

**City of Niagara Falls  
Seniors Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday April 11th, 2019**

The meeting of the Seniors Advisory Committee of the City of Niagara Falls was held in the Blue Room of the Coronation Centre on Thursday April 16th, 2019 with Hanya Nagy chairing. Hanya welcomed all in attendance. Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm.

**Present:** Karen Fraser, Ewald Kuczera, Wendy McPherson, Otto Penner, Fred Hodder, Stewart Black, Noreen Bald, Councillor Chris Dabrowski, Kathy Moldenhauer, Hanya Nagy, Donna Mills and DJ Brooks

**Regrets:** Anne Wylie, Francine Beattie, Councillor Wayne Campbell

**Absent:**

**A motion** “to not hold meetings of the Seniors Advisory Committee in the Months of July or August, unless an emergency meeting needs to be called” was made by Ewald Kuczera - seconded by Fred Hodder. Votes were 5 for and 2 against; **carried**.

**Guest Speakers – Age Friendly Niagara** (Dominic Ventresca, Cathy Fusco, Doug Rapelje, and Jean D’Amelio-Swyer)

All four representatives spoke to the structures created as well as the challenges faced as they worked towards the creation of their individual Age Friendly plans as well as the plans for Niagara as a whole.

Highlights of these discussions involved;

- Funding opportunities through grants. Trillium and other opportunities.
- The need for a strong strategic plan and goals.
- Age Friendly Niagara has created a flow chart to help visualize their action plans and goals. Something that can easily be adjusted for the needs of the SAC Committee.
- Description of some of the roles these Age Friendly groups have filled; creation of age friendly business/community guides, advocating for programs/services, hosting educational seminars, marketing via television/print/other medias, presentations & reports to council, newsletters, and more.

As well, the speakers offered advice and useful examples of their experiences to the group. These included:

- Every community needs multiple Champions to help the Age Friendly ideology take hold. A community champion, a political champion, and a staff champion.
- Do not reinvent the wheel. Use the existing resources that has been created to help orientate our committee.
- Multiple small victories can help build momentum easier than one large victory.
- Go to where the seniors are for your information gathering. Use ‘pop-up’ coffee shops for conversation creation and informal data gathering.

A discussion ensued regarding the survey and data gathering techniques used by other municipalities and what this committee wanted to implement. There is a fine line between being cost effective and getting relevant and useful data to utilize. The first

step in this process will be reviewing past survey information, which will be attached to the minutes via email.

Hanya thanked the presenters for their time and valuable information.

**Minutes:** a motion “to approve the minutes of the March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019, Seniors Advisory Committee meeting” was made by Ewald Kuczera - seconded by Fred Hodder and **carried**.

## **Business Arising from Minutes**

### **a. Transportation**

- i. With Francine Beattie, as well as Carla Stout, not being at the meeting this was pushed until next month’s meeting.

### **b. Debrief of Digital Media Presentation**

- i. Feedback was that the participants were willing to learn, but at some points, the younger presenters were lacking some patience.
- ii. Currently, the library does 1 on 1 help, but there was some curiosity if they could do outreach into the community instead of making members come to them.
- iii. Mayors Youth Advisory runs from September-June and a potential to collaborate with them exists. The SAC should communicate with Beth Angle to plan for next September.

### **c. Co-Chair Position**

**A motion** “to accept Otto Penner as Co-Chair of the Seniors Advisory Committee” was made by Ewald Kuczera - seconded by Stewart Black and **carried**.

### **d. Seniors Month**

- i. A discussion on how to introduce the SAC committee to the community arose. It was decided the Committee is not ready to launch a formal event. Rather, effort in June will be placed on face-to-face talks and chatting with residents to begin the information gathering.
- ii. The potential of a non-specific event in the fall was discussed.

### **e. City Phone Systems**

- i. DJ explained that the City is willing to work within accepted standards, but no standards were found regarding accessibility and the phone systems.

## **New Business**

### **a. Meeting Protocol**

- i. Ewald suggested that a larger turnout was necessary to make the larger decisions – multiple individuals had to leave the meeting early due to other

commitments. As well, much more than a standard meeting time will be needed for the development of a Strategic plan. It was suggested a minimum of 4 hours on the day of the Strategic Plan meeting.

**b. Up Coming Meetings**

- i. Kathy Moldenhauer advised that in the upcoming May meeting we would have Carla Stout in to talk Transportation so that would not be an appropriate time for a Strategic Plan meeting.
- ii. There was also a suggestion of bring in a facilitator to help guide the Strategic Plan process.
- iii. A timeline was suggested that by the fall the SAC must have set plans and goals for 2020.
- iv. DJ to send out, as an attachment to the minutes, a copy of the Niagara Falls Age Friendly Community Survey from 2016 to try and help guide the strategic direction of the committee.

**c. Strategic Priorities**

- i. **A motion** Request that each advisory member send 3 ‘big picture’ priorities to DJ before the next meeting”, was made by Ewald Kuczera - seconded by Stewart Black and **carried**.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 3:55pm on a motion from Ewald Kuczera; seconded by Stewart Black and carried.