**GREATER ARNPRIOR SENIORS COUNCIL (GASC)**

**RECORD OF DISCUSSION - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2016 (9:00 AM)**

**Location: Arnprior Hospital, 2nd Floor Boardroom**

**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

Eric Hanna – Arnprior Regional Health

Merryn Douglas – Arnprior Regional Health

Robin Paquette – Town of Arnprior

Maureen Sullivan-Bentz – Hospice Renfrew

Karla Belton – Township of McNab Braeside

**Regrets:**

Susan Leach – Arnprior Regional Health

Katrin Spencer – Arnprior Regional Health

Dennis Harrington – Arnprior-McNab-Braeside Seniors at Home

Patti Farr – Arnprior-McNab-Braeside Seniors at Home

Glenn Arthur – Town of Arnprior

Kaila Zamojski – Town of Arnprior

Rick Gwalchmai – Town of Arnprior

Karen DeLuca – Town of Arnprior

Judy Cobus – Hospice Renfrew

**Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9 AM.

**Roll Call**

The secretary made note of those present and absent and we welcomed new member of Council, Karla Belton representing the Township of McNab-Braeside.

**Adoption of Agenda**

It was asked if “Correspondence” could be added to future Agendas under New Business so that we could be updated with respect to any correspondence from members. Duly noted by Secretary.

**Approval of Records of Discussion from July 20, 2017**

Spelling corrected – Judy Cobus, Hospice Renfrew. No other additions/deletions. Approved as presented.

**Matters of Business from July 20, 2016**

1. **Terms of Reference**

Robin presented the revised Terms of Reference and changes were noted as highlighted. These changes were recommended in consultation with David Sheridan, the Consultant with Shercon Associates who presented the Age-Friendly Community Plan.

A list of GASC voting members was created and will be appended to the Terms of Reference.

Hospice Renfrew will be added to Stakeholders.

It was asked if date of August 17, 2016 be added to Terms of Reference and any future updates/changes be dated to ensure everyone is dealing with the most current version.

The “Draft” notation to be removed. It was noted however that the Terms of Reference are not written in stone and can be amended going forward as the Council deals with the individual goals.

John Heyman moved that the changes be accepted as written. Maureen Sullivan-Bentz seconded. All approved.

Eric Hanna asked that the amendments be updated and final Terms of Reference be circulated prior to the next meeting.

During the discussions, Maureen Sullivan-Bentz invited the Council to consider holding a future meeting at Hospice Renfrew where we could familiarize ourselves with the location while conducting our meeting. Maureen suggested consideration be given to a Fall meeting prior to winter travel restrictions.

1. **Redevelopment of the Grove**

Darrel updated the Council with future meetings being held with himself, Chris Havey, Chair of the Grove Redevelopment Task Force and Eric Hanna, ARH with respect to Redevelopment of the Grove which is a tie-in with our Age-Friendly Community Plan and our Seniors Council.

August 18 - Marie-France Lalonde, MPP Ottawa Orleans

August 25 – local MPP, John Yakabuski

September 8 – MPPs Fraser and Naqvi ,Ottawa South and LHIN

Arnprior Regional Health through the Grove Redevelopment Plan are advocating the Ontario Government to redevelop 96 beds and other services at the Grove to serve the needs of our aging community. The main objective of the GASC at these meetings is to request the support of the MPPs in helping our Seniors in the Greater Arnprior region receive fair and equitable access to long-term care. ***Darrel will keep us updated on the results of these meetings.***

1. **Communications**

After considerable discussion on how to communicate our existence to the community, it was determined that we needed a communication strategy and perhaps a sub-committee should be formed to deal with communications. Firstly we need to communicate who we are and what our mandate is. The methods of communication were discussed as follows:

* Develop a press release with the assistance of Lindsay Wilson (Marketing) from the Town
* Town of Arnprior website – change Age-Friendly Community Plan link to Greater Arnrprior Seniors Council
* Arnprior Life magazine – being published in September
* Arnprior Chronicle Guide - Letters to the Editor – no cost
* Health Matters magazine – cost involved
* Valley Heritage Radio – Seniors talk show on Tuesday mornings
* Seniors at Home website
* Social media – Facebook, Twitter, etc.

***Robin will set up a meeting soonest with Lindsay Wilson (Marketing) to formalize a draft press release*** which can be submitted to Arnprior Life magazine and as a Letter to the Editor of local Arnprior Chronicle Guide.

***Robin will also contact Valley Heritage Radio to see if Darrel can participate in one of their Seniors’ broadcasts.***

1. **Public Transportation**

John Heymans distributed a report on local public transportation including costs involved for local taxi services within town, to Renfrew, Kanata and to Ottawa Hospitals. ***Robin will check by-laws with respect to taxi rates and licensing requirements***.

Greyhound bus service is minimal to Ottawa leaving at 6:20 am only and westbound at 10:50 am daily. Stop is at Winners Circle area only. No shelter.

It was noted that there is a commuter bus that picks up and drops off passengers at LCBO, Motel on Daniel Street and at East Side Marios. ***John will check this charter and also Thoms.***

It was asked how far OC Transpo’s Para Transpo reached and ***John will also check this out.***

It was also noted that there is a tender out for non-urgent ambulance transportation through paramedic services.

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

Ralph Chown had sent a letter to the township asking if they would consider being part of the GASC and the Council was pleased to welcome Karla Belton representing McNab-Braeside.

1. **Compendium of Services**

Pam LeMay had sent to all Council members in pdf format, a booklet prepared

by the Killaloe Community Resource Centre outlining all the services available to seniors in the Ottawa Valley. A hard copy of this booklet is available at a cost of $3. (Refer to Pam’s report sent by email to all Council members on August 14). There are portions referring specifically to the Arnprior area and ***Pam will ask Killaloe if it would be possible to extract the information referring to Arnprior and what the cost would be.***

There are currently other options available listing local senior services i.e. Arnprior Life, the Arnprior Library, Town of Arnprior website, Seniors at Home, Churches, etc. and it was decided that there is no urgency in developing a single compendium. It is however important and a quicker win, that we educate and direct seniors to the services that are currently available. We should look at contacting churches and service organizations and other entities and encourage all to promote what they offer to seniors. Council’s mandate is to advocate on behalf of seniors. We would consider asking service clubs if we could attend their AGMs and promote our role.

1. **Educational Opportunities for Seniors**

Darrel wrote to Rima Aristocrat, CEO of Willis College asking if they would consider expanding their educational opportunities to support seniors in our community. Suggestions included, academic offerings, user-friendly technology, financial training, computer skills and social media. Darrel asked for a meeting to discuss and we are waiting her response.

***Ralph Chown will contact Arnprior High School with respect to their offering continuing education opportunites for seniors.***

**New Business**

1. **Budget Start-up Fund**

Darrel spoke to David Sheridan who indicated Council would have some initial expenditures such as, stamps, stationery, logo, etc. and David recommended a start-up fund of $4,000-$5,000 would be appropriate.

Robin indicated that if we were looking to the Town to assist with funding we would have to develop a specific project for them to consider by their intake date of November 30th. Maureen Sullivan-Bentz advised that the federal government was offering a Canada 150 start-up grant that she felt the GASC would be a candidate for. There appears to be a deadline of September 4th to submit an application for this grant. ***Pam LeMay offered to follow up.***

Eric Hanna of ARH has offered an initial fund of $1,000 to cover stationery and mailings and the development of a logo. Rather than opening a bank account at this time, Eric suggested we forward any bills to him for payment.

***Karla Belton offered to contact Kelsey McMillan a local graphic artist who is starting up a new business and who might be interested in designing a logo for us. Karla will put Kelsey in touch with Merryn Douglas of ARH prior to our next meeting***.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.

**Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 21. Eric will confirm if the boardroom at The Grove is available. This would give us an opportunity to tour of the Grove and view their expansion plans.**