

**City of Niagara Falls
Seniors Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday February 13th, 2020**

The meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee of the City of Niagara Falls was held on Thursday February 13th, 2020 with Hanya Nagy chairing. Hanya welcomed all in attendance. Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm.

Present: Karen Fraser, Anne Wylie, Jack Widder, Councillor Wayne Campbell, Francine Sullivan, Fred Hodder, Ewald Kuczera, Otto Penner, Donna Mills, and Noreen Bald, Kathy Moldenhauer, Hanya Nagy and DJ Brooks.

Regrets: Stewart Black and Wendy McPherson

Absent: Councillor Chris Dabrowski

Minutes: a motion “to approve the minutes of the January 9th, 2020, Seniors Advisory Committee meeting” was made by Ewald Kuczera - seconded by Fred Hodder and **carried**.

Business Arising from Minutes

- a. Transportation Pilot Presentation (See Attached) – Karl Dren (Director of Transportation Services) and Carla Stout (Manager of Operations)**
- i. Carla and Karl presented the results of the 3 month long free bus trial for those 65+ in Niagara Falls.
 - ii. The largest takeaway from the presentation was that there were unforeseen challenges with the Chair-a-van services due to the AODA standards that define equal levels of service.
 - iii. 4 options were presented, but it was explained that this was not an extensive list of options but what staff will be presenting. Those options were; 1 – subsidize Senior’s passes through the application process in the Senior Water/Property Tax Credit Program and refer broader subsidy to the Region of Niagara’s LNTC for review, 2 – Free trips for Seniors 65+ between 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. weekdays, 3 – Unlimited Free trips for all Seniors 65+, 4 – Status Quo.
 - iv. Discussion ensued regarding the challenges and expected financial costs of each option.
 - v. Karl and Carla explained that purchasing busses to alleviate some of the pressure on the Chair-a-Van system would take time as it often takes a full calendar year from purchase to delivery of the vehicle.
 - vi. Ewald suggested we focus on the basis for the initial pilot, which was stated in slide 3, that the Committee spearheaded this pilot project to get people out of their homes and make it convenient and affordable for the 65+ demographic to get out of their homes.
 - vii. Karl expressed that he understood that none of the options were perfect, but that all are positive steps and it was more beneficial to keep the momentum through doing something, rather than nothing.

- viii. a motion** “to implement a 50% fee reduction for the 65+ demographic and option 2 (free trips for 65+ between 9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., weekdays) is introduced once the new Chair-a-Van vehicles are in place and staffing requirements have been met as aligned with the 2021 budget discussions” was made by Otto Penner - seconded by Ewald Kuczera. Voting was 7 Yea, to 1 Nay and **carried**.

b. Survey Presentation (see attached) – DJ

- i. DJ presented the completed survey results.
- ii. It was suggested that DJ goes with Wendy to Council on March 3rd to help deliver these results. DJ teaches at Brock Tuesday nights but will try and find an alternative solution so he can attend council that night.
- iii. DJ will try and break down the larger categories into even smaller more detailed categories for the next meeting.

c. Seniors Month (See Attached) - Karen

- i. Karen spoke to the potential Age-Friendly events the SAC could initiate in June that the sub-committee had discussed.
- ii. Karen read over the ideas briefly and asked that everyone read the document and email DJ what they liked from the list and he will amalgamate them all for next meeting.

d. Strategic Timeline Review

- i. Ewald led a review of the Strategic Timeline and while SAC was on target or ahead of schedule on most items a few things needed focus.
 - a. Upcoming meeting dates needed to be updated online. DJ to complete.
 - b. Ewald asked about the SAC email as he had sent a test email. DJ to try and monitor that email box more consistently.
 - c. There is still no website with links to service websites.
- ii. Ewald also suggested leaving the Strategic Plan Review on each agenda as it is a crucial document for the committee.

e. Council Meeting - March 3rd, 2020 – 5 pm

- i. Wendy was not at the meeting to confirm her ability to present on March 3rd.

New Business

- a. N/A

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm on a motion from Ewald Kuczera and seconded by Karen Fraser - carried.

Next Meeting – Thursday March 12th, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.