**Greater Arnprior Seniors Council (GASC) Records of Discussion**

**Wednesday, July 20, 2016 (9:00 AM)**

**Location: Arnprior Public Library, 21 Madawaska St., Arnprior ON**

**Present:**

Darrel O’Shaughnessy – GASC Member (Chair)

John Heymans – GASC Member (Vice Chair)

Sandra Elliott – GASC Member (Secretary)

Ralph Chown – GASC Member

Pamela Lemay – GASC Member

Susan Leach – Arnprior Regional Health Representative

Katrin Spencer – Arnprior Regional Health Representative and Ottawa U student

Merryn Douglas – Arnprior Regional Health Representative and Ottawa U student

Dennis Harrington – Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Seniors at Home Program

Kaila Zamojski – Deputy Clerk, Town of Arnprior

Karen DeLuca – Librarian, Town of Arnprior

Judy Kobus – Manager Community Development Services, Hospice Renfrew

**Regrets:**

Eric Hanna – Arnprior Regional Health

Patti Farr – Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Seniors at Home

Glenn Arthur – Town of Arnprior

Robin Paquette – Town of Arnprior

Rick Gwalchmai – Town of Arnprior

Maureen Sullivan-Bentz – Executive Director, Hospice Renfrew

**Call to Order:**

The Greater Arnprior Seniors Council (hereinafter shown as GASC) meeting commenced at 9:00 am

**Roll Call:**

Members of the GASC listed as Present above introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their background relevant to their membership of the GASC.

**Adoption of Agenda:**

The Chair suggested that “Other Business” be added to the current and future Agendas. All agreed

**Approval of Records of Discussion from June 22, 2016**

All approved

**Matters of Discussion**

1. **Introduction/Welcome of New Members**

The Chair regretfully advised that Graham Long has resigned from the GASC due to unforeseen circumstances

The Chair welcomed Judy Kobus who is an active volunteer at Hospice Renfrew as well as Manager of Community Development Services. Judy and Maureen Sullivan-Bentz will be welcome additions to the Council.

The Chair also welcomed Pamela Lemay a retired lawyer who is currently on a number of local Boards including Arnprior Regional Health, Interval House, McKay Manor, is a member of the Legal Aid Committee and an active senior in our community.

1. **Terms of Reference**

As suggested at our meeting of June 22, there were slight edited wording changes in the Mandate and under Item 3 a bullet was added “To involve community service clubs in seniors programs.”

In answer to a question raised by Pam Lemay, Kaila Zamojski, Deputy Clerk of the Town of Arnprior explained the roll of the Town going forward with respect to its involvement on the GASC. The GASC does not report to Town Council but rather represents a community approach to advocate for and achieve the goals of the Age Friendly Community Plan. The Town will act in the capacity to provide administrative support as required in order for the GASC to move forward with our initiatives.

It was suggested that the GASC would need to prepare a budget, set priorities and goals and conduct an annual self-evaluation of our progress. Although the topic was brought up, it was not determined at this meeting how long the current appointments of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary would stand.

1. **Schedule of Meetings**

It was agreed that future meetings of the GASC would be held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM until future notice. The location of the meetings will vary.

1. **Priorities.**

Darrel had asked each member of the GASC by email prior to this meeting to note one particular priority from our Goals that we should discuss at this meeting. With respect to this request Darrell also reached out to David Sheridon, the Consultant who prepared the final report of the Age Friendly Community Plan, requesting any direction or advice he may have concerning some short term wins for our Council. Darrel has two specific priorities for consideration.

* That we develop a communication strategy in our approach to Municipal and Provincial governments that will effectively move forward the Redevelopment of the Grove to increase the number of long-term care facilities, and
* That we introduce a local (free-of-charge) and experienced Marketing & Sales Consultant to our Team to help deliver our message and improve interagency collaboration and communications.
  1. Susan Leach will speak to Eric Hanna with respect to having someone from GASC invited to a meeting of ARH with respect to the redevelopment of the Grove. Susan will also arrange a tour of the Grove for any interested members of the GASC.

4.2 Communications

The Town has a marketing and communications coordinator that could assist us in preparing a press release advising the community of the formation of the GASC and/or to develop a page for us on the Town’s website. Kaila will follow up. There’s also the Municipal Matters section of the local newspaper that could be used to communicate our progress.

Arnprior Regional Health also has a communications consultant that we may be able to access.

Dennis Harrington will also support the GASC through the Seniors at Home website.

Other recommedations for communicating our initiatives could include the local radio station, Facebook and other social media entities.

1. **Township of McNab-Braeside Involvement**

Ralph Chown suggested that because we identify ourselves as “The Greater Arnprior” Seniors Council the Township of McNab-Braeside should have representation on our Council. All agreed and Ralph will prepare a letter to the Township of McNab-Braeside inviting them to select a representative prior to next meeting of this Council.

1. **Accessibility**

Another goal of the Council is to address the accessibility of buildings and outdoor spaces across the community. Kaila advised that Town Council has provided retailers with an incentive program to upgrade their premises during the revitalization of the downtown core. Kaila will email us a copy of this incentive program. The redevelopment of the mall will also upgrade accessibility. New cross lights for pedestrians will be upgraded in certain core locations.

1. **Transportation**

The Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Senior at Home Program has expanded local transportation offerings by combining the services of Champlain LHIN. The Arnprior Villa and Island View Retirement homes also have expanded the use of their vans to support the community.

There is however limited public transportation available to Ottawa. John Heymans will contact Greyhound and Northland bus services to determine what services are available and where their pick-up and drop-off locations are and also why they seem to constantly change these locations.

1. **Assisted Living**

It was noted that Arnprior Regional Health has submitted an application to Champlain LHIN for funding support to increase the number of assisted living spots. This support will not be made available this fiscal year.

ARH wish to increase the Adult Day Program to 5 days per week from current 2 days per week. It is a recreational program offering respite for families and takes place at The Grove. CCAC currently refers clients to this program The Arnprior Library is also linked this program and is looking to provide IPODs to participants as music has proven to be a useful and calming tool.

The Arnprior Library currently provides assistance to seniors and anyone interested in upgrading their skills in cell phone or tablet usage or require computer assistance. Bookings can be made through their website.

1. **Develop a Compendium of all Services/Agencies/Contacts**

After considerable discussion it was agreed developing a draft recommendation could be an early win for the GASC. Pam Lemay will start by reaching out to the Killaloe Resource Centre. Hospice Renfrew had students last year who compiled a list of resources as well and Pam, with the assistance of Katrin Spencer and Merryn Douglas of ARH will research this initiative.

1. **Expand Educational Opportunities for Seniors**

Darrel will contact Arnprior High School and Willis College to attempt to determine what educational opportunities might be available for seniors in our community. It was also noted that Arnprior Regional Health will be offering a volunteer palliative care course in the Fall.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM

**Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 17 at 9:00 AM at Arnprior Hospital, Entrance C, Level 2, Boardroom.**