

Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee - Minutes

2E - Community Room A
City Hall
13450 - 104 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015
Time: 9:11 a.m.

Present:

Chair, Councillor Steele
C. Hong,
Dr. B. Lalli
J. Schmalz
K. Noonan
K. Weber,
L. Lange
M. Cross
M. Drozda
S. McIntosh
V. Nielsen

Absent:

Co-Chair, Councillor Starchuk
A. Poon
A. Sharma
R. Cross
S. Jahan-Chaudhary

Staff Present:

I. Stachura, Manager, Read Ability Services, Library
J. Tyler, Manager, Fraser Heights / Guildford Recreation Centre
K. Huffer, Community Services. Assistant
M. Fitzgerald, Transportation Planning
S. Robinson, Asst. Chief, Surrey Fire Services
S. Tosdevine-Tataryn, Community Services Coordinator, North Surrey
C. Eagles, Legislative Services
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. The minutes of the Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee meeting of September 1, 2015 be adopted.

It was

Moved by M. Drozda

Seconded by K. Noonan

That the minutes of the Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee meeting on September 1, 2015, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION**C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**

1. **Transportation and Mobility Symposium - Update**

- The first seminar had approximately one hundred (100) people who attended, a lower attendance than anticipated, but had the support of the City's Engineering and Transportation Divisions. Fraser Health and TransLink were both present. TransLink brought a tour bus and showed people how to gain access on and off the bus. Staff made the event fun and welcoming.

2. National Seniors Day - Event Feedback

- The National Seniors Day event was hosted on October 1 at Surrey City Hall and a variety of other celebratory events were held throughout the City at different venues. There were presentations in Council Chambers and topics were focused on housing, including ownership, rental, and assisted living.

3. Concerts in Care - Update

A brochure on Concerts in Care, presented by Health Arts Society, was handed out.

- The Health Arts Society produced a variety of musical sessions for seniors living in care facilities throughout the province. Staff met with the group to explore how seniors in Surrey could view these concerts. David from the Health Arts Society group made a proposal to the Chair to see if there is the possibility of hosting events in each town center within the City of Surrey. The performers for the Health Arts programs are high-end professionals. The City will be seeking sponsorship to possibly support a 5-6 concert series for the City.

4. Focus on Seniors Forum(s)

October 17 – Newton – Financial Focus

November 21 – South Surrey – “On My Own”

- **October 17 – Newton – Financial Focus**
 - 120 people attended the Focus on Seniors Forum on October 17 in Newton, the topic of the presentation was on financial matters.
- **November 21 – South Surrey – “On My Own” Forum**
 - An upcoming forum will be held on Saturday, November 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. that will raise awareness of issues impacting seniors who live on their own, or who suddenly find themselves living on their own. The forum will also provide information about legal, safety, and support resources.

A member of the committee noted that many seniors are on a waiting list for acceptance into a facility whether it is a public or private facility. It was noted that waiting periods can be up to one year for public facilities while private facilities may be able to accommodate seniors sooner but the residence can cost up to six thousand five-hundred dollars (\$6,500.00) per month. It may be difficult to find a facility in a specific area within the publicly funded system. The public system has residential care to complex care and assisted living. Residential care has twenty-four (24) hour nursing care.

5. Food Bank Initiative - Update

- Starting in November, the Surrey Food Bank will be hosting “65+ Seniors Distribution” where seniors can attend the food bank on a dedicated day to collect food in a respectful and non-rushed environment. Currently, there are 500 seniors registered at the Surrey Food Bank.

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. December 1 SAAC Holiday Luncheon and Workshop**

- On Tuesday, December 1 at 9:30 a.m. the end of year celebration luncheon will be held at the Guildford Recreation Center, as a result, the regular scheduled SAAC meeting on December 1 will be cancelled. There will be entertainment, a celebratory theme and various workshops to form the event. Highlights of 2015 will be presented including caregiver workshops, environmental workshops, fire prevention, frauds and scams.

2. Planning for 2016

The following comments were made:

- The draft Work Plan for 2016 was circulated at the meeting and will also be distributed by e-mail to all members and staff.
- There will be two, day long Focus on Seniors Forums in the new year, augmented by multiple workshops, and outreach sessions that will be presented in different languages. Seniors will be able to choose which seminars to pick and attend.
- Focus forums will be held as follows:
 - Forum: Spring (March) hosted in North Surrey;
 - Forum: Fall (September) in Newton, Cloverdale or South Surrey;
 - Conference: June (Seniors Week) will have multiple workshops; and
 - Conference: October will have a conference with multiple workshops in Cloverdale.
- Seminars will focus on various age friendly issues including safety, health, and wellness, estate and financial planning, frauds and scams, elder abuse, housing and transportation. The programs will start in January and alternate every month.
- The Mobile Outreach Program will provide training sessions on elder abuse and dementia awareness with training directly related on how to recognize and respond to key signs of dementia.

3. Tapestry Foundation for Health Care

On November 10, the Tapestry Foundation will be hosting a free event in the City Hall atrium and Council Chambers to promote healthy lifestyles and healthy aging for seniors. Registered dietician and researcher, Liz da Silva is the keynote speaker and will be providing an informative and fun session.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL**F. CORRESPONDENCE****1. Proposed 2016 Meeting Dates**

File: 0540-20 V (DAC)

The Committee was requested to pass a motion adopting the 2016 Meeting Schedule as presented.

It was

Moved by S. McIntosh

Seconded by K. Weber

That the 2016 Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee meeting schedule be adopted as presented.

Carried

G. INFORMATION ITEM**H. OTHER BUSINESS****1. Volunteers Needed**

- The Committee is seeking support from businesses who would provide their time and expertise to support seniors. The priority would be to choose businesses that are objective and will not directly solicit business from seniors attending these programs and ones that can provide services to seniors who may have language barriers.

2. Potential Upcoming Delegation

- Bill Grant, who owns a business, will likely be appearing as a delegation in an upcoming 2016 SAAC meeting. The interests of his business goes above and beyond and promotes marketing and educating the public and their children. The children of seniors are the key stakeholders that have to go through this process. His business asks adult grandchildren to be attending these forums.

3. Fire Safety

- Steve Robinson, Assistant Chief of Surrey Fire Services provided an update on the fire department ensuring care centers and facilities are safe and in compliance with their fire systems. The fire department acts on any complaint and actively investigates each place and records orders for follow-up. If a facility does not comply with the fire department, the organization will be invoiced for time the fire department spends ensuring the safety of the facilities. The likelihood of anything hazardous taking place at senior care facilities is slim.

4. Fraser Health Hotline Concern

- Private residences have a hotline and abuse number through Fraser Health and it was suggested the voicemail menu does not reflect what the posters state and seniors can be misled by the options on the voicemail menu.

5. Fire Safety – Hoarding

- The City of Surrey has bylaws in place which instruct residents to maintain a clean and safe yard surrounding the exterior of homes. There are situations in Surrey where senior residents have hoarding issues inside of the home and the fire department has limited power to provide assistance to these hoarding issues. The fire department is able to provide orders but the orders are not enforceable in private residences, therefore, it is difficult to ensure the safety of the occupant(s).

I. NEXT MEETING

The next Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in 1E Committee Room B.

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by C. Hong
Seconded by K. Weber
That the Seniors Advisory & Accessibility

Committee meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor Steele
Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee