

Present:

Councillor Steele, Chair
Councillor Starchuk
S. Bell
M. Cross
R. Cross
M. Drozda
D. Evans
C. Hong
S. Jahan-Chaudhary
S. McIntosh
V. Nielsen
K. Noonan
J. Schmalz
K. Weber
Cst. Hayes
Cst. C. Marjara

Absent:

L. Lange

Staff Present:

J. Tyler, Manager, Fraser Heights Rec. Centre
I. Stachura, Manager, Read Ability Services,
Library
C. Bootsma, Community Services Assistant
L. Luaifoa, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. The minutes of the Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee meeting of September 6, 2016, to be adopted.

It was

Moved by V. Nielsen

Seconded by M. Drozda

That the minutes of the Seniors Advisory &
Accessibility Committee meeting on September, 2016, be adopted.

Carried

B. DELEGATION

1. Elizabeth Tang, Knowledge Transfer Consultant, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, provided a presentation titled – “Accessibility is the New Sustainability”.

The following comments were made:

- The City of Surrey is the second most populated city in Metro Vancouver and its population continues to grow. One unique and important characteristics of Surrey is the size of the families and the multiple generations that reside in the households. 18% of households have 5 or more persons which is much higher than the provincial average and the average of other cities in British Columbia.

- Other key characteristics of Surrey are:
 - More than 37% of households are headed by people aged 55 years or older.
 - 25% of households have one senior member (65+).
 - 37% of households have at least one person with activity limitations
- Key trends show that older Canadians (75+) are staying in the labor force longer since mandatory retirement was eliminated in 2001. 2/3 of older Canadians have some type of mobility issues requiring mechanical support or assistance from other people to get around. This demographic will be attracted to housing that offers features that will enable them to work from home.
- To respond to the variety of housing needs, policy makers and the building and construction communities have come up with a lot of innovative ideas which range from Accessible Housing, Lifetime Homes, VISIBLE and Universal Design. There are minor differences between concepts for residential vs community focus; however, both serve the same goal which is to meet and serve the variety of the housing needs of the population.
- CMHC conducted research to find the incremental costs to include basic accessibility features to new and modest houses. The study identified 60 universal design features for accessibility; for example, installing a lever instead of a door knob or incorporating sufficient knee space for a wheelchair at the kitchen sink. The incremental costs to include accessibility features for a townhouse (valued at \$189,348) in Vancouver is estimated to have a 6% differential and for a Semi-Detached (valued at \$173,821) is estimated to have a 11% cost differential. The full research report is available on the CMHC website (www.cmhc.ca)
- CMHC had developed an information portal on the website for consumers to help understand the concept of Universal Design and Accessible Homes. The Accessible by Design Series has 11 topics that provide sample designs to help people make decisions about their home in regards to House Designs and Floor Plans, Living Spaces, Bathrooms, Kitchens, Appliances etc.
- Everyone benefits from a universally designed home. Although the costs are more, homeowners will reap the long term benefit and save money and time on future upgrades that may be required. A home can be designed in preparation for many possible arrangements.

C. OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. **September 17 Forum – review evaluations** - Housing was listed as one of the top subjects that people want more information on.

2. **Community Event Outreach** – Carissa Bootsma attended with Surrey Cemetery Services event that was open to everyone. The catered event was not as well attended as the previous year; however, it provided the opportunity for Surrey staff to connect with Cemetery Services. Another event will be held in Cloverdale on November 11 with a similar set up.
3. **November 19 Focus on Seniors Forum – “What you need to know”** Anna Christensen from Cemetery Services will be presenting on funeral services and support for seniors who experience the loss of a loved one.

The Committee suggested that promotion of the event clarify that the presentation is designed to help seniors who are left alone after a loved one passes away.

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

1. International Seniors Day – Feedback from the community and staff was very positive about the event. The Chair shared a suggestion that was received to organize a Seniors festival. The festival would focus on celebrating life and having fun in addition to providing workshops and outreach work.
2. Elim Village Wellness Event - Friday, October 7 - Staff will be in attendance.
3. Seniors Come Share – The “Better at Home Team” will be hosting a training session at South Surrey Recreation Centre. The session is to provide more resources and information to the Better at Home volunteers and will include presentations from the RCMP, Fire Services and highlight how seniors can become engaged in the many programs and events held at local recreation facilities.
4. BCCEAS – October 26 – Training for the “When I am 64” booklet. Seniors learn information to share with other seniors. This event will be hosted in Guildford from 1 pm to 4 pm.
5. Staff continue to do outreach work and are working on issues with homelessness and addictions issues with seniors. It was further noted that seniors on Social Assistance are being cut off once they turn 65 and they require assistance or guidance in applying for their pensions.
5. The City of Surrey has been recognized by the World Health Organization as an age friendly community and is listed on the World Health Organization (WHO) Network.

H. OTHER BUSINESS

1. Adoption of the 2017 Committee Meeting Schedule

The Committee was requested to adopt the proposed 2017 Committee Meeting Schedule.

It was
Moved by Val Nielsen
Seconded by Kay Noonan
That the Seniors Accessibility and Advisory
Committee adopt the 2017 Committee Meeting Schedule.
Carried

2. Marilyn and Ron Cross announced their resignation from the SAAC. The Committee wished them well.

3. Constable Chuck Maraja was introduced to the Committee as the new RCMP representative that is tasked to focus on seniors' issues.

I. NEXT MEETING

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

J. ADJOURNMENT

It was
Moved by D. Evans
Seconded by S. Jahan-Chaudhary
That the Seniors Advisory & Accessibility
Committee meeting do now adjourn.
Carried

The Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee adjourned at 10:15 am.

Jane Sullivan, City Clerk

Chairperson, Councillor Starchuk
Seniors Advisory & Accessibility Committee