

GREATER ARNPRIOR SENIORS COUNCIL – RECORDS OF DISCUSSION

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 - 9:00 AM

VIA ZOOM

Present

Darrrel O’Shaughnessy, Chair	Kaila Zamojski, Town of Arnprior, Deputy Clerk
Sandra Elliott, Secretary	Eric Hanna, ARH
Ralph Chown, McNab-Braeside	Geoff Patterson, McNab-Braeside Recreation
Pamela LeMay, Arnprior	Karen Simpson, AFHT
Eleanor Hotchkiss, Arnprior	Graeme Ivory, Town of Arnprior Recreation
Paul Helm, Arnprior	Brittany Harris, Arnprior Villa
Glenn Arthur, ARH/SALC	

Absent

Pierce Campbell, ADHS, Youth Rep	Robin Paquette, Arnprior CAO
Dennis Harrington, Seniors At Home	Karen DeLuca, Arnprior Library
Mandy Stinson, Seniors at Home	Cathy McCaig, Arnprior Ministerial
Rick Gwalchmai, Arnprior Recreation	Audrey Edwards, Dementia Society
Tracey Foster, Island View	Marjorie Joly, Hospice Renfrew
Lynn Russett, Island View	

1. Call to Order

The January meeting of the GASC was called to order at 9:02 am.

2. Roll Call

All members of the Greater Arnprior Seniors Council were present except as noted above.

Darrel welcomed Paul Helm who joined the meeting via audio. Paul is interested in joining the GASC as a new senior’s member. Paul is currently very active with the Arnprior Archives and is most interested in our intergenerational programming and would like to be active in that regard.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted as presented with no additions.

4. Approval of Records of Discussion from meeting of November 18, 2020

The Records of Discussion were approved as previously presented.

Note: The Secretary was contacted by Geoff Patterson following the meeting. Geoff brought to our attention that Item L of the November meeting notes should read “Geoff Patterson, Manager of Recreation for the Township of McNab/Braeside provided a brief overview of the status of Recreation in **McNab/Braeside.**” Not Arnprior. Correction duly noted.

5. Program Updates

5.1 SALC

- Glenn advised that the SALC is currently closed due to provincial COVID restrictions but Mat and Chair Yoga, Pilates and Salsa are being offered on-line vis Zoom.
- Seniors Without Walls is still being offered with interesting speakers and activities.
- Two substantial Grants have been received from the Ministry for Sr and Accessibility-Seniors Active Living Centre Program. One for \$42,700 that will help with the Operating Costs of the SALC and a Special Grant of \$11,300 that will be used to purchase a table saw for the Men's Shed as well as purchase a computer software system for the SALC that will allow them to keep better records, registrations, etc.

SALC is currently interviewing for program coordinator to replace Donna Leroux. 15-20 applications have been received. It has been narrowed down to 7 and a decision will be forthcoming by the end of the week. Training will then commence.

5.2 Men's Shed

- The Men's Shed is currently closed until at least January 22 due to provincial restrictions.
- The Christmas Craft Sale was very successful with lots of Christmas orders received for bird feeders, toys, planters and a raised dog bowl.
- Two prototype Memory Boxes have been sent to the Grove Nursing Home for approval by the Board. Upon approval 96 more will be built before the opening of the new facility in the Fall.
- The video production has been a major success and is currently available on Youtube. It has been viewed in Wales, Scotland, UK and Australia as well as by Provincial and Federal Ministries.

5.3 Arnprior Regional Health

Grove Redevelopment

- Production on the new nursing home is 70% complete. Extra costs have been incurred due to heating the site with propane vs gas.
- An occupancy plan is being worked on.
- There have been no COVID cases reported amongst staff, residents or visitors.

Ontario Health Team

- The 3 Rivers team has grown with the addition of Kempville. Meeting sessions have been held with Kempville hospital and it makes sense for them to join.
- Applications are being worked on, by the now 4 Rivers group, to be sent to the Ministry for review but it doesn't seem to be a priority with the Ministry right now. Hopefully decisions might be forthcoming by late summer/early Fall.
- 4 Rivers are one of the early adopters of the concept and meet regularly. Renfrew, etc haven't even met yet.
- Darrel asked Eric if they were satisfied with support from the community and Eric responded that they will be looking for further support from other health fields in the 4 Rivers areas.
- Ralph asked if there has been any talk with regard to repurposing the current Grove and Eric responded that actually a meeting was held last night and that ARH has a Board setup to look at options. It is recognized that even more LTC beds are required before housing issues are addressed and that it is important that they maximize the space as efficiently as possible. The group are meeting with consultants.
- Homelessness and affordable housing issues though are recognized and ARH are partnering with the Town and working with Robin on the issues as well.
- Eric advised that a couple of properties bordering on the Grove and owned by Don Johnson have been conditionally sold.

5.4 Island View Activities

Not present at this meeting.

5.5 The Villa Activities

- Brittany reported that there wasn't much happening at The Villa right now and that visitations have been suspended.
- A newsletter is being initiated featuring tips, community resources that are available, etc. Darrel asked that the newsletter be shared with members of the GASC.
- Revera has prepared a Pandemic Response Plan and preventative measures are being implemented in all their properties.

5.6 Hospice Renfrew Activities

Hospice was not present at this meeting but Sandra reported that Marjorie had advised her that all was going well and they were at 100% occupancy.

5.7 Seniors at Home

Not present and no report available.

5.8 Arnprior Family Health Team

- Karen advised that they are working with other agencies in Renfrew County on developing Fit activities and a walk in clinic for mental health starting in February.
- The VTAC is going well. Covid numbers are declining considerably in Renfrew County.
- The AFHT are working on a Strategic Plan for the rollout of the vaccine in Renfrew County and are partnering with ARH on developing a local and Regional Planning Committee. It is anticipated that Stage 1 will focus on LTC, Retirement Homes and Healthcare workers. Eric expressed doubt that the vaccine would be available early February as anticipated. The exact timing is TBD. Stage 2 would target Seniors broken into age groups and Stage 3 would be mass immunization.
- Graeme advised that the Recreation Department was on the local Planning Committee.
- Lots of Planning is required and all are waiting on availability of the vaccine.
- Eric advised that they are trying to determine scheduling of the vaccine rollout. An online booking system is being streamlined.
- Darrel mentioned that there are over 600 members at SALC if looking for volunteers.

5.9 Seniors Affordable Housing

- Pam reiterated that the County of Renfrew had hired a consultant to develop a Seniors Housing Strategy and conducted a survey. She and Darrel submitted a response to their survey in the summer on behalf of the GASC. The Report is now completed and is available on the County of Renfrew website under Seniors Housing Strategy. We should all attempt to read this Report.
- The Town of Arnprior has developed a Housing and Homelessness Group and they've developed a report outlining the needs in Arnprior but it's not all applicable to seniors.
- In the repurposing of the old Grove ARH had plans to develop it into a Seniors Village with possibly including supportive housing. A Sub-Committee has been established and Pam is on this Committee.
- The GASC Housing Sub-Committee has not met since the Spring of 2020 when the Chair resigned due to health issues. Pam would like it reactivated as there are now many players in the affordable housing

initiatives locally and county wide. We need to see how the GASC can proceed and where we can participate.

- Darrel agreed and asked Pam to take the lead.

5.10 Arnprior Recreation/Nick Smith Centre

- Graeme advised that the NSC is also closed due to provincial Covid restrictions.
- They have some virtual programming available for adults, seniors and kids.
- The Lending Hub is available for use of snowshoes, skates, etc and is open for pickup Mondays and Thursdays from 1-2 pm. Sanitizing of the equipment is in hand.
- Outdoor rinks opened yesterday with 10 participants allowed at the Olympia and Caruso rinks and 25 at the Rink of Dreams at Legion Park. New Guidelines are in place at all rinks that have been reviewed with Renfrew County Health. No sticks, no nets. Open 8Am-8 PM and lights are on a timer at the Rink of Dreams.
- When the NSC does open middle of February, same protocols will be in place as in the Fall. Limited programming with registration required. No drop ins.
- Darrel asked if the provincial grant applications to the ICG and ICIP have been approved. Graeme advised they were submitted in December and are currently under review by the Ministry.

5.11 Town of Arnprior

Nothing reported here.

5.12 McNab-Braeside

- Geoff advised that they are in the same shutdown protocols as the NSC. They were slowly making headway with their programs but now closed.
- Their lending hubs are also open with snow shoes, Nordic poles, etc. available.
- Their 3 outdoor rinks are also open with the same protocols and guidelines as Arnprior. All rinks are in good condition.
- Good news. Relief funding has been made available for virtual programming relating to seniors activities, crafts. Etc.
- Ski and snowmobile trails are available and periodic grooming is being performed at the Alexander Stewart Park/Murray Yantha Centre and Claybank park trails for snowshoeing.

5.13 Dementia Society

No report available at this time.

5.13 Succession Planning

Darrel still keeping this item on the monthly Agendas. We are continuously looking for new talent specifically to fill the roles of Chair and Vice-Chair. Everyone asked to continue to be on the lookout.

6 New Business

6.1 Youth Program

- Eleanor reported that with schools being shutdown there is very little activity here. Everything at a standstill and not able to solicit youth volunteers to assist with the updating of various websites.
- Sandra has tried reaching out to our youth member of the GASC, Pierce Campbell, but has had no response. Eleanor will reach out to the ADHS principal to see if we can track him down.

6.2 Waterfront Pedestrian Pathway

On January 12, Darrel reached out to the Town Engineer, John Steckly, asking that he give consideration to sanding the riverfront pathway from behind the Library to Robert Simpsons Park as it was becoming hazardous due to ice build up. This pathway is used frequently by seniors. Particularly treacherous is where the graveyard drainage spills into the Madawaska River adjacent to the Marina. Stecky responded immediately and stated that staff were not in a position to perform regular winter maintenance on the waterfront trail or any other recreational trails in the Town. However within 24 hours the area below the graveyard was sanded and salted. Darrel thanked the Town for their quick response. Graeme will also reach out to John Steckly and thank him.

Eleanor then asked if better care could be taken of sidewalks in the Town and Graeme will also raise this with the Town.

It was also brought to our attention that the area around many mailboxes needed to be cleared of snow as they are difficult to access. We are not sure if this is the responsibility of the Town or Canada Post and Graeme will also bring this to the attention of the Town.

6.3 Greater Arnprior Community Council of Poverty and Homelessness

The GASC has been asked to have representation on this Council and if any member is interested to please contact Darrel. Perhaps our student representative might be interested as well. It was noted that Karen Simpson and Eric Hanna sit on this Committee.

7 Other Business

No other business was identified.

8 Adjournment.

This meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am

***The next meeting of the GASC will be held on
Wednesday, February 17 at 9 AM via Zoom.***