

**City of Niagara Falls  
Seniors Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday September 9, 2021**

The meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee of the City of Niagara Falls was held on September 9, 2021 via Zoom with Ewald Kuczera chairing. Ewald welcomed all in attendance. Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm.

**Present:** Anne Wylie, Fred Hodder, Karen Fraser, Joe Szabo, Ewald Kuczera, Phylis Wells Giel, Linda Winston Councillor Wayne Campbell, Donna Mills, Kathy Moldenhauer, Hanya Nagy

**Regrets:** Otto Penner, Chris Dabrowski, Jack Widder

**Minutes: a motion** “to approve the agenda of the October, 2021 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting made by Fred Hodder - seconded by Karen Fraser and **carried**.”

**Minutes: a motion** “to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2021 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting” made by Phyllis - seconded by Linda and **carried**.”

**Business Arising from Minutes**

- Ewald noted that the June 10 minutes stated in the first paragraph that the SAC meeting was held on May 13, 2021 be in fact should have read June 10, 2021
- Ewald also noted that under new business (b) that Karen should have been added as she was part of the Brock focus group
- Business arising from June 10, 2021 meeting:  
Paid Parking -  
The City offers free two hour parking at on street parking metres and up to eight hours free parking at Municipal lots for those that have a valid accessible parking permit or Ontario veteran’s plate. There is no rate variation with regard to seniors parking passes. Councilor Dabrowski will request a report from staff to see exactly how many passes are sold to seniors and any other pertinent information. **a motion** “To issue free parking passes to seniors (65yrs) in Niagara Falls for on street parking and Municipal lots within Niagara Falls” made by Fred Hodder - seconded by Councilor Wayne Campbell and **carried**.

**New Business**

**a) Transportation presentation**

- Hanya welcomed Chris Russell, transit supervisor with Niagara Falls Transit. Chris spoke briefly on the new expansion of service
- The expansion of service includes a bus that now goes to the WEGO building on Heartland forest road
- Transit has also expanded to the West end of the City (Garner road area) including Drummond road into old-field area
- You can go online to see all the new routes on the City website

- No paper copies of the routes are available as of yet
- Chris asked if any of the committee takes the bus and if there were any concerns. No response from the committee
- A question was asked if there was seating at shelters in the City. Chris responded that there is seating
- Joe asked if there was a record of how many seniors currently take the bus. Chris responded the fair boxes counts the amounts of passengers and can determine the ridership passengers, i.e, seniors, students etc. He did not know the current number of seniors who currently ride the bus. He further commented that he could not provide any further information until the report about the 'Seniors Ride Free pilot program' goes to Council on November 9.

#### **b) News and Views**

- Need to confirm with Cogeco for October taping
- We do not have any content for the show
- There have not been any comments or emails from the public to address future topics on the show
- The Coronation Centre was suggested as a topic to discuss on the next show
- It was also suggested that Chris from Transit who had just talked to the committee could talk about the new bus routes
- Age Friendly
- It was decided to set up a sub meeting with the News and Views committee

#### **c) Request of a donation**

- Otto had forwarded information with regard to a request of a donation for producing a virtual exhibit and brochure for the International Federation on Ageing Conference being held in Niagara Falls Nov 9 – 12, 2021
- **a motion** "to approve a donation of \$100 to the Age Friendly Network in collaboration with the municipal advisory committees in Niagara and C.A.R.P" made by Councillor Campbell - seconded by Fred Hodder and **carried**

#### **d) Cycling etiquette/respect for seniors**

- Ewald had concerns when walking on sidewalks that he is inevitably the one who has to move over to make way for cyclists who are mainly adults
- The trails are not bad as they are wider
- Ewald was wondering if anyone else has noticed this behavior
- Kathy commented that the Park in the City committee has addressed this issue at their meetings as they deal with cycling concerns. They have posted trail etiquette on the city website. It has become a larger issue during Covid as more people are

out walking and cycling. Signage is to be put up on the trails but haven't yet considered signs on the sidewalks

- Ewald commented it may be used for a future discussion topic but in a positive light
- Kathy mentioned that City staff could appear on the TV show to speak on trail etiquette, have pictures of trails etc. and could take a positive spin
- Kathy commented if people don't feel comfortable with walking on sidewalks that the walking track at the Gale arena is currently open as well as the track at Oakes Park

**e) Senior Pedestrian Crossing Signs**

- There are three locations that has such signs on the roads in Niagara Falls presumably at concentrated areas of seniors
- Ewald suggested that a recommendation be put forward by staff a request an install of other signs that would be warranted
- Ewald suggested referring the subject to Public Works on what signs are needed and where
- Discussion pursued and it was decided to refer the subject to the next meeting
- Councillor Campbell requested if the information could be put in an email he will forward it to the appropriate individuals. (email below from Ewald to Councillor Campbell)

*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,  
Acting Chair, SAC*

- f)** Anne Wylie wanted to mention as a side note with regard to cycling. She has noticed in Chippawa that many adults who cycle are in the traffic lanes who are making turns on the roads. She would like to see education carried out to all adults in the community with regard to Cyclist's should be walking across the roads with their bikes

**g) Strategic Plan Update**

- No items to report at this date

Adjournment

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

**Next Meeting – Thursday October 14 , 2021 at 1:00 p.m.**