was held on November 18, 2021 via Zoom with Otto Penner chairing. Otto welcomed all in attendance. Meeting called to order at 1:08 pm.

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

**Regrets:** Donna Mills

**Minutes: a motion** “to approve the agenda of the November 18, 2021 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting made by Karen Fraser - seconded by Wayne Campbell and **carried**.”

**Minutes: a motion** “to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2021 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting” made by Fred Hodder - seconded by Ewald Kuczera and **carried**.”

**Errors and Omissions:** Ewald pointed out that the Business arising from the minutes 5.0 a) was wrong. The Senior Pedestrian crossing signs should not be sent to the Niagara Parks commission, but rather for City Staff to review.

**Business Arising from Minutes**

- a) Senior Pedestrian Crossing Signs – The request has been sent to transportation
- b) Trail Etiquette - Otto has scribed a letter to the Niagara Parks commission requesting installing signs at major points of entry at trails for trail etiquette
- c) Drop Box – Live working document – Hanya requested with the IT department and is yet to hear back from them
- d) Senior of the Year Nominee – Otto attended the event and made the presentation to Harvey. Harvey is going to appear on the Seniors News and Views Show
- e) Tax Rebate Program – Kathy reminded the committee that the Finance department recommends that staff email the finance department every fall to consider a request for the rebate program.

Ewald suggested that having a fixed amount increase each year might not be realistic considering the cost of living has increased to almost 5%.

Councilor Campbell suggested sending it back to Council with his full support.

Ewald suggested a 4% increase for this year and that the committee could adjust accordingly next year. All committee members agreed. Ewald is to draft a motion and send to Hanya who will forward to committee members for approval.

## New Business

### a) Esther Szigeti – The changing of Bus routes

- 1.1. Hanya gave brief background details of Esther's concerns and also read two emails from staff from transportation explaining the rationale behind the changes of the routes
- 1.2. Karen commented that it is very concerning not just to Esther but for all seniors who reside in the apartment building and that city staff does not understand how important this stop is to seniors. Esther is 87 years old. This stop is in lieu of another stop for students and she thinks it should be students to walk further to a stop and not seniors. The residents of the complex now have to walk down the driveway, down to Lowes, cross at the lights and walk up to petro can to the stop. No senior citizen will cross Mcleod. Further, the new stop is a sign on a pole whereas the old stop was sheltered. Karen also reminded the committee that when the committee did a review of chair-a-van, it was very difficult to get an appointment.
- 1.3. Hanya to scan and send the committee Esther's map which outlines the old and new routes so the committee could gain a better understanding of Esther's concerns.
- 1.4. Councillor Wayne Campbell suggested the committee put a letter together and send to the City Clerk that staff look at the situation with the reasons so stated.
- 1.5. The Chair, Otto, agreed that this particular concern falls within the committees mandate and is incumbent to improve the lives of seniors within Niagara Falls.
- 1.6. **a motion** "to send a letter to the City Clerk addressing transit concerns" made by Ewald Kuczera - seconded by Linda Watson and **carried unanimously**
- 1.7. Ewald to draft a letter to the City Clerk and send to Hanya

### b) Niagara Older Adult Alliance

- 1.1 Otto reported that the Collaborative (a committee made up of twelve local Municipalities) has changed its name to the Niagara Older Adult Alliance. It was suggested that each of the 12 Municipalities rotate and host the bi-monthly meetings.
- 1.2 Otto had questions about if there is a cost to have a zoom meeting and needed some direction of the logistics. Hanya to help organize and set up the meetings.

### c) News and Views TV Show

- 1.1 Karen's report:

- The News & Views sub committee meets every Wed at 10 am on zoom. All are welcome.
- News & Views - Nov. episode - Jack assured us that a zoom meeting was as good as in person interviews so as an experiment we tried a hybrid show. Me on zoom, the others on site. The committee was not happy with how the zoom part came across so we have decided the experiment failed. Thank you to all city staff that participate. The show was very interesting & well presented.
- Dec 8 show is all confirmed & ready to go.
- Jan 6 - We would like to do the entire show with a SAC member round table and talk  
about retirement & volunteerism. How to live a fulfilling life in our "golden years".
- Feb 2 - Perhaps, a fitness leader from Coronation to lead us in exercising at home during the winter.
- 2022 -Cogeco - We are pre booked for the 1st Wed of every month at 1:30PM
- Right now we are doing 3 X 10 min segments for a monthly half hour show. If we could get more more guests in on a taping day we could produce 2 half hour shows to be show throughout the month. We could leave that as a future option. That was not our original vision.
- Joe is willing to take photos as each show progresses so that we have photos for future media posts.
- We would like to have our own facebook page to partner with the show segments.
- We would like a posting on the Millennium Clock 2nd wk. of every month.
- We would like everyone to get a copy of our calendar for the year. We need everyone to fill in as many suggestions in the open spots with possible guests.
- This show is a group effort & we need as much feedback & contacts as possible.

Thank you one & all

### **2022 News & Views possible segment ideas**

Jan 6 - 28th Let's Talk day

- Whole SAC committee to talk about retiring & volunteering

Feb 2

- Valentines Day, Family Day, Black History Month

4th - World Cancer day =

- Dr.-
- Oncologist contacted- Joe -

Mar 3 - St. Patrick's Day, Daylight savings time, Homeless Month

- 3- 9 Mental health week
- Regional homeless programs

#### April

- Easter, 22 Earth day, week, April-is-oral-health-month/program expanded
- Philomena – runs the free dental centre for seniors. - Joe

#### May

- May - Mother's Day - 28 Sun Awareness
- Election info Fair Vote Canada

June - **Seniors Month**, 4 National Health & Fitness day  
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/ministry-seniors-accessibility>

- Someone from Coronation describing fitness programs

July - Canada Day trivia questions

Aug - Trillium Awards - winners & pictures

Sept - Senior of the Year nomination, World Alzheimer's month, City Volunteer Recognition nominations

Oct - Thanksgiving - Property & Hydro Rebate, World Polio Day/Wk

Nov - Remembrance Day + Veteran's Week, 14th World Diabetes Day, Movember

Dec 3 -International Day of Persons with Disabilities -GNCC - Mishka - Mentoring program

#### d) **Vetrans**

Councillor Campbell reported he went to a very interesting meeting with respect to seniors, specifically veterans who are homeless. It was very moving and interesting. He suggested having this as a topic for the show. Wayne is to contact the organizer of the meeting.

#### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:09 pm on a motion from Ewald Kuczera - seconded by Fred Hodder and **carried**.

**Next Meeting – Thursday December 9, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.**