

**Minutes - Final
Seniors Advisory Committee**

Monday, October 6, 2014

9:00 AM

Sir Robert Barrie Room

For consideration by the Community Services Committee on February 4, 2015.

The Seniors Advisory Committee met at 9:10 a.m. and the following were in attendance:

Councillor, B. Ainsworth
G. Kavanagh, Chairperson
H. Haupt
S. Maynard
J. Comper
L. Stevenson
M. Malcolm
R. Cheeseman
S. Maynard.

Staff:
BACTS Co-ordinator, J. MacDonald
Committee and Print Services Supervisor, L. Pearson
Communications Advisor, E. Sharpe
Manager of Recreation, S. Lee-Young
Policy Planner, R. Cotton
Recreation Supervisor, Kate Ellis.

The Seniors Advisory Committee met and reports as follows:

SUB-COMMITTEES BREAK-OUT SESSION

The Senior Housing Sub-Committee, Transit Sub-Committee and the Communication Sub-Committee broke into groups and discussed their findings for the final report to City Council.

SUB-COMMITTEE FINDINGS

The Communication Sub-Committee reported the following findings:

- Not everyone has access to a Computer;
- Seniors Weekly in Barrie - newspaper monthly feature, highlight special events and programmes;
- Utilize the Waste Reduction Calendar, Pals - leverage more and possibly re-design;
- Incorporate more information into Pals, ie. Bacts;
- Creating on-line Seniors Resource Section on Barrie.ca;
- Weekly information sessions at Rec Centres or Residences, ie. Service Groups etc... regular consistent sessions;
- Leveraging local media contacts, ie. CTV, Rogers;
- Identify target areas and facilities to circulate information, ie., library, church bulletins; and
- Provide an inventory of public computers available to the public.

The Seniors Housing Sub-Committee reported the following findings:

- Consists of 3 categories; affordability; accessibility and availability;
- **Affordability** - lack of lower rental units, subsidized units and units that are affordable. Condos maintenance fees, utility costs, and city taxes are expensive;
- **Accessibility** - physical accessibility of the units; bungalow designs are desirable; Inside and outside maintenance of homes ie, snow etc... is difficult to maintain; accessibility for services within the home, ie. Health and affordability of services; lack of elevators within several buildings and homes; a home delivery service for groceries would be desirable; location of suitable housing, should be built close to amenities; location can create social and emotional, isolation;
- **Availability** - difficulty finding smaller homes; satisfaction with developments such as Victoria Village and Tollendal Village; more projects such as Victoria Village should be developed; more freehold townhouses are needed; need more co-housing; look at developing housing in the newly annexed area; investigate utilizing church organizations to build communities;

The Transit Sub-Committee reported the following findings:

- Consideration of an all-inclusive information document; what is available;
- Offer old school information, ie. Paper;
- Better advertising; examine existing options "This Week In Barrie", links to phone numbers;
- Partner with other entities, ie Waste Reduction Calendar to create better partnerships;

- Promote seniors on the move; train the trainer education; change the myths about Transit and BACTS;
- Travel Information Sheets outlining steps/routes to get there, ie. Destination specific;
- Better Signage; and
- Promote Active Transportation Routes.

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

R. Cotton reviewed the draft presentation to Council. He noted that it is anticipated that the presentation will be on the November 24th, City Council Agenda. He noted that the final version of the presentation will be available for review at the next Seniors Advisory Committee meeting.

The Committee adjourned at 11:53 p.m.

CHAIRMAN