

**City of Niagara Falls
Seniors Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday October 14 2021**

The meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee of the City of Niagara Falls was held on October 14, 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, Councillor Wayne Campbell, Kathy Moldenhauer, Hanya Nagy

Regrets: Linda Winston, Donna Mills, Fred Hodder

Minutes: a motion “to approve the agenda of the October, 2021 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting made by Ewald Kuczera - seconded by Phyllis Wells Giel and **carried.**

Minutes: a motion “to approve the minutes of the September, 2021 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting” made by Ewald Kuczera - seconded by Wayne Campbell and **carried.**

Business Arising from Minutes

New Business

a) Senior Pedestrian Crossing Signs

1.1. Councillor Campbell forwarded Ewald’s email to Carey Campbell.

1.2 Kathy to follow up the email with transportation staff.

1.2.1 Copy of email:

September 9, 2021

Good afternoon Councillor Campbell,

This is further to discussion of the attached item raised by Karen Fraser, a member of the Seniors Advisory Committee, at today's meeting. She observed that signs had been erected in several locations (one on Lundy's Lane and two at different retirement homes) warning of seniors crossing the roadway. It was requested that other locations be identified which may qualify for similar type warning signs. I understand that you would be willing to forward the matter to appropriate staff for a response as to what may be considered. This item will tentatively be on the October 14, 2021 meeting for further discussion.

Thank you for your assistance in this regard.

Respectfully,

Ewald Kuczera,

b) Bike Etiquette

- 1.1 Councillor Campbell asked for clarification from Kathy with regard to bicycles on walkways and asked if they are restricted to a certain diameter geared towards pre-teen bicycles.
- 1.2 Kathy confirmed this was correct, however bicycles are allowed on the parkway, which is considered a trail.
- 1.3 The Committee suggested putting forward a proposal for signage with regard to trail etiquette informing people who ride their bikes to give sufficient warning to people ahead of them. Kathy suggested reaching out to the Parks Commission requesting their assistance.
- 1.4 Councilor Campbell suggested that Hanya put a letter together and send to the Parks Commission requesting the consideration of reminders of trail etiquette.

c) News and Views TV Show

- 1.1 Karen reported they have got quite far with the initiative
- 1.2 News and Views taping are the first Thursday of every month at 1:00pm. This will help with planning and the booking of guests.
- 1.3 Jack Custer's from Cogeco would like the committee to do two shows per month. Karen explained that they were not quite prepared for two shows per month
- 1.4 It was decided that on first Thursday of every month, they are aiming for five 10-minute guests. The show will be taped for three of the guests and two will be banked.
- 1.5 Confirmed guests for November show is Kathy Moldenhauer and Hanya Nagy to talk about MacBain and Coronation Centre programs. Kathy also to discuss the 'Spooky Awards' and the winners.

Carla Stout from Transportation also to speak with regard to bus routes.
Councilor Dabrowski to confirm with Carla

- 1.6 Karen suggested that all planning notes be created in a live working document (drop box) so the committee can add their suggestions and comments. Future committee members could also refer to the document to refer to past meetings/notes. Hanya is to ask the City IT department for their recommendations.
- 1.7 Ewald to send the committee the Press Release that he has created and then send to Hanya for the Communications Dept. approval.

- 1.8 A brief discussion ensued with regard to guests and how we are not just limited to City staff, or resources. Guests should be of general interest topics to seniors. Councillor Campbell liked the idea and suggested inviting onto the show the 'Senior of the Year' nominee be invited as well as Long Term Care Home representatives as examples. Otto suggested Cyber Security experts to talk about scams etc.

d) Senior of the Year Nominations

- 1.1 Hanya emailed the committee the two nominations. Committee members should decide on a candidate and email Hanya the name of their nominee.

e) Tax Rebate Programs

- 1.1 Karen reminded the committee that as it was budget time, they should probably re visit the tax rebate program.
- 1.2 The committee wanted the Motion of the tax rebate for seniors repeated from 2020.

Motion from November 12, 2020

a motion 'to add a 1% annual increase to the water bill rebate to help with the cost of living increase was made by Karen Fraser - seconded by Anne Wylie. A discussion was ensued by the committee and **The motion was amended: a motion** 'to add a 2% annual increase to the water bill rebate to help with the cost of living increase' was made by Karen Fraser - seconded by Anne Wylie and **carried**.

a motion " to increase property tax rebates from \$40 to \$80 per year. Increase the property tax rebate at 1% per year due to the cost of living increase was made by Karen Fraser - seconded by Fred Hodder

A discussion was ensued by the committee and **The motion was amended: a motion** ' to increase property tax rebates from \$40 to \$80 per year. Increase the property tax rebate at 2% per year due to the cost of living increase' and **carried**

a motion "to repeat the Motion with regard to the Tax Rebate from 2020" was made by Councillor Campbell seconded by Anne Wylie and **carried**

f) Strategic Plan Update

No items to report

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:09 pm on a motion from; Councillor Cambell - seconded by Joe Szabo and ***carried.***

Next Meeting – Thursday November 18 , 2021 at 1:00 p.m.