

GREATER ARNPRIOR SENIORS COUNCIL – RECORDS OF DISCUSSION
Wednesday, February 20, 2019 – 9:00AM

Location: 106 John St., corner of Elgin and John St.
 (Grove Redevelopment Campaign Office)

Present:

Darrel O’Shaughnessy (Chair)	Graeme Ivory-Town of Arnprior, Recreation
Robin Paquette –Town of Arnprior (Acting Sec.)	Dennis Harrington-Seniors at Home
Eleanor Hotchkiss-GASC Member	Pam LeMay-GASC Member
Mandy Stinson-Seniors at Home	Geoff Patterson, McNab/Braeside
Laurel Reid-GASC Member	Eric Hanna-Arnprior Regional Health
Zander Abercrombie-GASC Member, Youth Rep.	
Ralph Chown-GASC Member	

Regrets

Karen Simpson-Arnprior Family Health Team	Karen DeLuca-Town of Arnprior, Library
Glenn Arthur-SALC Program Coordinator	Judy Cobus-Hospice Renfrew
Sandra Elliot – GASC Member (Secretary)	Kaila Zamojski-Town of Arnprior, Clerk
Rick Gwalchmai-Town of Arnprior ,Recreation	Wendy Knechtel-Island View Retirement
Caitlyn Brydges - DSORC	

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Greater Arnprior Seniors Council commenced at 9AM

2. Roll Call

All Members of the Greater Arnprior Seniors Council were present with the exception of those noted above. Eric Hanna introduced Angie Heinz who is the new Human Resource Officer and Community Program and Services representative from the ARH. He also advised that Laurie Hogan is working part time on the Grove Redevelopment.

3. Adoption of Agenda (Additions/Deletions)

The Agenda was adopted as presented.

4. Approval of Records of Discussion from meeting of January 19, 2019

The Records of Discussion from meeting of January 19, 2019 were approved as presented.

4.1 Vice Chair Position

Moved by Dennis Harrington, Seconded by Pam LeMay

MOTION: That Laurel Reid, GASC Member, be appointed to the position of Vice Chair of GASC.

CARRIED

Guest Speaker - Arnprior Optimist Club

Chris Toner of the Arnprior Optimist Club provided a comprehensive overview of the Club, which started in the Town in 1961. They are a group of about 30 members who are dedicated to bringing out the best in kids. The Club is autonomously run by local members so they have flexibility to serve the local youth as they see fit. Over their history they have raised \$2.5 million which has been spent in the community on donations to schools, sports groups, clubs and provides three bursaries to the high school of \$4000 per year. They have helped acquired mobility bikes and sit-skis for the

Pakenham Ski Hill, and given \$100,000 to Partners in Caring to create the kids zone in the Emergency Room of Arnprior District Hospital and to purchase a 'portable suction unit'. Members have volunteered thousands of man hours to the Winter Carnival, bike safety rodeos and parades, hosting fundraisers such as golf tournaments, wine/scotch/beer tastings, running the beer gardens at the Salute to the Valley and White Pine Festival and selling Nevada tickets.

They are one of the most successful clubs in the Country and keep their fundraising dollars local rather than supporting the charities of the International Charter. They meet twice a month and enjoy their time together in comradery. There is now a women's Optimist Club in Arnprior as well, known as the 'Arnprior Optimist-ic Women's Club'.

When asked what the GASC can do for this organization, Mr. Toner said they would just like support for their initiatives through participation in their fundraising activities. He recognized the work of the GASC in involving youth in our initiatives. The Chair thanked him for his time.

5. Program Updates

5.1 SALC Update – Glenn Arthur

Glenn Arthur was unavailable to attend the meeting to provide an update. Darrel noted that there have been 290 members enrolled since opening and the SALC is changing people's lives and growing in a very positive way.

5.2 Men's Shed Update – Darrel O'Shaughnessy

The Men's Shed had a soft opening on February 5th with approximately 16 visitors. They fulfilled every item on their opening work plan, including receiving a donated defibulator from the County of Renfrew. All members will receive training on that unit in April. There is 6,000 square feet of space and lots of wood working equipment. No running water is available but a compostable toilet has been installed and is being closed in. Cupboard space has been built. There are 12-13 members at this time. In the last week, the group has received contracts to construct 5 accessible picnic tables for both the Town of Arnprior and Township of McNab/Braeside. They have also been asked to consider design and construction of planter boxes at the museum. On question from a member, Darrel explained that there are always 2 hosts on duty to supervise the projects and members must be trained before they are permitted to use a piece of equipment.

The grand opening is scheduled for February 28th from 1-3pm and everyone is welcome to come check it out. There will be displays and refreshments.

5.3 Senior Expo – Graeme Ivory

The Expo is scheduled for March 30th from 10am-4pm in the Community Hall of the Nick Smith Centre. There are 28 vendor spaces available with 10-11 local vendors so far. They have received assistance from the Carp Commons, the Villa and Arnprior-McNab-Braeside Seniors at Home who will provide accessible transportation. Bags will be provided at the door to hold materials collected during the Expo. About 60 volunteers are required to run the day and can be 2-3 hour shifts. Please contact Darrell if you

would like to help out.

5.4 Age Friendly Training Programs – Karen Simpson

Karen was unavailable to attend the meeting to provide an update.

5.5 Intergenerational High School Program – Eleanor Hotchkiss

Eleanor advised that interviews with 6 seniors were undertaken on January 17th by 13 students from Arnprior District High School. The Grade 10 teacher, Mr. Water with the assistance of Karen Deluca, organized the day and the seniors truly enjoyed the interaction with the youth and shared great stories. It is hoped that more interviews will happen in May. Chris Toner suggested the Optimists may be able to assist with funding for the development of the videos.

5.6 Supporting Better Connections – Creating New Volunteer Opportunities – Graeme Ivory

With respect to the 2-1-1 system, Graeme has met with Lindsay Wilson, Marketing and Economic Development Officer with the town to promote this service, particularly in emergency situations, such as spring flooding, to provide information.

5.7 Seniors Snow Removal Process – Dennis Harrington, Zander Abercrombie

Zander and Dennis have prepared a letter to be sent home with students once the principle has reviewed, to ask for volunteers to broker this program.

5.8 MTO Transportation Grant – Dennis Harrington, Robin Paquette

We are pleased that the Grant has finally been awarded by the new provincial government and the Town is working with the Ministry staff to enter into the appropriate agreement to have the funds transferred. Once in hand, the vehicle will be purchased.

5.9 GASC Work Plan Update – Darrel O’Shaughnessy, Robin Paquette

Robin went over the Work Plan and highlighted that much has been done, but there are still some areas to move forward.

5.10 Senior’s Housing Initiative – Darrel O’Shaughnessy

Darrel recommended that there is a need to identify gaps and needs with respect to Senior Accommodations and suggested that a sub-committee be formed to move this initiative forward. This project would help the ARH with future plans for vacated area of the Grove Nursing Home. Laurel, Dennis and Robin agreed to sit on a sub-committee. Anyone else is welcome to join, please advise Darrel.

6. New Business

6.1 Jumpstart Accessibility Grant – Geoff Patterson

Geoff outlined that a Grant has been submitted by McNab/Braeside Township for \$250,000 to provide improvements to the outdoor rink situation in Braeside. The rink is in a dilapidated state and they wish to encourage participation for all by the installation of clear glass boards.

Graeme advised that the Town of Arnprior has applied for a \$10,000 to add a lift,

change table and ramp in the pool area.

6.2 Pakenham Bridging Generations Group – Darrel O’Shaughnessy

Darrel met with Sheryl Smith of the Pakenham Bridging Generations Group which is similar to our GASC. They are looking at senior housing opportunities and transportation challenges as well. They have been invited to provide us with a presentation in April to see if there are any opportunities to work together.

7. Other Business

It was noted that the Town is looking for submissions for Senior of the Year as well as Volunteer of the Year. Applications are due by February 28th. Please reach out to Laurel if you have any suggestions.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Next meeting of the GASC will be held on Wednesday, March 20 at 9:00 am at the JAG Recreation Centre, 138 Sarah Street in Braeside.