

GREATER ARNPRIOR SENIORS COUNCIL – RECORDS OF DISCUSSION
Wednesday, April 21, 2021 - 9:00 AM
VIA ZOOM

Present

Darrel O'Shaughnessy, Chair	Kaila Zamojski, Town of Arnprior, Deputy Clerk
Sandra Elliott, Secretary	Eric Hanna, ARH
Pamela LeMay, Arnprior	Graeme Ivory, Town of Arnprior Recreation
Eleanor Hotchkiss, Arnprior	Tracey Foster, Island View
Ralph Chown, McNab-Braeside	Dennis Harrington, Seniors At Home
Geoff Patterson, McNab-Braeside Recreation	Brittany Harris, Arnprior Villa
Marjorie Joly, Hospice Renfrew	Cathy McCaig, Arnprior Ministerial
Paul Helm, Arnprior	

Absent

Pierce Campbell, ADHS, Youth Rep	Rick Gwalchmai, Arnprior Recreation
Robin Paquette, Arnprior CAO	Audrey Edwards, Dementia Society
Mandy Stinson, Seniors at Home	Karen DeLuca, Arnprior Library
Karen Simpson, AFHT	

1. Call to Order

The April 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.

3. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was adopted as presented with no additions.

4. Approval of Records of Discussion from meeting of March 17, 2021

The Records of Discussion were approved. Moved by Pam LeMay, Seconded by Eleanor Hotchkiss.

5. Program Updates**5.1 SALC – Glenn Arthur**

No report available.

5.2 Men's Shed – Darrel O'Shaughnessy

- The Men's Shed is closed at this time however members are working from home.
- The team are currently building PPE's, door signs and flower box kits.

- Thanks to Kyle at SALC they are currently able to sell their products on Facebook and Instagram.
- 36 Memory Boxes have been completed with the rest on hold for a couple of weeks. Currently 35 Memory Boxes have been adopted at \$175 each and 12 sponsors have come forward at \$500 each. Those sponsors so far are:
 Mulvihill Insurance
 Giant Tiger
 Saunders Coyne Mechanical
 Subway
 Audrey's Boutique
 Arnprior Glass(Gift in Kind as well as a \$500 donation)
 Island View Retirement Resident
 Pacific Safety Products (PSP)
 Draper Construction
 Dentistry @ Arnprior
 Arnprior Tooth Doctor
 GASC Members are asked to pass on the need for more contributors.
 Dennis Harrington advised that Seniors-At-Home have contributed.
 Darrel will check.

5.3 Arnprior Regional Health – Eric Hanna

ARH are currently finalizing new positions in social and community services. Also recruiting a replacement for Glenn at SALC.

Ontario Health Team

We are hoping to hear of provincial approval of our 4 Rivers application by September. Our application focuses on addictions and mental health.

The Grove Redevelopment

- Construction is continuing.
- Community programs are currently closed at the Grove.
- Consultants and architects are currently working on models for the redevelopment. Hopefully will have some plans end June/early July.

5.4 Island View Activities - Tracey Foster

- Tracey is pleased to report that all residents have now received their 2nd dose of the vaccine.
- Island View have stopped the delivery of community meals due to the current lockdown.

- Most in-house activities have been suspended at this time but Island View are focusing on one-one-one activities with the residents as there are no social gatherings.
- Darrel asked how the residents were coping and Tracey responded that they are finding it difficult but happy to be there. They are still gathering for meals with 2 residents per table.

5.5 The Villa Activities

- Brittany advised that the Villa is in a similar situation.
- Residents have also received their 2nd vaccine dose.
- Rapid testing is being conducted on all visitors and its going smoothly,
- Dining room has re-opened with 4 per table and the tables are 6 ft apart
- No group activities however hallway/door-to-door activities are happening.
- Again Darrel asked if the residents were content to which Brittany responded that they are somewhat agitated. It's challenging.

5.6 Hospice Renfrew Activities - Marjorie Joly.

- Marjorie reported that all staff and volunteers at Hospice have been vaccinated.
- All visitors are screened and wear PPE's
- They are experiencing staffing shortages.
- All beds are currently full.
- Staff are currently working on a virtual Hike for Hospice which takes place on May 2. This is Hospice's biggest annual fundraiser. We are asked for our support and this can be done on our own, by forming a team or making a donation. To register or donate go to www.hospicerenfrew.ca Sandra noted that the GASC has formed a team in the past. The event is sponsored by Canadian Tire in Renfrew and Pembroke .

5.7 Seniors at Home – Dennis Harrington

- Denis advised that Seniors-at-Home is busy as usual but they have been hard hit by Covid.
- Transportation is particularly challenging at this time.
- All staff and volunteers have been vaccinated. Some staff are working from home as they have children.
- The County of Renfrew Grant of \$100,000 is being used to support transportation and coordination costs associated with COVID-19 vaccination clinics throughout Renfrew County. There are seven participating agencies within the County that will have access to this funding to provide free transportation to those 60 and over or those with

disabilities. Arnprior-Braeside Seniors at Home and Renfrew and Area Seniors Home Support Inc. are included.

- The Shred It Day Fundraiser is scheduled this year for May 29 from 9am-12 noon. Cost is \$10 per banker's box. This has proven to be a very popular fundraiser in the past.
- Carefore will no longer be doing foot care for seniors and Dennis advised they are currently seeking an RN or RNA 3-days/week to continue this very popular and much needed program.
- The Seniors Without Walls phone in program services all of Renfrew County and is also well used. There will be a booklet in this week's Chronicle-Guide promoting this program.
- Seniors at Home are hopeful things will start to turn back to normal before too long. Covid has opened government purse strings but Dennis is nervous about the possible payback.

5.8 Arnprior Family Health Team – Karen Simpson

No updates available.

5.9 Seniors Affordable Housing – Pam Lemay

- This subcommittee met on April 7.
- Guest speaker at this meeting was Richard Wright, an Architect currently living and practicing in Arnprior. He discussed with the committee ideas that should be considered in developing a seniors' village composed of a cluster of tiny homes which the subcommittee is currently researching. He brought up some major points that needed to be considered with respect to costs associated with size and space, energy consumptions, zoning, bylaws and building codes. The committee feels that the social aspects of this type of housing is very important as well and this discussion was all very interesting and informative.
- The subcommittee is aware of two parcels of land that might be appropriate to accommodate the Seniors' Village concept.
- There is a parcel of land in McNab that could also potentially be suitable for a Seniors' Village. The Subcommittee has asked for a representative from McNab to join the group to see if they can offer any support.
- The Abbeyfield co-housing discussions continue to move ahead with much interest generated by Galilee and their Board of Directors. The Board is scheduled to visit the Abbeyfield House in Ottawa and meet with the players involved on April 7. (Note. Due to the current lockdown, this visit has since been postponed).
- The Christian Education Centre on John St. is currently up for sale by Grace St. Andrews United Church and Darrel and Pam met with the GSA

Elders. It was determined that this property is not suitable for housing but could be suitable for other purposes related to Seniors and the matter has been referred to ARH.

- The Housing Subcommittee is still pushing for a Seniors Affordable Housing Needs Assessment and had hoped this could be done in conjunction with a study currently being done by ARH. This apparently is no longer possible as ARH are focusing on the Grove Redevelopment. The Subcommittee has also hoped the Town would push their study ahead but they are currently understaffed and overwhelmed so this is not going to proceed quickly.
- The First Baptist Church has an 8 acre property on Division St and they are interested in developing into housing. They are working with the Town and a Developer.
- Pam has been working on identifying properties within the Town that could potentially be available for senior's affordable housing and has been in touch with the Chair of the Ministerial Group to discuss contacting other churches in the area that may have surplus property available.
- Ralph asked if Richard Wright, the Architect had mentioned an activity centre associated with the tiny home concept but this wasn't discussed. A central laundry and meeting space should be considered.

5.10 Arnprior Recreation/Nick Smith Centre – Graeme Ivory

- Graeme thanked the Men's Shed for participating in the flower planter project currently underway. The Men's Shed sold 20 of these kits in one hour.
- Recreation is finding the currently provincial announcement with respect to limiting outdoor activity very frustrating.
- They are currently working on summer programming planning and are working within the boundaries of the protocols in place.
- The Federal COVID Resiliency Grant has been applied for. The Feds have asked for more information which has been provided.
- One of the major projects working on with the Grant received for upgrades planned at the NSC is the paving of the parking lot which is a huge undertaking and will make the whole parking area more accessible.
- The Waterfront survey closed on April, 5 and everyone is pleased with the feedback. The main areas addressed that are being looked at by the consultants are Robert Simpson Park, The Marina, Bell Park and McLean Av beach. These were the areas that generated the most input from the public.

- The Dragon Boat Festival is not likely happening but the organizers are looking at perhaps a modified version in the Fall.
- We are still waiting on the application for the Canadian Tire Jump Start Grant. This will provide funding for 10-12 kayaks for youth programming and some seniors programming as well.

5.11 Town of Arnprior – Kaila Zamojski

- The Town offices are currently closed and everyone working remotely. No appointments are being booked and most applications suspended.
- The Town is asking for feedback from seniors on their use of the proposed dog park. Would seniors use a dog park and would they prefer dedicated off hours?
- Would seniors with dogs who register their pets be in favour of the removal of the Free Pet Registration Period (to charge \$10-\$20) in January and February. This revenue would be collected to support the ongoing operating costs of a dog park. Kaila is looking for feedback from the GASC so she can incorporate comments in the report to Council.
- Negative feedback was received from the proposed use of the Ball Diamonds for a dog park. The Caruso St. park is now being considered.

5.12 McNab-Braeside – Geoff Patterson

- Geoff advised that McNab-Braeside are dealing with the current restrictions same as Arnprior.
- They are looking to hire an additional staff member who will focus on the virtual aspects of programming.
- The Townships Easter Egg Hunt was successful with 150 participants.
- They experienced good support for their March Break activities.
- They are having a Community Cleanup for Earth Day (which starts tomorrow) and Milliken's are offering a mature tree as part of this initiative. Darrel asked if the Men's Shed could also donate a Muskoka Chair and Geoff readily accepted and thanked the Men's Shed.
- Virtual yoga programs are planned.
- Focus is being placed on making outdoor spaces more attractive with emphasis on trails and parks. Ralph identified a portion of the CN Trail that needed some attention to make it more user friendly as its in pretty rough shape and Geoff confirmed that they were aware and are working on this.

5.13 Dementia Society

No report available

5.14 Greater Arnprior Poverty and Homeless Committee – Paul Helm

- Paul reported that at the last meeting of this committee they broke into working groups to address housing, legal, clients i.e Food Bank, and Public info.
- There are two communal gardens that will be dedicated to producing produce for the Food Bank.
- Paul also reported on his research into affordable housing and his findings with regard to Ikea in Europe and in the U.S. Tiny houses are difficult to insulate in this climate and this concept is not particularly geared towards affordable housing. It is difficult to obtain any information right now as Europe is basically completely shut down.

5.15 Ministerial – Cathy McCaig

- Cathy reported that most churches in Arnprior are in favour of affordable housing but the difficulty is changing the mindset of parishioners. There are many large church buildings not used which could be repurposed.
- She referred to an article recently circulated regarding a Lutheran Church in Kitchener that has recently been redeveloped into affordable housing. It will include 40 affordable apartments on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the existing building with the church's sanctuary remaining in place. It is being repurposed by Indwell, a Christian charity that creates affordable housing communities.
- All churches across Ontario are aware and in favour of the affordable housing concept. Winnipeg currently has 3 Anglican churches interested.
- These are trying times.

6 New Business

No new business was identified.

7 Other Business

No other business was identified.

8 Adjournment.

This meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am

***THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GASC WILL BE HELD AT 9 AM
ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 19 VIA ZOOM. FOLLOWED BY A
MEETING OF THE SENIORS AFFORDABLE HOUSING
SUBCOMMITTEE***

***LOGIN DETAILS WILL BE PROVIDED CLOSER TO THIS
DATE.***