

**City of Niagara Falls
Seniors Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday September 8, 2022, 1:00pm**

The meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee of the City of Niagara Falls was held on Thursday, September 8th, 2022 in the MacBain Community Centre Board Room (and Zoom) with Otto Penner chairing. Otto welcomed all in attendance. Meeting called to order at 1:28 pm.

Present: Otto Penner, Karen Fraser, Joe Szabo, Phyllis Wells Giel, Ewald Kuczera, Anne Wylie, Jack Widder, Councillor Wayne Campbell, Hanya Nagy

Regrets: Donna Mills, Fred Hodder, Councillor Chris Dabrowski, Kathy Moldenhauer, DJ Brooks

Absent:

Agenda: *a motion* “to approve the agenda of the September 8, 2022 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting” made by Joe Szabo - seconded by Anne Wylie and **carried**.

Minutes: *a motion* “to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2022 Seniors Advisory Committee meeting” made by Karen Fraser - seconded by Phyllis Wells Giel and **carried**.

Business Arising from Minutes

a) Water Rebate:

Councillor Campbell informed the committee that Council has finished with any official business. Therefore, the motion that was put forward at June 9 meeting will be followed up in Januarys meeting with the new Council members.

***A motion**, “for Council to direct finance staff to create a comprehensive rebate policy regarding water and property tax for lower income seniors” was made by Karen Fraser, Seconded by Anne Wylie – **Carried**.*

b) Nametags:

Phyllis and Joe are waiting for their name tags

c) Open House

- a) It was suggested that if the Older Adults has another Open House in the future to move the musical entertainment away from the information tables as it was quite loud.
- b) Although quite a few of the Age Friendly surveys were handed out, no completed ones were returned.

New Business

a) News and views

- a. Pat from the Trillium Awards is going to be interviewed and talk about the criteria of winning an award in September.
- b. Also going to be talking to Project Share who are talking about residents who donate garden produce.
- c. In October Sherman Zavitz has been invited to talk about Seniors and 'Unsung heroes'.
- d. In November Niagara College are going to be talking about how they are teaching youth to approach and talk to seniors.

b) Let's Chat Benches

- a. Otto mentioned that he received an email from the Age Friendly Niagara Council regarding 'Let's Chat' benches. The Benches are intended to promote social inclusion by encouraging people of all ages to sit together, chat and exchange thoughts and ideas in an age-friendly space
- b. Otto had suggested that perhaps the Committee sponsor a bench with a plaque mounted on a chosen bench in a chosen location.
- c. There was some concern brought up by the committee regarding the upkeep of the plaque and the location of bench.
- d. It was asked how much the committee had left in the budget. Hanya to let the committee know at the next meeting.
- e. The idea was tabled and Otto to send Hanya the information from the AFN who will send out to the committee

c) Strategic Plan Update

- a. Karen asked where the committee was at with the Strategic plan and if the committee are to come up with a new strategic plan.
- b. Otto responded that we are generally on track but if a new plan were to be introduced would be up to the new committee.
- c. Ewald suggested that we provide a brief report of what the committee has accomplished and things that still need to be completed. The new committee could carry on or change as they see fit. Also, this report should be provided to new Council members.
- d. Karen suggested having the survey that the committee created be distributed again to see how answers may differ from the past four years.
- e. Ewald commented on the fact that transit goals and objectives of the committee will change having been taken over by the region and where do seniors stand now in terms of importance that it has to seniors. Can the committee now achieve things they originally had wanted to do under transportation issues? This may be a whole new challenge.
- f. Councilor Campbell noted that Councilor Dabrowski is going to be on the board of the new Transit Committee and believes we are moving in the right direction.

Adjournment

a motion “to adjourn the meeting” was made by Ewald, seconded by Karen Fraser
Meeting adjourned at 2:15 pm.

Next Meeting – Thursday October 13, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.