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

**Wednesday,October 19, 2016**

**Location: Hospice Renfrew**

**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

Katrin Spencer – Arnprior Regional Health

Robin Paquette – Planner,Town of Arnprior

Geoff Patterson – Township of McNab-Braeside

Maureen Sullivan-Bentz – Hospice Renfrew

**Regrets:**

Merryn Douglas – 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 (Recreation)

Rick Gwalchmai – Town of Arnprior (Recreation)

Judy Cobus – Hospice Renfrew

Karen DeLuca – Town of Arnprior (Library)

Jennifer Torode – Arnpror and District Family Health Team

Our meeting commenced with a tour of Hospice by Maureen Sullivan-Bentz and a presentation on the Hospice Volunteer Program by Judy Cobus. This gave Council members a perspective on the exceptional care afforded to Hospice clients and the funding challenges they face. Hospice relies heavily on their volunteers.

1. **Call to Order:**

The Greater Arnprior Seniors Council (hereinafter shown as GASC) meeting commenced at 9:55 am

1. **Roll Call:**

Darrel welcomed Geoff Patterson, representing the Township of McNab-Braeside.

1. **Adoption of Agenda:**

The Agenda was adopted as written with the addition of “Recreation” under New Business.

1. **Approval of Records of Discussion from September 21,2016**

All approved

1. **Matters of Discussion from Meeting of September 21, 2016**
   1. **Terms of Reference**

Robin Paquette had distributed the revised Terms of Reference prior to this meeting. Robin was asked to add Pamela LeMay to Appendix A-List of Current Members. It was noted that Patti Farr has retired from Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Seniors at Home. Sandra Elliott will attempt to contact her to see if she would like to remain on Council as a community member.

* 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.

September 26 – Met with Jean-Pierre Boisclair and Chantale LeClerc of LHINS who agreed to develop a message to the Ministry to assist us in our request for additional long-term care bed licenses.

September 30 – Met with Yasir Naqvi, MP Ottawa Center. Mr Naqvi agreed to follow up with John Fraser, MP Ottawa South, Chantal LeClerc, LHIN and the Health Minister’s office on our behalf. Darrel noted that as a Senior Minister, Mr. Naqvi has clout and was encouraged by his support.

Eric Hanna has sent emails to MPs as follow up and will copy us.

Darrel and Chis Havey are working on a letter to Eric Hoskins, Health Minister, from GASC and the Grove Redevelopment team. Mr. Hoskins is not sure if LTC beds and our request to grow adult programs at the Grove are priorities but Darrel feels our message is being heard and we will keep up the pressure.

Darrel and Eric are setting up a meeting with John Yakabuski to garner his support, to argue our case and to raise questions at Queen’s Park as to what is going on. Darrel and Eric are prepared to go to Queen’s Park as well.

* 1. **Communication**

A Press Release will tie in with our Communications Plan and will be discussed under New Business.

Valley Heritage Radio – Robin and Darrel are booked for November 8 for a 15 minute time slot in their weekly Senior’s segment to introduce the GASC to the community.

* 1. **Public Transportation**

John Heymans provided a handout summarizing his research into the Transportation issues in our community. Robin will scan and send to Dennis Harrington for their use. The information gathered so far could be reviewed at the next Board meeting of Seniors-at-Home. All community requests should be directed through Seniors-at-Home. We realize there are definitely transportation gaps. Seniors-at-Home are unable to keep up with the demand and turn down at least 80 clients a month. They have need of another vehicle plus $30,000/year for drivers, insurance, upkeep, etc. We believe there may be grants available that Seniors-at-Home could apply for.

* 1. **Compendium of Services**

This issue is stalled at the moment. Robin and Pam will meet towards end of November to discuss further. In the meantime Arnprior Life and the Town’s website provide listings of local services available.

* 1. **Educational Opportunities**

Ralph Chown provided further details on the courses available through Algonquin College, Carleton, Ottawa U and Arnprior High School. Courses from most sources are available on-line, through correspondence or by full or part-time attendance and vary from academic, career oriented to computer or general interest. It is noted that most general interest courses can be accessed through the Arnprior Library. Sandra provided some input into Arnprior’s Main Street School of Music who would be open to providing programs such as Ukelele/Sing Along, Hand Drumming or vocal groups should there be an interest. The costs are $10-$15 per hour for groups which could be prohibitive. The members present agreed however that the role of the GASC would be to direct interested parties to the websites of these various schools and programs. This can be done when the GASC has its own website and we can provide links. It would be up to the interested parties to do their own research. We did however discuss the possibility of providing a survey to see what interest seniors have in educational opportunities and this could be done through the Seniors-At-Home Newsletters.

Ralph will speak further with Karen DeLuca of the Library and work with her and Dennis Harrington going forward. Robin and Maureen will work on putting together a survey early in 2017.

1. **New Business**
   1. **Graphic Artist**

Karin distributed the final version of the logo. Although some were not in agreement with the final version it was agreed that this issue was not a high priority to spend any more time in discussion and the logo was approved. It was asked however if the designer could provide an explanation of the concept and Karin will ask Kelsey to provide this explanation. This concept explanation would be posted on our website when up and running. Note: The concept has since been circulated to all GASC members.

* 1. **Communications Plan for Approval**

Under Tier 2-Community Stakeholders it was suggested the following be added:

* Church Councils
* The Fountain
* Service Clubs (remove Chamber of Commerce from Tier 3 and combine under this topic)
* Township of McNab-Braeside (moved from Tier 3)
* School Boards, Colleges, Universities (combined from Tier 3 and moved to Tier 2)

An annual evaluation would be a guideline for the GASC only.

Add “Engagement Plan” to the title of this document i.e. “Communication and Engagement Plan”.

This document was approved with the noted amendments.

* 1. **Website Development/Press Release**

It was agreed that the GASC required a separate website rather than be part of Town’s website. Although the Town could provide a link to the GASC website. We have received a quote of $1000 from Kelsey MacMillan Design as start-up fee to develop a website. There would also be an annual cost for upkeep. Robin and Darrel will complete an application to the town for funding in the amount of $5000 from the 2016 budget, if any monies still available, or from 2017 budget. This application will be completed asap as the Town is currently working on the budget. The Town of Arnprior would be the Trustee of any funds.

* 1. **Work Plan**

The Work Plan was approved as written.

We should be encouraged by the status of the Actions. We are making progress**.**

* 1. **Logo Invoice for Appoval**

The invoice from Kelsey MacMillan Design in the amount of $200.00 was approved. Eric Hanna will pay.

* 1. **Chronicle-Guide – GASC Monthly Press Release**

Robin advised that normally all Letters to the Editor are published and Darrel suggested each GASC member take a turn at writing a submission from the GASC. Maureen offered to submit a letter on Grief and Bereavement over the Holidays. We will take this under consideration and discuss further.

* 1. **New Advocacy Targets**

Eric Hanna had previously circulated a Mandate Letter from Ontario’s Premier which identified some senior’s advocacy targets. Eric identified Parkinson’s and Alheimers as local family councils offering services. Council members should refer to Eric’s email circulated on September 27 as there are targets identified that we could address going forward.

1. **Further Discussion**

Further discussion ensued on the topic of transportation gaps and the need for Seniors-at-Home to purchase another vehicle. Darrel offered to contact the Ottawa Seniors Council to ask where they go for funding.

1. **Recreation**

Time did not allow us to address this additional topic brought forward by Ralph Chown on behalf of the Township of McNab-Braeside however it was suggested that we contact Glenn Arthur of Arnprior Recreation and ask him and Geoff Patterson to prepare a presentation on seniors recreation opportunities at our November meeting.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am

***NOTE: Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 9:00 am at the***

***Nick Smith Centre.***