



COUNCIL ON AGING GREY-BRUCE (COAGB)
Minutes of Meeting, Friday March 8, 2019

DATE: Friday, March 08, 2019 Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m

LOCATION: Active Lifestyles Centre, Owen Sound

1. WELCOME by Chair, Tanya S., introductions and signing of attendance sheet.

Present: Ellie A., Dave B., Rosalind B., Meri -Diane C., Sharron C., Jan C., Judy C., Wally H., Linda I., Mary Beth L., Ann M., Pam Mc., Barbara R., Amber S., Tanya S., Muriel S.

Guest Speakers: Police Chief Craig Ambrose

Sarah Cowley, RN, MN, CHE (c) and Debbie Taylor

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: no additions or changes

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES, February 7, 2019

4. PRESENTATIONS:

A) SAFETY FOR SENIORS: Chief Craig Ambrose of the Owen Sound Police Service was invited, as the new Police Chief, to speak to the COA's mandate 'Safety for Seniors'. Chief Ambrose relayed his extensive experience in a variety of areas including fraud and technology crimes. Most recently he worked with the Intelligence Bureau and the Waterloo Regional Police Service. Chief Ambrose spoke of the challenges of a reduced police force, noting that because of this, the Police 24-hour response is not the best option for assistance. He stressed the importance of education for various groups including seniors, so to inform the public on ways to protect themselves from becoming victims of crime.

- *March 2019 is Fraud Prevention month.* An excellent resource *You Are Crime Prevention* is available, which Chief Ambrose will forward (Update: provided as an attachment to these Minutes).
- There is a *Community Service Officer* available for presentations.

- *Elder Abuse*: 911 is to be used only for immediate concerns for safety, otherwise the regular police number should be called to arrange to speak with an officer regarding suspicions of elder abuse.
 - *Preventing Elder Abuse Event*: Mar 28, 2019: 1pm to 4 pm. Bayshore Community Centre, Grey Bruce Seniors' Safety network. This event will provide education and information in dealing with all types of abuse. John Farmer will be chairing a round table discussion with a sub-committee on violence prevention in Grey Bruce.
- *Safety of individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia*: Chief Ambrose described a safety process set up in Waterloo, which is geared to vulnerable people, and utilizes such options as drones and infrared cameras for heat signals to detect wanderers with Alzheimer disease or dementia, and others at high risk of getting lost. This is done by an independent organization, e.g. firemen. This is pertinent because cases of dementia are on the rise, placing a large burden on caregivers. A nurse from the LHIN and two police officers from the General Investigations Branch in Owen Sound will do same. They will arrive dressed casually and do an interview, and thus are less threatening. Chief Ambrose will provide Cori at The Active Lifestyles Centre with a contact number.

It was noted that the COAGB is a group that represents many other groups, so information can be effectively relayed to a broad range of seniors. Jan C. would be the contact person.

B) RURAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS HUB PROJECT: Sarah Cowley and Debbie Taylor

WHAT: To come up with a plan based on data from the region through SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) surveys and stakeholder engagement, in order to recommend a rural service delivery model of collaborative care, through the creation of hubs, which would provide integrated services of support.

WHO: Adults with chronic health conditions as well as youth and adolescents with Mental Health and Addictions issues.

HOW: In the Hub model, a Ministry promoted multi-disciplinary team would address overall social determinants to health such as mental health

issues, lack of housing, or inadequate supervision for children. The expected outcome would be improved support for the targeted populations. Grey and Bruce County together are to create a plan, which results in better use of time and resources. The SWOT analysis survey will be distributed to 712 social services agencies across Grey Bruce County. Grey Bruce has a population of 160,000, so the idea of a Grey Bruce collaborative hub to address the needs of a population in an area that covers over 3000 km. has its strengths and challenges.

Seniors will have the opportunity to voice their key concerns in the SWOT analysis, including the challenges presented by the current service delivery model and the LHINs, (which is based on the artificial boundaries of postal codes). Some concerns that were discussed included duplication of services, long wait times, the problems associated with access of services for those residing on a service boundary, sustainability of services (and the looming threat of cutbacks such as with the Autism group), accountability for standards of service, and the perceived lack of a 'route of goodness'. Sarah stated that the SWOT survey is a vehicle for senior's voices to be heard, not only regarding what needs improvement, but also what is working well. The survey was distributed to the COAGB to complete on site and returned to Sarah. Sarah will also be consulting with the Seniors Summit. For further information, Sarah's PowerPoint presentation is attached to these Minutes.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

a) SENIORS' SUMMIT UPDATE: Jan C. - firm date of Tuesday eve Sept. 24th and Wednesday. Sept. 25 all day. The site has been approved by city as a partner, with a deputation in April 2019 to City Council. 'Save the Date' will be distributed to promote. Guest Speaker is Dr. Brian Goldman the Art of Compassion (specifically in the health care system). Snow dates are in place. The Summit committee is poised and ready with core themes, food and food security and a break out session on nutrition. Proposed topics for discussion include Age Friendly Communities, and home and community support services available, as well as highlighting and celebrating the successes for seniors. A Silent Auction was suggested and is under advisement, with Sharron C. willing to help. It was noted that it's important to ensure this is as cost neutral an event as possible, although not a free event, to ensure attendance. The venue is free and there are some costs

around IT. Anyone who has connections that they can approach, please do so and provide them with the sponsorship package. It was suggested people could sponsor another ticket upon registration for those who couldn't afford a ticket, because \$10 to \$15 may be prohibitive for some seniors

b) SOCIAL ISOLATION UPDATE: Jan C. - core group Pam, Tanya, Rosalind, and Judy. Judy spoke to *Answers for Seniors*. Handouts are being developed based on certain topics. Funding starts in the middle of March 2019 for a year. This impacts all of Grey Bruce County, including the Active Lifestyles Centres and municipalities served by the COA.

c) HOUSING CHAIR UPDATE: Jan C. & Stephanie: Housing update in progress based on collecting data from current housing and homelessness survey and looking to complete over next couple of months. Survey seeking input from vulnerable support services in Grey Bruce. Jan C. suggested that the steps for how to get on the list for subsidized housing could be a Break Out session at Seniors Summit.

d) FINANCIAL UPDATE: David B. Treasurer

| | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------|
| COA Balance: | ~1106.81 | - |
| Carry over from 2018 – 4 th order of brochures received and paid. | | |
| Donation | 200.00 | - Ros B. Tax receipt required |
| Grand Total: | ~1306.81 | |
| Approval Requested: | \$250 payment to ALSC – Meeting Room Fee | |

MOTION: That a cheque for \$250.00 be issued to pay for the Active Lifestyles Centre room and administration fees. Moved by Sharron C., Seconded by Doug W., Carried

Reminder from Dave: A charitable donation to the COA does help on one's income tax return.

e) EXECUTIVE UPDATE: Ros B.
Nothing to report

f) COMMUNICATION CHAIR UPDATE: Wally H.

COAGB website is up and running.
See attached report

g) ROUNDTABLE: ALL

Dave B.: Saugeen Shores: Wally, Connie and Dave met with Mayor Luke Charbonneau Tues. Mar. 5th. Mayor Charbonneau talked about the need to support their senior citizens and how they are trying to engage project teams more so than committees. Luke sees having a call list of willing contributors and being able to pull together a team (committee) with the expertise needed by any project at hand. When Wally asked if our COA report had been presented to S.S.Council, Luke said, “not presented, but made available as information only”. Luke suggested that Wally resend the Report to him, and that we make a delegation to Council to represent to the new councilors, and field any questions on the report. Wally is resending the report to both Luke and Connie Barker. Presentation to Council to be scheduled for May/June 2019. Mayor Charbonneau said his staff would support a senior advisory/action committee that would make recommendations on the needs of S.S. seniors to his council. All is moving ahead in Kincardine, Northern Bruce Peninsula and Southern Bruce Peninsula, Meaford, as per Wally’s report.

Barb R.: 80-unit four-story apartment building in progress, being built by White Rose, a smaller construction company. There’s also a Dundalk building development in progress.

Ellie A: Has been gathering information and attended the Sponsorship Fair on Mar. 7, 2019. There may be videos available to highlight the Fair.

Elvin M.: Will be attending the Council meeting on Mar. 20th and officially will become a committee after that. Upcoming events: July 1st Classic Car Show, and the Maple Fest in April 2019. It was noted that Kincardine has largest number of retirees in Ontario. Elvin will bring information gathered at the COA back to committee. The point was made that an organization needs to be based on a mission and a cause with ‘like-minded and light-hearted’ individuals who share a vision. As well, an effective organization continually works on its ability to deal with likeness and conflicts, as well as maximize its digital presence.

Judy C. last month brochures for bus trips 2019-03-08 were distributed. It’s the 10th anniversary of Active Lifestyles, and there are plans in place to celebrate this at the June 27th Annual Meeting.

Meri-Diane C.: The Executive met with Meaford Council for a presentation on behalf of the 55+ Club. Over 50% of this population is over 65. There is an effort to place a focus on seniors, similar to the already well-established focus on youth.

Sharron C.: attended the monthly ladies luncheon in Lions Head to profile and discuss the COA and community advisory committee.

Ros B.: Housing

Concerned about the impact on housing development by cutbacks and the restructuring of funds by the provincial government. (e.g. as with Autism funding).

Pam Mc.: the Blue Mountains Town Council is receptive to the idea of recognizing a seniors network and of having its town webpage more representative of seniors. May 23, 2019: Alzheimer's presentation, June 13, 2019: presentation on fraud. Currently 21 VON support 8 different programs.

Doug W.: Seniors Fair: Oct. 23' 2019

MOTION: The COA purchases a table for information sharing for the Chesley Health Fair, Proposed by David B., and Seconded by Sharron C., Carried.

Senior Games: District 27 will be hosting the southwestern region of the Senior Games. Doug will be convening euchre. It's the responsibility of Parks and Recreation to ensure the Senior Games are available. These Games are government funded, so have a minimal charge for admittance.

Linda I.: Referred to an article of interest in the London News titled *Isolated Seniors of Huron County*. She met with the Parks and Recreation rep for South Bruce Peninsula. There will be workshops in March on e.g. audiology, or on How to Feed and Raise butterflies. Classes are available on Bid Euchre with a \$3 charge. On March 19th Linda will be with Wally H., Doug W., and David B for a meeting in Council Chambers

Amber S.: Focus will be on Age Friendly Communities. Amber is taking over from Emily Powell. She was introduced by Wally, and welcomed by all. Amber is looking forward to learning more about the COAGB

Stephanie L-A.: Provided a link to a 'Housing and Homelessness Survey' the Housing department has put together for input as part of their 10 year Housing and Homelessness plan: <https://www.grey.ca/affordable-housing>

Cycling and Trails Master Plan is being developed to guide future planning and decision-making to enhance cycling and off-road trail opportunities: <https://www.grey.ca/programs-initiatives/grey-county-cycling-and-trails-master-plan> . There is an Open House March 19th, 2019, 6-8 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

County Council budget was passed on Valentine's Day. Here are some of the highlights: <https://www.grey.ca/news/county-budget-continues-focus-economic-growth-and-service-delivery>

Sydenham School right beside Georgian College is being repurposed.

Muriel S.: this COA meeting provides a great orientation for what is happening in Grey and Bruce County.

Ann M.: asked the members of the COAGB to please send a summarized version of their reports to her via her email prior to the COAGB meetings to assist with accurate, quick, and efficient recording and distribution of the Minutes.

7) Next Meeting: April 12, 2019 at 9:30am- Active Lifestyles Centre, Owen Sound

Meeting Adjourned: 11:50 a.m.

Minutes prepared by: Ann M.