

GREATER ARNPRIOR SENIORS COUNCIL – RECORDS OF DISCUSSION
Wednesday, February 19, 2020 – 9:00 AM
Island View Retirement Sites

Present

Laurel Reid, Vice-Chair	Angie Heinz, Arnprior Regional Health
Sandra Elliott, Secretary	Glenn Arthur, ARH/SALC
Graeme Ivory, Town of Arnprior Recreation	Karla Blemkie, McNab-Braeside
Karen Simpson, Arnprior Family Health Team	Kim Lapierre, Island View Retirement
Eleanor Hotchkiss, GASC Member	Zander Abercrombie, Youth Representative
Pierce Campbell, Youth Representative	Denis McNeil, The Men's Shed

Regrets

Darrel O'Shaughnessy, Chair	Ralph Chown, GASC Member, McNab-Braeside
Dennis Harrington, Seniors-at-Home	Alexandra St. James, Island View Retirement
Robin Paquette, Town of Arnprior, Planner	Caroline McGee, Hospice Renfrew
Pam LeMay, GASC Member	Cathy McCaig, Arnprior Ministerial
Karen DeLuca, Town of Arnprior, Library	Andrew Love, Arnprior Ministerial
Geoff Patterson, Township of McNab-Braeside	Rick Gwalchmai, Town of Arnprior, Recreation
Mandy Stinson, Seniors-at-Home	Tracey Foster, Island View Retirement
Audrey Edwards, Dementia Society	Eric Hanna, Arnprior Regional Health

1. Call to Order

The October meeting of the GASC was called to order at 9:00 am.

2. Roll Call

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

Karla Blimkie was present replacing Geoff Patterson, McNab-Braeside

Kim Lapierre was present, replacing Tracey Foster, Island View Retirement

Denis McNeill was present, representing The Men's Shed

Pierce Campbell was present. Pierce will eventually replace Zander Ambercrombie

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted as presented.

4. Approval of Records of Discussion from meeting of January 15, 2020

The Records of Discussion were approved as previously presented.

5. Program Updates

5.1 SALC

- Glenn advised that monthly guest speakers at SALC are now booked up until June. March 2 will feature Bidita Sharma from the CRA who will be explaining the 2019 Income Tax Return. On March 12 Lianne Johnston of the ALS Society will be the Speaker from 12 noon-2 pm and on March 16 there will be an information session on Quail Creek Retirement Residence.
- New membership rates are now in effect and are being renewed. Annual memberships through until March 31, 2021 will be \$35 + tax. 6 month memberships will be available at \$25 +tax and 3 month memberships at \$15 + tax.
- The jam sessions every 2nd Thursday from 1-3 pm are very popular, Belly Dancing (for mature bodies) starts next week, Square Dancing will start on February 21.
- Monthly Bus Trips are booked until October. The March 19 trip to see ‘Yesterday Once More’ at Algonquin College is sold out. There is a trip to see Cirque de Soleil at the Canadian Tire Centre on July 5 however registration will be required by March 6. On April 30 there is a trip to Upper Canada Playhouse and an August trip is scheduled to tour the Kingston Pen.

Lots of interesting activities.

55+ Swim Meet

Brochures for this swim meet scheduled for May 24, will be available on Friday and will be distributed throughout Renfrew and Lanark counties. The event will be advertised on social media and will hopefully attract up to 60 swimmers. Glenn said kudos are extended to the Renfrew County Seniors Games who at the last AGM allowed Ralph Chown to revamp this event and separate it from the Games in order to make it more attractive to local swimmers.

Glenn will send Sandra a copy of the brochure to attach to these notes.

5.2 Men’s Shed

The Men’s Shed will be celebrating their first anniversary on March 12 with an Open House from 10:30-2 pm. All GASC members are encouraged to attend. There will be media and politicians in attendance with speeches slotted for 12 noon.

Current Projects

- 12 Little Lending Libraries;
Partnership with the Arnprior Library, Karen DeLuca.
There was a media announcement at the MS January 9, 2020 with articles in local media. 7 libraries are completed with 6 currently being fabricated
- 96 Memory Boxes for the New Grove:
Discussion with Wendy Brawley, Chief Architect, in December;
Tentative design complete, awaiting answers to several technical questions. Will build prototype, seek design approval
- 6 Replacement decks and steps for kids Camp Lutherlyn:
Design finalized; costing and down payment approved by client
Materials acquired, initial component fabrication begun
- 4 Muskoka chairs:
Materials in hand, Design finalized & approved by client,
Templates fabricated, Components fabricated, assembling
- Special Needs Equipment; partnership
Meetings with ARH, Catalogue sent to OTs: Renfrew county
Inquiries arriving
- The Opportunity Shop
Manufacture and installation of display shelving.
6 installed, 6 to go

In Partnership with the Town of Arnprior, Recreation Dept. The Men's Shed will be introducing a program for 6 – 13 year old school children to work with their hands by developing projects such as the finishing of foot stools, window boxes, bat and bird houses and to introduce them to wood carving. This program will be held over 4 Saturday mornings a few times a year. Membership will be affordable. No power tools will be used.

A group of five members from the Perth's Men's Shed visited Feb. 4, 2020 In order to exchanged ideas to facilitate the growth of their group. They discussed ways to increase their profile in the community, designs for possible projects they could produce, shared plans and possibilities for them to acquire funding/sponsorship and also explored their involvement in manufacturing Special Needs Equipment.

5.3 **Arnprior Regional Health**

a) **Ontario Health Team**

The group of Family Physicians and Health teams from the area had a successful meeting in Kanata at end of January. Sixty physicians and 70% of the primary care group plus 13 volunteers attended. The Three Rivers group has representation from Arnprior, McNab-Braeside, North Lanark and West Ottawa and the coverage consists of 300,000 residents. All felt that the geographic area is well represented.

b) **Grove Fundraising**

There are two special functions in the works. One being a breakfast event and another is a Farmer's Day where local farmers and their dealers will get together with the intent being to raise funds. There is approximately \$700,000 left to raise towards the goal.

5.4 **Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program Grant Application (ICIP)**

There are no further updates at this time but Graeme hopes to hear by mid May. This grant request is for \$1.9M.

The **Jump Start Accessibility Grant Application** was submitted last Wednesday. This grant is geared towards youth however the upgrades at the Nick Smith Centre and the beach and Robert Simpson Park will also benefit SALC, the GASC and the seniors of our community. The Ask is for \$500,000 and Darrel wrote a letter of support from the GASC to accompany the application.

5.5 **Island View**

Kim advised that the Island View held a successful Fashion Show featuring Nygard fashions and another is in the works. A Pancake Breakfast with proceeds going to the Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Seniors at Home Program is scheduled for March 31st from 8-10 am and all are encouraged to attend. Local maple syrup and syrup products will be featured.

McNab-Braeside Recreation

Karla Blemke representing McNab-Braeside advised that the new Murray Yantha Centre is open and they are currently getting financial matters in order prior to scheduling rental opportunities. The Township is pleased that it is now able to offer community events at two new hall facilities.

5.6 Seniors at Home

There was no representation at this meeting however Eleanor Hotchkiss advised that the LOVE reading program is continuing at 2 local schools but has been somewhat disrupted during the teachers' strikes.

5.7 Succession Planning

Laurel welcomed Pierce Campbell a Grade 10 student at ADHS who will replace Zander as the GASC Youth Representative. Zander will be leaving ADHS after this Semester to pursue post-secondary education. Pierce has had extensive volunteer experience and is currently volunteering at the Opportunity Shop.

Eleanor also welcomed Pierce and told him she is looking forward to working with him on the Student/Senior Interview program.

5.8 Student/Senior Interviews

Eleanor has been in touch with Ryan McKenna a teacher of a Civics class at ADHS who apologized for the delay in responding to her. He is very enthusiastic about this program and it is hoped that they can get these interviews back on track before the end of the school year.

5.9 Dementia Society

There was no representation at this meeting.

5.10 Seniors Affordable Housing

Laurel advised that this sub-committee met once again with Abbeyfield and the Mayor, Walter Stack was present for their presentation. Abbeyfield is hoping that Arnprior can move forward with this co-housing model. Sandra advised that at the February 10th sub-committee meeting it was agreed that a Needs Assessment is required as a first step towards determining the requirements for Affordable Housing for Seniors. Robin Paquette and Pam LeMay are going to edit a draft letter that Darrel had prepared to ask for financial assistance from the Town of Arnprior and ARH to fund a Needs Assessment. It is hoped that this will prompt feedback and result in some action.

Eleanor Hotchkiss suggested that the subcommittee seek input from Real Estate companies, hospital emergency department and local churches who might all have input into the need for senior housing.

5.11 Hospice Renfrew

Sandra reported that she reached out to Caroline McGee of Hospice Renfrew as they have not had representation on the GASC for some time. Caroline apologized but said that their Board meetings are held monthly on the same day as the GASC meetings. Caroline provided a written update.

- They have implemented several quality improvement activities such as medication management, and fall reduction programs.
- They have switched their fundraising software to provide more electronic communication. The new software is MiCharity.
- They have implemented a new satisfaction survey that can be sent out via email or mail and are getting some great feedback from this tool.
- Their Board of Directors continue to advocate for sustainable funding with the Ministry of Health at the highest level.
- They have two fundraisers upcoming. A massive 50/50 and Hike for Hospice.

With respect to their annual Hike For Hospice, Sandra advised that this is a major fundraiser for Hospice in which the GASC has participated in the past. 100% of the funds raised remain in the community in support of Hospice Renfrew. It will be held on Sunday, May 3 with Registration at 12:30 and the Hike at 2 pm. If anyone is interested in forming a GASC Team, contact Sandra.

6. New Business

Graeme advised that the Town was still seeking applications for Senior of the Year and Volunteer of the Year if anyone had suggestions. The deadline for submission of applications is February 28. Glenn offered to give a nudge through SALC's Friday Newsletter.

Sandra mentioned that there was a new President of the Arnprior Chamber of Commerce and that perhaps we should attempt to reach out to them once again to attend one of our meetings with the view to collaborating on local initiatives.

7. Other Business

Laurel thanked Kim Lapierre and the Island View for hosting this meeting and providing refreshments.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.

***The next meeting of the GASC will be held on
Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 9:00 am. Location to be advised.***