

# Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee Minutes

**Present:**

Chairperson – Councillor Steele  
M. Cross  
S. Jahan-Chaudhary  
Dr. B. Lalli  
S. Match  
S. McIntosh  
K. Noonan  
J. Schmalz  
A. Sharma  
A. Rutherglen  
K. Weber  
R. Cross

**Absent:**

Councillor B. Rasode  
Councillor M. Martin  
D. Darrell  
L. Lange  
P. Petrala

**Staff Present:**

J. Tyler, Senior Services Rep, Community & Recreation Services Manager, Guildford  
S. Tosdevine-Tataryn, Seniors Coordinator, CSC2, Community & Recreation Services  
K. Huffer, Community Development Assist, NS Rec Centre, PRC  
I. Mander, Manager, Library Read-Ability Services PRC  
M. Drozda, RCMP Dist.2, Crime Prevention Programs Coordinator  
S. Caley, RCMP Dist.5, Community Safety Officer  
A. Gill, RCMP Dist.3, Community Safety Officer  
M. Starchuk, Surrey Fire Service  
Special Cst. M. Gill, RCMP, Dist.2, CSO  
H. Dmytriw, Legislative Services

**A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

1. It was Moved by R. Cross  
Seconded by M. Cross  
That the minutes of the Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee meeting of June 6, 2013, be adopted.  
Carried

**B. DELEGATION****C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**

1. Marilyn Cross advised the Committee that **Options has closed the doors on the Surrey Volunteer Centre** due to funding cuts, effective July 4, 2013. Ms. Cross noted that staff have been laid off and their associated responsibilities have been handed over to Immigration Services of BC. Options will look after its own volunteers but there will no longer be a volunteer resource service at Options for the people in the community in Surrey.

Although Ms. Cross has been impacted by the cuts, she expressed that she would like to continue her involvement with the SAAC in other ways and use her skills and background to work with the mobile outreach volunteer group to do presentations.

**D. NEW BUSINESS****1. Future Focus on Seniors Forums**

In terms of upcoming Forums for year 2013, the following were highlighted:

- Wednesday, July 17, 2013 - **Imperial Place** –
  - Discussion ensued regarding advertising and soft marketing of holding a Forum at Imperial Place. Staff will follow-up with the Director of Care and draft an outline letter of the mobile outreach program for distribution to all housing/residential care facilities. The outline will provide key points of the objectives and deliverables of the mobile outreach program.
- September 21, 2013, at Guildford
- October 19, 2013, in Punjabi, at Newton Recreation Centre
- November 16, 2013, Financial Forum, at Bridgeview Community Centre  
(Note: view *Money Matters* video, at September 5, 2013 SAAC meeting)
- December 2013, Christmas Social, Date and venue TBD

Staff provided an overview of the Forums planned for year 2014, including the following:

- February 23, 2014 – at Cloverdale Recreation Centre – 170 people registered
- March 16, 2014 – in Punjabi, at Fleetwood Community Centre – 97 people registered
- April 20, 2014 – in Korean, at Fraser Heights Recreation Centre – 200 people registered
- April 26, 2014 – *A Roof Over My Head*, at Guildford – 39 people registered
- May 10, 2014 – Mobile Outreach, at Grace Church
- May 17, 2014 – *A Roof Over My Head*, at Sunnyside Hall - 79 people registered
- May 22, 2014 – Mobile Outreach, at Clayton Heights Secondary School – 15 people registered
- May 31, 2014 – Seniors Conference, at Fleetwood Community Centre – 934 people registered
- June 18, 2014 – Mobile Outreach, at Fleetwood Community Centre – 35 people registered
- July 9, 2014 – Mobile Outreach, at Fleetwood Community Centre
- July 17, 2014 – Mobile Outreach, at Imperial Place
- August 28, 2014 – Mobile Outreach, at Surrey Food Bank
- September 4, 2014 – Mobile Outreach, at Clayton Hall
- September 19, 2014 – Caregivers Workshop, at Sunnyside Hall
- September 21, 2014 – Seniors Forum, at Guildford Recreation Centre
- October 18, 2014 – Seniors Forum, in Punjabi, at Newton Recreation Centre
- October 25, 2014 - *A Roof Over My Head*
- November 8, 2014 - *A Roof Over My Head*
- November 16, 2014 – Seniors Forum, at Bridgeview Community Centre

Staff noted that the Caregivers Workshops scheduled in April 2014, were cancelled.

**E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL****F. CORRESPONDENCE**

**G. INFORMATION ITEM****1. Seniors' Advocate – Lifetime Achievement Award**

Dedicated seniors' advocate Joyce Schmalz was formally recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award by Surrey Mayor and Council for her outstanding work on behalf of seniors living in British Columbia. This award was presented at Regular Council Public hearing meeting of June 17, 2013 in conjunction with Mayor's proclamation of June 17-23, 2013 as Seniors' Week in Surrey.

**2. Paul Harris Fellowship Award**

The Rotary Club of Semiahmoo (White Rock) honoured SAAC committee member Sue McIntosh on June 22, 2013 by awarding her a Paul Harris Fellowship Award recognizing her for her exceptional contributions towards improving life for seniors in the area.

**H. OTHER BUSINESS****1. Calendar of Events (*standing item*)****2. Seniors City Strategic Plan Update**

In developing the Seniors City Strategic Plan, staff advised that interviews with the City department heads and with the Committees of Council has been completed. Feedback via City Speaks on the City website are now completed as much positive feedback and information has been gathered, staff anticipates that the draft Seniors City Strategic Plan will be done by late August 2013 and brought back to the SAAC in September. The strategy and associated corporate report are expected to go to Council in October 2013. The Strategic Plan is continually updated and is referred to with everything that is done in the City.

**3. Mobile Outreach Update**

Outreach is being taken to Bear Creek Pavilion and various park sites in order to reach as many people as possible. Mini-Forums will be held during the summer and fall in Punjabi and other languages and will cover many topics encompassing financial, legal, and health issues.

A sample of the information package that is to be handed out at outreach events was circulated around the table for the Committee's review. The package will include one page information sheets listing resources and agencies available in Surrey.

Amar Gill, RCMP noted that there is a new pilot project in Newton that involves four temples, in response to the City having received requests to provide a seniors workshop for the many vulnerable and isolated seniors who attend temple.

**4. International Day of Older Persons – Tuesday, October 1, 2013**

5. **October is Investor Education Month**
6. **Soft Opening of Central City** - new date: Sunday, October 5, 2013
7. **Member Updates**

- Shabina Jahan-Chaudhary, DIVERSEcity and Councillor Steele visited the Korean Christ Church located on King George Boulevard at 100 Avenue, noting it is a large building. The Church has easy access and is a great facility for seniors. They hold services in English and Korean; have ESL classes, and hold arts and crafts sessions. The congregation has many high level professional people with a lot of expertise involved in helping everybody. The Church community wants to be involved in the City of Surrey and would like to host a full day Forum. They are willing to organize/lead the Forum in a different language. This would provide a lot of opportunity for the resources tables.

Shabina will set up a tour (*date to be determined*) of the Korean church facility for the SAAC members and Scott Campbell, RCMP.

- Kay Noonan, COSCO noted that there are 150,000 Canadians who qualify for Service Canada Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS) but who have not yet applied; citizens who do not realize that they are entitled to a senior pension but they need to apply for it. If one has no income and does not file an income tax return, then they do not get GIS.

It was noted that confusion arises around what seniors can receive as a *seniors' supplement* and what is available as an *income supplement*. It was noted that a one page information sheet should be prepared to provide common financial information, and counselling about living on Canada Pension, and a fixed and lower income, and how to apply for GIS. The information sheets could be posted on bulletin boards. There is also a group of 150 seniors in the Gateway area that could be provided this information. Service Canada comes to the Surrey Seniors Bazaar to provide information relative to pension issues.

As a follow up to the Seniors' Aging in Place Conference resulting wait list, Service Canada is providing a follow up workshop on Tuesday, July 9, 2013, 10:45 am – 12:15 pm, at Fleetwood Community Centre, 15996 - 84 Avenue, to address Canada Pension Plan Program and Benefits, and the Old Age Security Program and Benefits.

The Seniors Planning Table pursues projects such as the *blue book* directory of services and getting information out in the most effective and efficient manner.

- Joyce Schmalz suggested that the lawyer, Chris Bolton, could provide community education about the changes to Wills and Estate Planning and Putting Affairs in Order at the March 2014 Forum. This information will make a big difference for older people, especially noting where things can go wrong in estate planning.
- The Surrey Food Bank is getting an increased number of seniors visiting the food banks; and are now hosting drop off and pick up times for seniors on the third Wednesday of each month. Many are elderly women who lost their husbands, have

no families and have now moved in together to help make ends meet. Many do not receive much Canada Pension; their income is Old Age Pension, Old Age Security and GIS. Many full families of the working poor are also frequenting the food banks and hot meals programs.

- It was recommended that trainers could be trained to attend different venues such as Bridgeview to help people through the process of applying to the resources system to get support and respite. Lunch'N Learns are also an opportunity for Caregiver information sessions and could be held at the City Centre Library.

A sub-committee was struck, consisting of Ron Cross, Marilyn Cross, Joyce Schmalz, Sue McIntosh, Kay Noonan and staff members Iwona Mandera and Sahra-Lea Tosdevine-Tataryn, to meet in August to begin planning and to view the financial video, *Money Matters*. Kay Noonan will deal with the financial portion.

- **Official Opening of the newly renovated Bridgeview Community Centre –** Tuesday, July 9, 2013, 3:00 – 7:00 pm, 11475 – 126 A Street. The event will feature kids' activities, a BBQ, the seniors' choir, and assorted stage entertainment.

**A Seniors Social** was held at Bridgeview Community Centre during Seniors Week June 17-21, 2013.

#### I. NEXT MEETING

The next Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee meeting is scheduled for September 5, 2013, at Pondsider.

#### J. ADJOURNMENT

It was Moved by R. Cross  
Seconded by M. Cross  
That the Seniors Advisory & Accessibility  
Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee adjourned at 11:03 am.

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Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

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Chairperson, Councillor Steele  
Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee