



To be confirmed.

**ROUNDTABLE ON SENIORS
MINUTES
MEETING 1**

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, February 21, 2006

Time: 1:30 p.m.

Location: Committee Room 2
City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, Ontario

Enquiry: Belinda Bains

Committee Secretary

416-392-7039

bbains@toronto.ca

Attendant Care Services can be made available with some advance notice.

Members

Present: Mayor David Miller, ex-officio member Councillor Gay Cowbourne, (Chair) Samuel Bond Marcelle Campbell Lois Dent Neville Gordon Jack Harmer Margaret Hawthorn Bea Levis Geoff Quirt	Judith Wahl Margaret Watson Absent: Deputy Mayor Michael Feldman Councillor Gloria Lindsay Luby Alex Gorlick Zul Kassamali Susan Thorning Deborah Wallace Gail Yardy
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Councillor Cowbourne in the Chair.

There were no declarations of interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

Confirmation of Minutes – November 24, 2005 – Confirmed.

Communications/Reports

1. Reference Group on Seniors Housing

Communication (February 21, 2006) from Deputy Mayor Michael Feldman, Chair, Reference Group on Seniors Housing providing an update from the February 16, 2006 Meeting of the Reference Group.

Minute 1.1

Alan Meisner, Planning Analyst, Social Development, Finance and Administration, gave a verbal report on the work of the Reference Group on Seniors Housing.

Action:

The Roundtable on Seniors received the verbal report from Alan Meisner, Planning Analyst, Social Development, Finance and Administration, and the communication (February 21, 2006) from Deputy Mayor Michael Feldman, Chair, Reference Group on Seniors Housing, for information.

2. Snow Shovelling and Lawn Care Program for Seniors and People with Disabilities

Communication (December 19, 2005) from the City Clerk, forwarding Clause 32 of Report 10 of the Policy and Finance Committee, headed "Snow Shovelling and Lawn Care Program for Seniors and People with Disabilities". Council expressed its thanks to the members of the Mayor's Roundtable on Seniors and the Toronto Seniors' Forum for their input and recommendations which were taken into consideration during the preparation of the report. (For information).

Minute 1.2

Action:

The Roundtable on Seniors received the communication and clause.

3. Seniors Month Event (Verbal)

Minute 1.3

The Chair asked for volunteers to participate in a working group to plan the 2006 Seniors Month Event to be held in June.

Cheryl MacDonald advised the Roundtable on Seniors that staff from City divisions would also be involved in the planning of this event.

Action:

The following volunteered to participate on the working group:

- PC Patricia Fleischmann, Elder Abuse Coordinator, Community Mobilization Unit, Toronto Police Service;
- Monita Persaud, Ontario Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (ONPEA);
- Marcelle Campbell.

The Chair indicated that if other members were interested in participating they could advise Cheryl MacDonald, Policy Development Officer, Social Development, Finance and Administration.

4. Provincial Government – Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs)

City of Toronto Presentation (February 6, 2006) to the Standing Committee on Social Policy, Legislative Assembly of Ontario, on Bill 36 - Local Health System Integration Act, 2005.

Minute 1.4

Bea Levis submitted a communication titled “Ontario Health Coalition, Notes on Amendments to LHINs legislation”.

Romeo Vitelli addressed the Roundtable.

Action:

The Roundtable on Seniors received the City of Toronto Presentation (February 6, 2006) to the Standing Committee on Social Policy, Legislative Assembly of Ontario, on Bill 36 – Local Health System Integration Act, 2005.

5. Seniors Abuse

Communication (December 15, 2005) from the City Clerk, forwarding Notice of Motion J(24), headed “Request for Report on Establishing an Elder Abuse Shelter and Crisis Hotline”, which City Council on December 5, 6 and 7, 2005, referred to the Mayor’s Roundtable on Seniors, with a request that the Chair of the Mayor’s Roundtable on Seniors include the issues raised in this Motion in the report to be submitted to Council by the Roundtable, in the Spring of 2006.

- 5(a).** Copy of Presentation given by Judith Wahl, Advocacy Centre for the Elderly, at the February 21, 2006 meeting.

- 5(b). Copy of Presentation given by the Elder Abuse Coordinator, Community Mobilization Unit, Toronto Police Service at the November 24, 2005 meeting.
- 5(c). Copy of PowerPoint Presentation given by Lisa Manuel, Family Services Association of Toronto at the September 27, 2005 meeting.
- 5(d). Copy of PowerPoint Presentation and pamphlet given by Monita Persaud, Ontario Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (ONPEA) at the September 27, 2005 meeting.
- 5(e). Briefing Note from Policy Development Officer, Social Development and Administration Division responding to City Council's request for appropriate City staff to report on the current ability of the senior services agencies of the City of Toronto to meet the emergency needs of a senior victim of abuse.
- 5(f). Communication (October 29, 2004) from Councillor McConnell, Chair, Toronto Police Services Board responding to City Council's request for a report on the incidence of reported seniors abuse cases and seniors abuse investigations over the past two years and the current cases year-to-date.

Minute 1.5

Judith Wahl gave a PowerPoint presentation headed "Elder Abuse 101 ..and Beyond." A copy of the presentation was circulated at the meeting.

Cheryl MacDonald submitted a flyer on the Victim Support Line, from the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General.

The following addressed the Roundtable:

- *PC Patricia Fleischmann, Elder Abuse Coordinator, Community Mobilization Unit, Toronto Police Service;*
- *Monita Persaud, Ontario Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (ONPEA);*
- *Lisa Manuel, Family Services Association*
- *Jack Pinkus, Alliance of Seniors*
- *Madeleine McDowell, West Toronto Support Services*

Action:

The Roundtable on Seniors on February 21, 2006 requested the Chair to forward the following suggestions to the Community Services Committee for consideration:

- (1) *Roundtable's Response to Notice of Motion J(24) headed "Request for Report on Establishing an Elder Abuse Shelter and Crisis Hotline" considered by Council on December 5, 6 and 7, 2005.*

Vulnerable older adults that have experienced abuse require support that allows for removal from the crisis situation in the short term, provision of a safe place, assessment

and counselling, and linkage to community supports and resources in the longer term, including housing. The Roundtable on Seniors, therefore, suggests:

The Executive Director, Social Development, Finance and Administration Division, submit a report on options to provide support to vulnerable seniors of abuse, in consultation with Homes for the Aged, Shelter, Support and Housing Administration Division, Toronto Police Service, Community Care Access Centres, Women's Shelters, and other relevant partners, including funding/resource requirements from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, Ministry of Community and Social Services, Ministry of the Attorney General and other relevant Ministries; and

- (2) *Roundtable's Response to Notice of Motion J(26) headed "Request for Reports on Seniors Abuse Cases and Seniors Abuse Investigations" adopted by Council on May 18, 19 and 20, 2004.*

Community Support Services play an important role in reducing social isolation, caregiver support and keeping seniors active and engaged in their communities – all key components in preventing seniors abuse. The Roundtable on Seniors, therefore, suggests:

The City of Toronto advise the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care of:

- (a) the importance of providing increased funding support to community support services (particularly given the aging population that is so diverse) and protecting the current envelope of funding in the transformation to Local Health Integration Networks (LHINs);*
- (b) the importance of Elderly Persons Centers and recommend that the province review the legislation and need for increased funding; and*
- (c) the need for increased funding support for client intervention assistance, given the role of this service in responding adequately to emerging needs like seniors abuse.*

6. Toronto Seniors Forum, 2006 City Budget Recommendations

Presentation by Neville Gordon on behalf of the Toronto Seniors Forum.

Minute 1.6

Neville Gordon, on behalf of the Toronto Seniors Forum, gave a presentation, and submitted a copy of his presentation.

Action:

The Roundtable on Seniors on February 21, 2006 requested the Chair to forward the following suggestion to the Policy and Finance Committee for consideration during the 2006 budget process:

The Roundtable on Seniors supports the advocacy and outreach efforts of the Toronto Seniors Forum during the 2006 budget debate and suggests that the following recommendations outlined in their presentation be referred to the appropriate City Divisions for their information:

“(1) Seniors’ Financial Resources/Costs/Fees/Access issues

- Adequately fund translation services according to demographics (i.e. largest language groups) (All Divisions);*
- Lower the cost of the seniors TTC fares/pass (TTC);*
- Increase the availability of transportation for non-medical appointments on wheeltrans (TTC);*
- Provide recreation programming without fees (Parks, Forestry and Recreation);*
- Reduce the fees for seniors groups providing programming in recreation centres (Parks, Forestry and Recreation);*

(2) Housing and Accommodation/Long Term Care

- Increase affordable housing for seniors with targets to reduce waiting time from the current 10 years to 7 years in 2006, 5 years in 2007, 3 years in 2008 and one year or less in 2009 (TCHC & Homes for the Aged);*
- Increase efforts to modify, restore and repair existing properties. (TCHC);*
- Increase the available stock of barrier free housing (TCHC & Homes for the Aged);*
- Increase the number of long term care homes with a goal of 2 new homes in 06/07 (Homes for the Aged);*
- Ensure that long term care services are provided in a culturally sensitive manner (Homes for the Aged);*

(3) Individual Health Environment, Community and Culturally Sensitive Services

- Provide a full range of dental care for low income seniors (Public Health);*
- Review and raise the current financial cut off for access to subsidized dental care (Public Health);*

(4) Safety, Security and Legal Protection

- Increase the Toronto Police Service program to educate seniors about telephone and other types of fraud (TPS);*
- Increase community programs that encourage communities and neighbours to watch out for seniors (TPS);*
- Increase the oversized street sign program (Transportation services);*

(5) *Participation & Leadership/Advocacy*

- *Increase opportunities for senior participation and advocacy through initiatives such as the Toronto Seniors Forum (SDFA);*
- *Increase leadership/advocacy training opportunities for seniors (SDFA);*
- *Encourage seniors to volunteer in their communities (SDFA); and*

That the Ministry of Health move more financial resources into community health programs and further make seniors' health programs part of the mandatory programs that they require the city to provide. The province needs to fund these programs 100%."

7. Date of Next Meeting

Monday, May 29, 2006 at 1:30 p.m., in Committee Room 1, Toronto City Hall..

Action:

The Roundtable on Seniors noted that the date of its next meeting is Monday, May 29, 2006, at 1:30 p.m., in Committee Room 1, Toronto City Hall.

8. Other Business

Mayor David Miller joined the Roundtable on Seniors for part of the meeting and talked about an event he attended with the Governor General of Canada earlier that day. The Mayor thanked Councillor Cowbourne for her leadership on the Roundtable on Seniors and advocacy efforts at Council. He also acknowledged the hard work of the members of the Roundtable on Seniors and the Toronto Seniors' Forum. He discussed the importance of a partnership with all three orders of government in order to move the seniors agenda forward.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Chair