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

**Wednesday, September 21, 2016 (9:00 AM)**

**Location: The Grove**

**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

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

Robin Paquette – Planner,Town of Arnprior

Karen DeLuca – Librarian, Town of Arnprior

Karla Belton – Township of McNab-Braeside

Jennifer Torode – Arnprior and District Family Health Team

**Regrets:**

Eric Hanna – Arnprior Regional Health

Susan Leach – Arnprior Regional Health

Patti Farr – Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Seniors at Home

Kaila Zamojski – Town of Arnprior

Glenn Arthur – Town of Arnprior

Rick Gwalchmai – Town of Arnprior

Maureen Sullivan-Bentz – Executive Director, Hospice Renfrew

Judy Cobus – Hospice Renfrew

Our meeting commenced with a tour of the Grove conducted by Joan Hughes, Director of Care which gave Council members a better perspective on the exceptional care afforded to residents and the need for expansion.

1. **Call to Order:**

The Greater Arnprior Seniors Council (hereinafter shown as GASC) meeting commenced at 9:45 am

1. **Roll Call:**

Darrel welcomed Jennifer Torode from the Arnprior and District Family Health Team.

1. **Adoption of Agenda:**

The Agenda was adopted as written

1. **Approval of Records of Discussion from August 17, 2016**

All approved

1. **Matters of Discussion from Meeting of August 17, 2017**
   1. **Terms of Reference**

Robin Paquette will make changes as noted in the Agenda and will circulate.

* 1. **Redevelopment of the Grove**

Darrel updated us on meetings held with area MPPs in order to garner their support in Arnprior’s quest for more long term care beds at the Grove. These presentations are being conducted by Eric Hanna, Arnprior Regional Health, Chris Havey, Chair of the Grove Redevelopment Task Force and Darrel, representing the GASC. ***(Please refer to Darrel’s reports on these meetings sent to each of us by email).*** It is noted that the Grove is in critical care of need for redevelopment and the Task Force is asking for assistance from the GASC in bringing this issue to the attention of our government leaders and the community. Darrel’s personal feeling is that the redevelopment will happen but the challenge is in the redistribution of license transfers. A solution is required so that 36 additional long term care bed licenses can be allocated to the Grove.

* 1. **Communication**

Robin advised that a Press Release has not yet been written due to vacation schedules however it is noted that a write-up on the GASC is included in the Fall issue of Arnprior

Life.

Valley Heritage Radio has a seniors program on Tuesdays from 12-12:45 and they are currently booking for November and December. They would welcome participation from the GASC. It was agreed that Darrel and Robin should participate and **Robin will follow up.**

* 1. **Public Transportation**

Robin advised that there is no bylaw requiring licensing of taxis by the Town of Arnprior.

John Heymans gave a handout on his follow up on public transportation.

Thom’s operates a shuttle from Arnprior to Ottawa for commuters. It departs from LCBO at 0605, Shopping Mall at 0608 and Antrim Park and Ride at 0615. Arrives at Bronson in Ottawa at 0645 and Rideau/Nicholas at 0700. Returns from King Edward/Rideau at 1545, arriving in Arnprior at 1700. Cost is $22 each way. Weekly - $90. Monthly - $325. It is noted however that Mr. Thom is retiring and nothing will be known before the end of September as to the future of the company. ***John will follow up.***

Non Urgent Medical Transportation – John contacted Renfrew County Paramedics who referred him to Renfrew County Emergency Services who referred him to the Sunshine Coach which operates out of Renfrew. The Sunshine coach has no presence in Arnprior but works cooperatively with Arnprior. The charge from Arnprior to Renfrew is $45 each way and wait time is $35/hour.

Para Transpo – Para Transpo offers services in the Central Core of Ottawa (Kanata to Orleans) and their western boundry is Stittsville. Their rural zone is Cumberland, Osgood, Kinburn and Dunrobin. Urban Ford on the outskirts of Arnprior is within the Dunrobin rural zone. They will transport to or from Urban Ford to the Central core of Ottawa for a cost of $9. An attendant can travel free of charge. It is noted that there are eligibility requirements for Para Transpo which would include mobility issues and a medical component. Discussion was held on how we disseminate this information to seniors and it was concluded that Seniors at Home are best able to provide this information to callers. ***John will provide Dennis with his reports on transportation*** so that Seniors at Home will have up to date information on services available to anyone who calls.

* 1. **Compendium of Services**

Pam LeMay received an email the morning of this meeting from the Community Resource Centre (Killaloe) which Sandra forwarded to all Council members. It was not available for discussion purposes in time for the meeting. However the email was in response to Pam’s request for a quote to extract information from County Connections on services available to seniors residing in the Arnprior area. It was determined however that this would be too expensive and we’d be better actioned to provide links to services available to seniors through the Town’s website. Pam reiterated our need to plan this carefully. We need to set up a “senior’s specific” page on the town’s website that will provide easy access to information from health to transportation to educational opportunities and may need to pay someone to look at the whole picture and fill in the gaps. It was also noted that we don’t want to overlook McNab-Braeside and they should have a link on their website directing that community to these services.

* 1. **Educational Opportunities**

Ralph Chown provided an update on educational opportunities in the area.

Willis College is more geared to programs for people looking for jobs. There are programs available for 55+ students such as Network Security, PSW training, Quicken, Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Executive Business Administration.

Renfrew County Continuing Education has programs available at Arnprior High School. Classes are held in the basement but some are available online or by correspondence. There are 3 programs:

Basic Skills – English, Math and Computers

High School Credit – same as students take

Employment Preparation – Computers, Sales, Trade Helpers

In class courses are 5 hrs/day, 5 days week for 8 weeks. No charge except computer courses cost $20 to cover paper.

**Ralph will also take a more in-depth look into what Algonquin College has to offer and obtain codes for continuing education programs and will also look at Carleton and Ottawa U.**

Karen DeLuca advised that the Library will offer general interest programs on anything there is shown an interest from as long as she can find an instructor to volunteer their services, i.e. French, Spanish. The Library currently offers one-on-one instruction on laptops, computers, smart phones and tablets and there are also art courses available at the Nick Smith Centre. There is currently a workshop on Geneology happening at the library and Karen advised that they also provide free access to Ancestry.com. Sandra will check out the Main Street School of Music to see what programs they might provide. Dennis can provide a column in the Senior’s at Home newsletter on continuing education programs available for seniors.

* 1. **Budget**

The Canada 150 Grant program through Heritage Canada would offer no funding to set up a compendium of services. They are looking for specific programs that seniors actively participate in.

* 1. **Graphic Artist**

Merryn has contacted Kelsey MacMillan, a local graphic artist who is most interested in partnering with the GASC to develop a logo. She is charging $200 for two concepts which were distributed for our consideration. After much discussion we asked that a combination of the concepts be developed and Merryn will ask for a revision which she will circulate to each of us by email when completed.

1. **New Business**
   1. **Grant opportunities**

Katrin has submitted an Expression of Interest to the Change Foundation on behalf of Arnprior Regional Health to improve family caregiver experiences and has provided the following explanation. ARH will take the lead with this initiative but is looking to partner with the GASC.

**The Change Foundation (TCF)- A call for an expression of interest: Partnering with family caregivers to improve their experience in Ontario’s health and community care system**

* TCF called for an expression of interest
  + Independent health policy think tank
  + Created in 1995 through endowment of Ontario Hospital association
  + Dedicated to enhancing patient and caregiver experiences and ON quality of healthcare
* TCF strategic goal focuses on improving caregiver experience as they move across ON health system
  + 29 % of provincial population ( 3.3 million) provide some sort of caregiver role to a family member or friend
  + Our health system is dependent on unpaid caregivers
  + Lack of support
  + Caregivers need to be recognized as key members of the care team
* TCF performed extensive assessment and scan of needs :
  + Main gaps identified were:
    - Recognition
    - Communication btw caregivers and system providers
    - Caregiver identification and assessment of needs
    - Support/education for caregivers
* TCL is looking to partner with organizations to achieve their strategic goal
  + High level 5 page proposal requested by TCF
  + If shortlisted full proposal requested
  + Selected projects 75 k for 4 months and 750k -1million for subsequent years
* Great opportunity for Arnprior community
  + No direct money for GASC but if shortlisted, ARH is looking for partnership with GASC. Heads up!
  + Due date Sept 21, 4pm
  + Will report back at next meeting if proposal was shortlisted
  + Share EOI, once submitted
  1. **Proposed Communication Strategy**

Merryn circulated the draft proposal and everyone agreed with the format of this document. Merryn will tweak it further based on our discussions and resubmit by email. We will discuss further at our October meeting when everyone has had a chance to review. Robin and Darrel will meet with Lindsay Wilson and draft information for Key Partners (Tier 3)

* 1. **Proposed Work Plan**

Merryn and Katrin provided copies of the proposed work plan. It is noted that target dates and partners can change going forward as required. Merryn will update based on our discussions and email to all Council members.

1. **Correspondence**

No further correspondence was submitted.

1. **Other Business**

Chris Havey, Chair of Grove Redevelopment Task Force joined our meeting at 11:30 am to provide an update on the progress of this initiative. ARH operates the Grove which is a 60 bed nursing home that is eligible for redevelopment under the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care’s Redevelopment Program. 36 long term care bed licenses are required but acquiring licenses from existing operators is not an option as there is currently no process in place to identify over and under serviced areas which is making the redistribution or license transfers challenging. How to get more licenses in Renfrew County is the problem facing the Task Force. The Task Force has been meeting with MPPs in the area to ask them to advocate on our behalf. Chris feels they are headed down the right path and are slowly getting the message out but involvement is needed from the Mayor, John Yakabuski, service clubs and the community at large. A huge fundraising campaign is in the works to purchase more bed licenses as it is felt that in 5-6 years more licenses will be approved. Posters and petition cards have been printed to announce this campaign and a social media plan is in the works. This is not strictly an ARH campaign but involves the community at large. It was the community that built The Grove, not the municipality.

The Task Force is asking the GASC for assistance in moving this initiative forward. Whatever we can do to promote the efforts of the Task Force will be appreciated. It is felt that this is within the mandate of the GASC and we are on board. Robin suggested that the Task Force should provide a presentation to Town Council.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm

**NOTE: Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 19 at 9 am at Hospice Renfrew, 459 Albert St. Same road as Bonnechere Manor.**

**Maureen Sullivan-Bentz and Judy Cobus of Hospice Renfrew will provide a tour and presentation covering volunteer opportunities and support programs. Followed by our meeting.**