

## **Age Friendly Windsor Working Group**

Meeting held June 13, 2024

A meeting of the Age Friendly Windsor Working Group is held this day commencing at 9:30 o'clock a.m. via Zoom video conference, there being present the following members:

Gerald Corriveau  
Larry Duffield  
Andrea Grimes  
Cindy Matchett  
Roxanne Tellier  
Tom Wilson

***Also present are the following resource personnel:***

Kara Kristof, Supervisor Community Programming  
Christina Ritorto, Client Support & Staff Development Coordinator  
Laura Ash, Project Lead, Parks Development  
Frank Fazio, Technical Support Analyst  
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 9:28 o'clock a.m. and the Working Group considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

**2. Declaration of Conflict**

None disclosed.

**3. Adoption of the Minutes**

Moved by Tom Wilson, seconded by Cindy Matchett,  
That the minutes of the meeting of the Age-Friendly Windsor Working Group held April 11, 2024 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

## 4. Business Items

### 4.1 Flag Raising Event Review

The Chair thanks the members for attending the flag raising event held on June 13, 2024 in celebration of June being Senior's Month. This month is recognized in partnership with CARP, Life After Fifty and NAFR. The following City Councillors were also in attendance – Councillor Jim Morrison, Councillor Angelo Marignani, Councillor Ed Sleiman, and Councillor Mark McKenzie. The Chair thanks Larry Duffield for bringing the backup flags and the CARP sign.

The Chair's speaking notes for the event are **attached** as Appendix "A".

Larry Duffield thanks the organizers of the event as a job well done.

### 4.2 Presentation from Parks Development – Age Friendly Windsor Report Recommendations

Laura Ash, Project Lead, Parks Development appears before the Working Group regarding the progress that the Parks Department has made on the recommendations from the Age Friendly Action Plan Report made in 2014. The following updates are provided:

- Continuously improving the City's trail system adding extra trails to the network and reconstructing the current trails to ensure that they are the minimum width of 3 metres wide and having the proper tactile plates at intersections. Installing lighting in parks where they can improve visibility especially among these trail routes.
- This year there are two major washroom projects adding two accessible public washrooms in two of the parks – Little River Corridor Park and Elizabeth Kishkon Park.
- Following the recommendations of the Parks Master Plan (2015) which was developed in consultation and heavy input from the recommendations in the Age Friendly Report. Bench replacement and bench inventory assessment is ongoing yearly. There is an annual trail inspection; every meter of trail is inspected as well as the benches to improve where they need replacing and to replace when benches are lacking.

In response to a question asked by Cindy Matchett regarding if brochures outlining the trails are available, Laura Ash responds there is an interactive map on line called "My Parks" which shows where the trails are, the location of washrooms, pickle ball courts and other amenities. She adds that printed maps are available at the community centres, libraries, customer care centres and City Administration buildings.

Larry Duffield advises that the 2017 Age Friendly Seniors Summit which has approximately eighty recommendations is available on the City's website. He asks if this document has been referenced by the Parks Department or is it generally part of the baseline for the city departments looking at the seniors related issues. Laura Ash responds that they would include the updates to the plans that are produced afterwards and they also use these references when applying for grants.

Cindy Matchett asks if there are any plans for emergency notifications. Laura Ash responds she will report back on the emergency call stations.

#### **4.3 Review of Recommendations – Discussion regarding future Presentations**

The Chair advises that administration will be invited from various city departments to provide an overview of recommendations that they follow and current projects that they are undertaking in terms of age friendly practices. The Age-Friendly Windsor Action Plan includes three main areas of recommendations as follows:

**Livability** - Outdoor spaces and buildings, Transportation and Housing

**Lifestyles** - Social participation, Respect and social inclusion and Civic participation and employment

**Well-Being** - Communication and information and Community support and Health services

The Chair asks for feedback on what areas of the report the Working Group is interested in to allow for administration to provide updates. She proposes that the topic for discussion at the next meeting be transportation. Tom Wilson concurs that transportation is a topic that needs to be discussed as many older people have challenges getting to places based on the bus route location and distances that they have to go to get to a stop.

Larry Duffield advises that the three main areas of the Action Plan are really part of the World Health Organization and model for Age Friendly Communities and represents eight domains broken up into those three sections. He notes that the Age Friendly Network was a powerful tool used in Windsor for the seven year planning and implementations cycle from 2010 to 2017. The Age Friendly Network was made up of approximately forty seniors related organizations who would meet regularly.

The Chair remarks that there are other age friendly groups from other municipalities and suggests inviting them to a future meeting to provide an update of what they are doing in their municipality. Larry Duffield responds that there is an Ontario Age Friendly Communities Network supported by the Province based out of Kingston who send out a monthly update which the the Working Group may consider joining.

#### 4.4 Community Engagement Event with Windsor Police

The Chair advises that discussion was held at the last meeting regarding fraud that seniors often experience either through e-mail, by phone, primarily on the internet. She states that Christina Ritorto reached out to Windsor Police to determine if they could do some community outreach about fraud as well. The end goal is to create a community engagement workshop to be held at a library or a community centre. They are looking at the potential for two workshops – one by Frank Fazio, and the other by Windsor Police.

Christina Ritorto reports that Windsor Police will offer discussion on topics such as elderly abuse, financial crimes against seniors and fraudulent telemarketers and scams. Windsor Police requested that three possible dates be provided and she asks if the Working Group wants to focus on elderly abuse or more on the fraudulent side of the presentation. Tom Wilson states that he has had communications with this population who have definitely shared the amount of scams of fraud and financial burden that has been placed on them when they fall victim to these things. There are a lot of people in the community that have been victims and are targeted for this. Christina Ritorto notes that there is a sense of embarrassment to come forward and to reach out for help.

Andrea Grimes states that she works with senior veterans who have shared that they have been a victim of financial phone fraud who did not want to report it to the police due to embarrassment. Kara Kristoff remarks that marketing the upcoming event can be provided to many community partners, i.e. Legions, Life after Fifty, etc.

In terms of the location for the Community Engagement events, Larry Duffield suggests with the Working Group as the lead to hold the events at a number of locations throughout the city, i.e. Canterbury Elder College and CARP.

In response to a question asked by Andrea Grimes regarding if proper protocol allows for a formal introduction of the Working Group at a Council meeting, Larry Duffield responds that the Age Friendly Windsor Working Group will have the opportunity to address Council when they present their year-end Annual Report.

Larry Duffield advises that a second flag raising has been done in the past and suggests October 1, 2024 which is United Nations Day for Elder Persons and also Canada's Seniors Day be considered as an additional flag raising.

Christina Ritorto remarks that she will continue to work with Windsor Police and once definitive information is received, i.e. date, time location, she will report back to the Working Group. She adds that the events will begin in the fall and will continue throughout the year.

Frank Fazio, Technical Support Analyst appears before the Working Group and states that his presentation would focus on phone calls, e-mails which could branch out

to purchasing something on a website. He indicates that he is independent but works with members of law enforcement individuals in Orillia.

The Chair advises that the event would be run by the Working Group led by people working for the city.

In response to a question asked by Cindy Matchett regarding if the presentation will have visuals, Frank Fazio responds that he generally provides a PowerPoint presentation. Christina Ritorto suggests that the presentation be approximately two hours in length or half a morning or afternoon.

The Chair asks Frank Fazio to provide some strategies relating to accounts and passwords. Frank Fazio remarks that during COVID everyone did everything online so accounts had to be created and unfortunately, people reused their passwords, i.e. one password used on ten accounts. If one of those accounts gets hacked, then everyone has access to those ten accounts. He suggests writing down the passwords and ensuring that they are all somewhat different. Also, make longer passwords, use phrases, and sentences.

The Chair states that June is Recreation and Parks Month and adds that Christina Ritorto has created a calendar of events for this month. A link to the calendar will be provided to the Working Group. Christina Ritorto advises that a seniors social club is offered every Wednesday at Optimist Community Centre.

#### **4.5 Summary of Action Items**

The Chair provides the Summary of Action Items as follows:

- October 1, 2024 is International Seniors Day – will look at doing a flag raising
- Will send pictures and Proclamation from the June 13, 2024 event to the Working Group.
- Laura Ash to report back on Emergency Call Stations in Parks
- The Chair and Christina Ritorto to follow up with the Ontario Age Friendly Community Network to see if there are updates to provide.
- To follow-up with Transit Windsor as the next meeting will include a discussion on transportation.
- Determine if there are other community groups to attend a future meeting.
- The Chair and Christina Ritorto will look at dates to host the Community Engagement Events including locations.
- Determine the dates when Windsor Police and Frank Fazio will provide their presentations.

**5. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in person either at the end of August 2024 or early September 2024.

**6. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 10:50 o'clock a.m.

Thank you to everyone gathered here today to help recognize the vitally important role that seniors play in our community. Special thanks to City Councillors, members of the Age Friendly Windsor Working Group, CARP, Life After Fifty, and Administration, for your participation in today's event. In 2022, the United Nations recognized that the world's population is aging. Nearly every country on the globe is experiencing this trend. Simply put, the number of individuals aged 65 and older in our global population is increasing at a quicker rate than those who are younger.

In response, global authorities, including the World Health Organization, have strongly endorsed age-friendly cities and communities; the City of Windsor is actively involved in making this happen. With the month of June 2024 being recognized by His Worship, Drew Dilkens, as “Senior's Month”, it's the perfect time to call attention to the City's efforts in this regard.

Our Age-Friendly Windsor Working Group is forging ahead with concrete ways to improve the way we communicate, interact with, and involve seniors in our community.

Among the goals, we are committed to ensuring that outreach methods by the City are suitable for and accessible by seniors. Through liaising with City Administration and the Community Services Standing Committee, we also want to enhance direct delivery of services and programs to seniors. Furthermore, we are exploring ways to solicit input from seniors regarding issues that affect them and, in general, improving quality of life for our senior population.

Our seniors are such a significant part of our community; seniors contribute immensely as leaders, caregivers, volunteers and more! On a daily basis, I'm inspired by the Seniors in my family who play all of these roles graciously. We also benefit from seniors' experience and knowledge. Enhancing our City's connection with our seniors will ensure a healthy and vibrant community for all to enjoy!