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

**Wednesday, May 17, 2017**

**Location: Island View Suites**

**Present:**

Darrel O’Shaughnessy – GASC Member (Chair)

Sandra Elliott – GASC Member, Secretary

Pamela Lemay – GASC Member

Ralph Chown – GASC Member

Janet Parry – GASC Member

Dennis Harrington, Arnprior McNab Braeside Seniors at Home

Glenn Arthur – Recreation, Town of Arnprior

Karla Blemkie – Recreation, McNab-Braeside

Karen DeLuca – Arnprior Library

Kaila Zamojski – Clerk, Town of Arnprior

Chanti Birdi –Summer Student, Town of Arnprior

Jennifer Torode – Arnprior and District Family Health Team

**Regrets:**

Eric Hanna – Arnprior Regional Health

Susan Leach – Arnprior Regional Health

Katrin Spencer – Arnprior Regional Health

Robin Paquette – Planner, Town of Arnprior

Rick Gwalchmai – Arnprior (Recreation)

Maureen Sullivan-Bentz- Hospice Renfrew

Judy Cobus, Hospice Renfrew

Geoff Patterson – Recreation, McNab-Braeside

1. **Call to order**

Our meeting was called to order at 9:00 am

1. **Roll Call**
2. **Adoption of Agenda**

Agenda was adopted as presented

1. **Approval of Records of Discussion from meeting of April 19, 2017**

Approved as presented.

1. **Matters for Discussion** 
   1. **Results of Accessibility Tour of May 10**

This discussion was moved forward due to Kaila Zamojski having to leave the meeting early.

Kaila introduced Chanti Birdi who is a summer student who will be working with Robin Paquette.

Kaila distributed 2 handouts: the Town of Arnprior’s 2016 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Status Report and the results of the 2017 AAAC Accessibility Tour.

**The 2016 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan** was completed December 12, 2016. Each section of the Plan provided an overview of the relevant requirement, as well as the date or projected date that the Town was/would be incompliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act’s (AODA) various legislative standards. **This Status Report is available to the public and can be found on the Town’s website.**

The Multi Year Accessibility Plan will be updated fully by the end of December 2017 for another 5 year period, as per the AODA’s, Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR).

2017 AAC Accessibility Tour of Arnprior was conducted on May 10. Darrel participated in the tour as well as other community members, some with disabilities. **The document outlining the results of this tour will be forwarded to GASC members by separate email** **for those who were not present at this meeting**. Areas visited were: Town Hall, Stanley Tourangeau Fire/Police Services Station, Downtown Revitalization Project (John St), Arnprior Museum, Arnprior Public Library, Robert Simpson Park and the Nick Smith Centre. Notes, Observations and suggestions by those in attendance are noted in the report.

Kaila advised that a waterfront feasibility study is currently being conducted by the Town and the public have been encouraged to participate. This is a long term project.

Ralph Chown expressed concerns about the Fitness Room at the Nick Smith Centre. The door currently locks behind a user who enters with a key. There is no window in the room and if a user had an accident, no one would know. He suggests that the door not lock automatically and/or a window be installed. Glenn will look into this.

Sandra asked if there was any concern expressed about the gutters installed as part of the John Street Revitalization project. She had heard that in the winter a couple of people had fallen when stepping out of their car when the gutter was filled with snow. Kaila advised that this is a winter maintenance issue which is being addressed.

Kaila also advised that storefront accessibility issues is not a Town compliance responsibility but a Provincial responsibility. Most Arnprior retail establishments are providing back entrance access where possible.

* 1. **Website Update – Robin Paquette and Jennifer Torode**

Jennifer advised that she and Robin have met with the web designer who is finalizing headers, font sizes, etc. and we should have a first draft for review within a week. Chanti noted that this Council will have final approval.

**5.3 Transportation Options for Seniors – Dennis Harrington and Darrel O’Shaughnessy**

Darrel is waiting to hear from Robin re her meeting with the Mayor and Michael Wildman, CAO. Dennis Harrington advised that the transportation figures given to the town by Seniors-at-Home had been misplaced and he has resubmitted. Darrel expressed his concern with this issue and he is not prepared to let it go. This is a major issue for the Town and sustainable funding opportunities need to be sought.

* 1. **Monthly News Article for Chronicle Guide**

Pam LeMay has submitted her article to the Chronicle-Guide. We suspect the local flooding issues would take priority this week and we’ll watch for future issues.

* 1. **Grove Redevelopment Update**

Katrin was not able to attend this meeting as she is attending a conference in Toronto but submitted a report which Darrel presented as follows:

The provincial budget was announced couple of weeks ago. Although funding has been allocated for many important and critical programs and services, there was no word about LTC beds. We followed up with Ministry officials and we were told to be patient. We remain positive that LTC licences will be released in the early fall. In the meanwhile we continue our advocacy efforts and the following activities are underway:

* Follow up call with Adrienne Spafford ( senior advisor to the Premier’s Office) on May 24, 2017
* Call with Minister Dameria on May 29, 2017
* 2000 more postcards presented to John Yakabuski
* Distribution of “Help The Grove Grow” Posters to increase awareness of the webpage
* Communication Campaign on Radio, in the Newspaper and Social Media
* Biweekly, we air/publish short messages to educate the community about the Grove, the Redevelopment and why the Grove needs to be redeveloped.
* Katrin would appreciate any feedback on this campaign.
* Completion of Focus Groups for the Rural Seniors’ Village with Seniors/Caregivers/Residents and Providers
* There were some common themes that arose from the consultations, one being the challenge of transportation for Seniors, which echoes one of the goals of the AFC Plan
* We anticipate that the Rural Seniors’ Village will also address some of the identified goals and objectives of the AFC Plan, such as Transportation, more LTC beds etc…
* Co-Design Session for Seniors’ Village on May 31 st
* This co-design session brings both groups ( seniors/residents/caregivers & service providers) together
* We will look for opportunities and solutions for identified gaps and reach consensus on what the Seniors’ Village will look/ feel like.

Thank you to all of you who participated in focus groups, completed surveys and will be part of the Co-Design Session. Please do not hesitate to contact Katrin if you have any questions or feedback.

* 1. **GASC Member Recruitment**

This item is ongoing as we need to consider succession planning. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please advise Darrel.

1. **New Business**
   1. **Hike for Hospice**

Sandra reported on this successful event which was extremely well organized and attracted 900 participants. The GASC team, Rock and Oldies, raised over $2,000 and the latest updated results from Hospice is that $150,000 was raised overall. Very impressive!

* 1. **Dragon Boat Festival Update**

Darrel advised that planning is ongoing for this July 22 event. Lots of teams participating. The Town has hired a troupe to conduct a Lions dance/parade. A Chinese seniors group from Kanata is attending and will be conducting a Tai Chai demo in Robert Simpson Park. Darrel is continuing to look for a local Chinese resident who will act as a Town Ambassador and give this group a tour of the town. There will also be a concert in the park with Rob Dontigny of CSI performing.

* 1. **Summer Recreational Programming for Seniors**

Glenn Arthur provided a handout outlining programming for the summer months in Arnprior.

* June 3 – Priorpalooza – Robert Simpson Park
* June 22 – Dream Catchers – Robert Simpson Park – A Canada 150 Event – A music and dance filled spectacle that explores the dreams of young Canadians
* July 1-CanadaDay – Robert Simpson Park and Hydro Park East. Wear red and white and form Canada Maple Leaf picture in High School Field at 11AM. Followed by bicycle parade, children’s activities and all day local music at both locations. Spectacular Fireworks in the evening.
* July 22 – Dragon Boat Festival
* Every Sunday starting June 11 from 2-4 pm Concerts in the Park
* August 22 – Highland Dance Competition –Robert Simpson Park
* Sunday market on John Street starting May 21, 9 am – 2 pm

Karla Blemkie then gave us an outline of what the Township of McNab-Braeside have planned for summer.

* May 20 – October 7 – Saturday market 8 am – 12 pm, 2473 Russet Drive across from the Municipal building.
* June 24 – Relay 150 – 8 am at Sand Point through the county ending at Waba Cottage in White Lake with live music and entertainment. Trying for a Guinness record. Includes walking, running, pogo, strollers, swimming, boating. They are looking for baton carriers and volunteers. There are 6 sections throughout the county with a captain for each section.
* July 1 – 10:45 am Canada Day in Braeside and Red Pine Bay. BBQ and entertainment.
* July 30 – Midsummer Herbfest at Waba Cottage. 9am-5pm More than 25 vendors expected, craft beer, pontoon boat rides, demonstrations and entertainment.
* Yoga, rental of paddle boards, etc. are available at Burnstown Beach throughout the summer.
  1. **Other Recreational Opportunities for Seniors**

Sandra advised that the Villa recently had a Prom for residents that was organized by a Grade 9 class at ADHS. It was an event planning exercise for the students who were marked as part of a class assignment. The student researched music from the 20’s, 30’s and 40’s. They decorated, prepared food, had a photo booth and a milkshake bar. They showed a Powerpoint history presentation of Arnprior with old photos. It was a very successful event with almost every resident of the Villa attending. Matt Scubie from CTV Ottawa was there and highlights were shown on CTV News that evening.

Sandra also advised that the media recently reported a similar event being held annually out west with Grade 12 students organizing. It is held in the High School gym and seniors are bused to the venue in school buses.

Dennis Harrington said that Seniors-at-Home have been talking to the Villa as well about this event and it is on their radar for future consideration.

* 1. **IPod Project Award**

Karen DeLuca advised that kudos continue to roll in for this project which is a collaboration between the Arnprior Library and the Grove Nursing Home. They have received an Advantage Ontario Award, have been nominated for a library award and have been contacted by music associations in New York, Florida and across Canada. Each resident in the Grove was given an IPod with their favourite music downloaded and the library is now circulating IPods with library cards as well. IPods are also now being used by hospitals with the list of uses expanding. This has been recognized as a major calming tool for seniors with dementia. Karen said that it is interesting to note that the request for music is including the Rolling Stones, Meat Loaf and ABBA.

* 1. **Ontario Association of Council on Aging (OACA**)

Darrel advised that we have been invited to be part of this Association through the Council on Aging in Ottawa. This is a Not-for-Profit organization that is currently developing their Terms of Reference. The President is Lillian Wells. They have asked for an Executive Summary of the GASC which Darrel has provided. This opportunity will give the GASC a larger voice on seniors’ issues.

1. **Correspondence**

No correspondence was submitted.

1. **Other Business**

* Darrel, Robin and Sandra will be attending an Eastern Ontario Age-Friendly Workshop in Brockville on June 19
* Darrel has a phone call meeting scheduled with Minister Dameria on May 29
* Darrel has reached out to Sherry at Chronicle-Guide to see if we can showcase stories and photos of interesting and active seniors in our community in the weeks and months ahead. He is awaiting a response.
* The Renfrew County Seniors Games are currently underway. Arnprior is District 5. The swimming and carpet bowling events are being held in Arnprior. Winners of District events go on to participate Regional Games which lead the next year into the Provincial Games. Much discussion ensued on the seemingly lack of participation and it was thought that the problem was lack of advertising and the fact that the various events are circulated from town to town in Renfrew County. The Games are fragmented and need tightening up and reorganization. Arnprior has hosted these Games in the past and it was always considered a Special Event. Recreation Departments take the lead for these events and Glenn Arthur is going to talk to his team to push for reorganization and ways to garner more interest at the Rec Departments Annual Meeting. Ralph Chown offered his assistance if required.

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 am.

**Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 21 at the Arnprior Library.**