

Greater Arnprior Seniors Council (GASC) Records of Discussion
Wednesday, June 21, 2017
Location: Arnprior Library

Present:

Darrel O'Shaughnessy – GASC Member (Chair)
Sandra Elliott – GASC Member, Secretary
Pamela Lemay – GASC Member
Ralph Chown – GASC Member
Dennis Harrington, Arnprior McNab Braeside Seniors at Home
Eric Hanna – Arnprior Regional Health
Karla Blemkie – Recreation, McNab-Braeside
Robin Paquette – Planner, Town of Arnprior
Chanti Birdi – Summer Student, Town of Arnprior
Rick Gwalchmai – Arnprior (Recreation)
Judy Cobus, Hospice Renfrew
Jennifer Torode – Arnprior and District Family Health Team

Regrets:

Katrin Spencer, Arnprior Regional Health
Susan Leach – Arnprior Regional Health
Karen DeLuca, Arnprior Library
Maureen Sullivan-Bentz- Hospice Renfrew
Geoff Patterson – Recreation, McNab-Braeside
Mandy Stinson – Arnprior McNab-Braeside, Seniors at Home
Kaila Zamojski – Town of Arnprior
Glenn Arthur – Town of Arnprior, Recreation
Janet Parry – GASC Member

1. Call to order

Our meeting was called to order at 9:00 am

2. Roll Call

3. Adoption of Agenda

Darrel added items to the Agenda as follows:

5.9 Grove Redevelopment Task Force (GRTF) Appointment

6.4 Ministry of Seniors Affairs

6.5 ROAR

Other Business – AFC Ongoing Promotion

4. Approval of Records of Discussion from meeting of May 17, 2017

Approved as presented.

5. Matters for Discussion

5.1 Website Update – Robin Paquette and Jennifer Torode

Robin advised that Kelsey, the Designer, has been provided content to fill in the layout. A draft is expected within a week and will be sent to all for approval. Hopefully the website can be launched in July.

Robin also advised that June is Seniors Month and she will be providing a year-end report on GASC's progress at the next Council meeting on Tuesday, June 26

5.2 Update on Transportation Options for Seniors

Dennis Harrington and Chanti Birdi have completed the paperwork on the application for a grant from the Ontario Trillium Fund for a new vehicle and driver. We are confident our application will meet the criteria for this provincial funding. The application is being submitted by Arnprior Braeside-McNab Seniors at Home with assistance from the Town of Arnprior. The Town is aware of this critical need and is supporting the efforts of Seniors-at-Home. The deadline for submitting is June 28. We don't expect to hear the results until November/December. If successful, we could receive up to \$100,000 a year for a 3-year time frame.

5.3 Monthly News Article for Chronicle Guide

Pam LeMay's excellent article has been published by the Arnprior Chronicle-Guide and Darrel has suggested that Pam submit it to Health Matters magazine on behalf of the GASC. Judy Cobus advised that Hospice Renfrew has had to pay up to \$350 to have an article published. Pam will ask but we will not pay.

Future articles for consideration are as follows:

Website launch – Robin

Recreational Opportunities for Seniors – Ralph and Geoff

Results of Seniors Games – Ralph/Rick

Community Engagement – Seniors Village- Katrin

Family Health Team - Jennifer

5.4 Grove Redevelopment Update

Eric Hanna advised that advocacy is continuing with bureaucrats in Toronto. It has been acknowledged that more licenses are needed in Ontario for LTD beds

On behalf of Katrin, Eric reported on the extremely successful community meeting held at the Arnprior library to discuss the Seniors Village concept being proposed by ARH as part of the Grove Redevelopment. The major concerns expressed by the community were Transportation, Affordable Housing, New Resources for Dementia including Adult Day Programs and short stay respite and more care for seniors living at home. The community is clearly saying that there are currently more challenging needs and programs need to be revised accordingly. Not the same old, same old. The Grove Redevelopment Task Force will be made aware of the communities concerns and act accordingly.

What can we do now, in advance of the Seniors Village to prepare for the future? More intergenerational coordination, apply for grants if required, sharing of ideas with the Town, keeping community members encouraged were a few thoughts brought forward. Eric said we must keep in mind that The Grove Nursing Home was paid for by this community, not government and we need to ensure that the community sees that we are not losing this facility/building but enhancing it for the benefit of all.

5.5 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.

Darrel would also like to reach out to the Chamber of Commerce and the Dementia Society to invite them to send a representative to our meetings and all were in agreement.

5.6 Dragon Boat Update

Darrel was enthusiastic that Arnprior has had the largest participation ever with 20 teams registered including 3 youth teams and at least 2 teams are arriving the night before and staying in local motels which will have a positive economic impact. We have identified a Chinese resident, Mr. Pan from Videoflicks, who is honoured to act as Arnprior Ambassador to the Kanata Chinese Seniors Group who will be busing to the event. He will be given a Town of Arnprior shirt to wear and will conduct a tour of Pillar 5, Arnprior Museum, Nick Smith Centre and other local sites. These seniors will conduct a Tai Chi demonstration at Robert Simpson Park. A Chinese entertainer has been hired and

a Chinese Lions Dance will be performed around the Park. Rich Gwalchmai noted that Arnprior is becoming well known in the Dragon Boat Festival community. 6 boats are coming from Toronto for use by the participants.

5.7 Renfrew County Seniors Games

Arnprior participated in swimming, cycling and carpet bowling events at these games which were held in May. The Regionals will now take place in Pembroke on August 16. Efforts are being made to tighten up the organization which is still struggling. It has taken a month for the results of the events to be released and Ralph Chown would like to meet with the organization to see if he can work to improve communications. It shouldn't be too difficult to fix.

5.8 Ontario Association of Councils on Aging (OACA)

This is a new association, like ourselves, who are attempting to share best practice and to provide a voice and collaboration on ideas and issues. They are supported by the Ministry of Senior Affairs and Darrel feels this is a good opportunity for the GASC to be involved. Currently the cities of Ottawa, Peterborough, Windsor and Bruce County are on board. Darrel participated in a telephone conference on June 15 wherein he outlined the projects the GASC is currently undertaking. Following this meeting Darrel had a call from a David Bradley of Bruce County who reached out to us as they are in a rural setting similar to ours with issues, concerns and challenges not necessarily shared by urban areas such as Ottawa, Peterborough, etc. Bruce County consists of 16 municipalities. They are a Conservative riding as well and are interested in networking with us. We will stay in touch.

5.9 Grove Redevelopment Task Force

Chris Havey has invited Pam LeMay to sit on the GRTF and is hoping this will not negatively impact her role on the GASC. We all agreed that this would provide the GASC with a day-to-day liaison to help keep us updated on the progress of the GRTF and we have no issues with Pam being part of both groups

6 New Business

6.1 GASC Town of Arnprior Report Card

Chanti distributed a Survey she would like each member of the GASC to complete and hand in to her at the Town Hall by Wednesday, June 28. The object of this survey is to address any concerns that there might be among members and will also help to see what we have accomplished and how the GASC is doing with its various projects.

As mentioned earlier, Robin will be providing Town Council on Monday, with an annual assessment of our progress to date for stakeholders.

6.2 Eastern Ontario Age Friendly Workshop

Robin and Darrel attended this workshop in Brockville on June 19. Participants included towns of Port Hope, Cobourg, Belleville, Tay Valley, Brockville, Kingston, Leeds and the Thousand Islands, Prince Edward County, Cornwall, Ottawa and South Glengarry.

56 Ontario municipalities have received funding to develop an Age-Friendly Community Plan. The purpose of this Workshop was to see how grant money was being spent, to share stories and discuss challenges and to see how municipalities are reaching out in their communities. Funding is a big issue with all municipalities and it was interesting to note that transportation and dementia were concerns faced by all. Robin and Darrel felt that the GASC were ahead of the curve on our progress with our Age-Friendly Community Plan and Darrel felt very proud as to what we are doing. He noted that Arnprior McNab-Braeside Seniors-at-Home program is outstanding in what they do for our community.

6.3 Summer Hiatus

The GASC is taking a break for the months of July and August but will communicate any issues or updates by email as they arise.

6.4 Ministry of Seniors Affairs

Eric Hanna, Chris Havey, Katrin Spencer and Darrel O'Shaunessy participated in this call with Minister Damerla on May 29. Carmen Gould is the Minister's Regional Advisor. They explained what we are doing to pursue more LTC beds and the Redevelopment of the Grove Nursing Home, the challenges we are facing with rural vs urban funding support and Darrel outlined the mandate of the Greater Arnprior Seniors Council.

We are pursuing funding through the OTF Investment Stream. We feel we are on their radar.

6.5 ROAR – Rural Ontario Active Recreation

This group is having their 4th annual conference in Calabogie in September and the Town of Arnprior Recreation is participating. They are hoping for close to 100 Delegates. Four local municipalities have organized this conference which consists of a number of outdoor activities, a trade show and lots of networking. It is a 4-day event.

Darrel has been invited as a guest speaker on the topic of “I’m Too Young to be a Senior” – What do seniors really, really want?

7 Correspondence

No correspondence was submitted.

8 Other Business

8.1 AFC - Ongoing Promotion

Following the Age Friendly Workshop in Brockville this week, Darrel feels that we have made so much progress with our Age Friendly Community Plan that we should be promoting Arnprior as an “Age Friendly Community” every opportunity we get. Could we have a banner on Town websites, promotional material handed out to tourists and new residents and any Town bulletin boards, signage, etc. All members agreed that this should be promoted. Robin will have it incorporated on our GASC website perhaps as a log-in address and will look into including it on the Town’s website and promotional material.

8.2 McNab-Braeside Relay 150

Karla reported that so far 200 participants have signed up for this exciting Relay being held on June 24. The Relay is divided into 6 routes.

Sand Point to Braeside and into the Village (portion via Ottawa River)

Braeside to Pine Grove

Pine Grove to Clay Bank Park

Clay Bank Park to Farmer’s Market

Farmer’s Market to Burnstown (via Madawaska River)

Burnstown to White Lake (portion via the lake)

Finale at Waba Cottage Museum – food, entertainment, beer tent, children’s activities, etc.

We will be anxious to hear the results.

9 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 20, 2017. Location to be advised.