

# ST. JOHN'S

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## Seniors' Advisory Committee - Minutes

**March 3, 2020**

**9:30 a.m.**

**Crosbie Road Board Room**

**Present:** Sharron Callahan, Chair (CARP)  
Lorraine Best, Seniors NL  
Devonne Ryan, Public Representative (19-35)  
Deanne Stapleton, Council Representative  
Judy Tobin, Manager of Housing  
Neil Moores, NLPSPA  
Ruby Constantine, Citizen Representative

**Regrets:** Glenda Reid, Citizen Representative  
Sam Wells, Citizen Representative  
Neil Hamilton, CARP  
Patsy Yetman, Citizen Representative

**Staff:** Karen Sherriffs, Manager of Community Development  
Robyn Dobbin, Adult & Seniors Co-ordinator  
Maureen Harvey, Legislative Assistant

**Others:** Randy Carew, Manager of Inspection Services

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Recommendation**

**Moved By** Devonne Ryan

**Seconded By** Neil Moores

That the agenda be adopted with the addition of feedback on storms and also scheduling a meeting of the subcommittee on Age Friendly Cities.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES**

**3.1 Adoption of Minutes - November 05, 2019**

**Recommendation**

**Moved By** Lorraine Best

**Seconded By** Ruby Constantine

That the minutes of the meeting held November 5, 2019 be adopted as presented.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**5.1 Generators - Personal Care Homes**

The Committee welcomed Mr. Randy Carew, Manager of Inspection Services, to discuss a matter that has been the topic of discussion with the Committee for a number of months. The Committee is of the opinion that there should be a mandatory requirement for facilities housing seniors and the vulnerable members of society when there is a power loss.

The Committee reviewed the information note which outlined the Chief Municipal Planner's position with respect to this topic.

- The National Building Code of Canada for personal care homes generally does not require a generator, but they can be required in some circumstances.
- The requirement for a generator in a personal care home depends on the height and size of the building.
- High-rise buildings used as personal care homes do require a back-up generator.
- Some developers of personal care homes are installing generators for peace of mind (which can help with sales), even if one is not required by the Building Code.

- Generally, the City does not require the installation of a generator in an existing personal care home unless a specific issue arises.

It was noted that that Sharron Callahan and Neil Hamilton, have researched documentation for staff attending the meeting to substantiate the Committee's position that generators ought to be installed in buildings containing multiple units. This information

It was also noted that the City imposes regulations in line with the National Building Code and while it has little jurisdiction over Provincial Buildings, it does ensure private institutions are in compliance with the Code. If an application is received by the City it is incumbent on the applicant to know the type of care it provides so that the requirement for a generator can be clearly defined. The biggest problem is with respect to old facilities and institutions where upgraded equipment is appropriate.

Discussion continued with agreement that City Staff review a comprehensive list of institutions and apartment and other building which house seniors. Lorraine Best will seek information from Seniors NI.

Following the last meeting of the SAC, Neil Hamilton and Sharron Callahan obtained the listing of all the seniors' residential facilities for St. John's and Area. In total, there are 19 Personal Care Homes with a total bed capacity of 895 (1 home not advised), 8 Nursing (Long Term Care) with bed capacity of 1135, 3 retirement living facilities (bed capacity not listed), with 1 additional retirement living facility to open soon (bed capacity to be 200).

Of these facilities and the number of residents, 895 of them would be Level I and II care along with some enhanced care, including respite, while the long term care facilities would be Levels III and IV.

It was their intention to contact each of these homes to determine if they had an alternate source of heat and light in the event of a power outage; unfortunately due to reasons beyond their control they have not been able to start this piece of the research to advise how serious the impact of a power outage could be on seniors in residential care.

Sharron did however report that on January 28, through the work of the Seniors' Coalition which Sharron chairs, a meeting was held with Dr. John Haggie, Minister of Health and Community Services, who has responsibility for these facilities. Also present was Dr. Haggie's Assistant Deputy Minister and the Manager of Community Health Planning who is

the Lead on the implementation of the recommendations of the Deloitte Report (2016) on Personal Care Home Services. The issue of "alternate heat and sustained light" was raised.

Below is a quote from the Minutes of that meeting.

- We ask that you undertake a conversation with the appropriate Minister (Minister of Government Services) to consider amendments to the Building Code that would require residential homes that provide service to seniors and other vulnerable persons to provide alternate sources of heat during power disruptions, i.e. generator." Dr. Haggie will bring the matter forward to Service NL that has responsibility for the Building Code and Health. The Coalition will write a letter to both Ministers.

This request has apparently generated discussions behind the scene within Government, as another meeting to which I was invited but could not attend (4 seniors groups that are consulted by Government: Coalition, SeniorsNL, 50+, and PACSA) also spoke to it. The Coalition has yet to put its letter on record to Ministers Haggie and Gambin-Walsh.

Currently the Provincial Government's Standards for Care in Personal Care Homes are being re-written and are expected to be released during 2020. The Coalition asked to review these redrafted Standards and provide feedback. That is currently a work in progress and there will be a strong recommendation going forward that all seniors' care facilities MUST have an alternate heat and light source in the event of a power outage. Deadline to submit feedback is March 2, 2020 and a team of reviewers is currently combing through this 344 page Manual.

Given the foregoing, the following motion was put forward.

**Recommendation**

**Moved By** Neil Moores

**Seconded By** Ruby Constantine

That Council support, in writing, the efforts of the Seniors Coalition in their efforts to seek assurance that the required checks and balances are in place for seniors institutions or buildings that are frequented by seniors in relation to enhancement to the standards and guidelines governing alternative sources of heat/electricity i.e. generators and other life safety matters.

For (7): Sharron Callahan, Lorraine Best, Devonne Ryan, Deanne Stapleton, Judy Tobin, Neil Moores, and Ruby Constantine

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (7 to 0)**

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

**6.1 Senior of the Year Award**

The Committee was reminded that the City of St. John's is seeking nominations for the annual Senior of the Year Award. This award will be presented during the City Council meeting on Monday June 1, and recognized during Seniors Day on Thursday, June 4.

This award recognizes a senior who has made significant contributions to the community through volunteering, helping others, or participating in activities such as music, sport, recreation, or art.

The Senior of the Year Award is sponsored by Kenny's Pond Retirement and nominations close at 4 p.m. on Friday, May 1.

Applications can be found on the city's website under Living in St. John's in the Forms and Applications section under Recreation.

The Senior of the year selection committee reviewed the nomination form after the selection process in 2019 and updated the form to reflect this discussion.

Staff will submit a communication plan which will include promotion at the Council table and with various community groups and organizations. It was also noted that staff will keep applications on file in the event that unsuccessful candidates can be considered for the following year.

Discussion concluded with the following people agreeing to be members of the Senior of the Year Sub-committee - Robyn Dobbin, Karen Sherriffs, Sharron Callahan and Neil Moores.

**6.2 Seniors Day 2020**

Seniors Day is an event that is coordinated by a sub-committee of the Seniors' Advisory Committee. Seniors Day is an opportunity for the City of St. John's to recognize seniors and provide them with information to improve their quality of life. This is an annual event that attracts members

of the public (primarily seniors), community organizations, members of council and the media.

Seniors Day 2020 will take place on June 4th from 11 to 3 p.m. The first steps for the planning of Seniors Day 2020 is to determine a sub-committee comprising of members of the Seniors Advisory Committee.

The following decisions were made with respect to Seniors Day 2020

- a. Subcommittee will be comprised of: Robyn Dobbin, Devonne Ryan, Neil Moores, and Sharron Callahan
- b. There will be less speaking and more interactive games
- c. A site map identifying booth locations will be available to those attending games and more time for visiting organizations set-up in booth space.

Councillor Stapleton advised she is unable to be here for June 4th and asked that consideration be given to changing the date to June 11th. While it was agreed to explore this idea, it is believed that the Paul Reynolds Centre is not available that date. To be confirmed.

Devonne Ryan, Public Representative (19-35) left the meeting at 10:51 am.

### **6.3 Community Bus**

The purpose of the Community Bus service is to provide transportation to seniors that is convenient and easy to use to get to their destinations and help them remain active in the community. Unlike other Metrobus routes, the Community Bus provides door-to-door pick up and drop off service at several apartment complexes and residences to major destinations, including shopping malls and recreation facilities. Service is provided by a twenty-seven-foot, fully accessible bus that was purchased with a portion of the funding received from the Province. The remainder of the funding will be used to operate and market the service, which is an initiative that comes out of the Metrobus five-year strategic plan.

Neil Moores initiated discussion on the need for Metrobus to have Community Bus Schedules printed and available in seniors' frequented facilities. The Committee concurred and suggested staff reach out to the General Manager of Metrobus in an effort to obtain the schedule. It was also suggested that the manager be invited to the next meeting.

### **6.4 Information Note - Older Adult Summit**

Neil Moores reported on the Older Workers Summit and provided further detail that includes information regarding a survey that will be developed by Office of the Seniors Advocate and ways the committee can help with the distribution.

Below is a description of the discussion and topics that were spoken about during the Older Workers Summit:

- NL's aging workforce & shrinking population can have a drastic impact on the labour market & the ability of businesses to find workers. But NL's demographic situation could also present an opportunity - more and more people are working well into their 60's and 70's.
- What can employers do to attract and retain older workers? What barriers do older workers face, and how can we find solutions to create more age-friendly work environments? What opportunities and spin-off effect could these solutions have for all workers?

Discussion concluded with agreement that the survey be included under the City's Engage Page.

## **6.5 Seniors Advisory Committee – Membership Status**

Following a review of all Advisory Committees in early 2016, terms of reference were prepared and/or updated and a call for interest in membership was published. In February 2016, committee members were appointed by Council. The terms of reference allow for no more than five organizational representatives and no more than five community representatives. Each member was appointed for a two-year term with an additional two-year extension, if deemed appropriate and the member was agreeable to such an extension.

A recent review has revealed that membership for the following members expires as follows:

Wells, Sam 21-Feb-20 Community  
Yetman, Patsy 21-Feb-20 Community  
Best, Lorraine 21-Feb-20 Senior Resource Centre  
Callahan, Sharron 21-Feb-20 Carp and Pensioners  
Hamilton, Neil 21-Feb-20 Carp

The terms of reference allow for the reappointment of organizational representatives and to that end, those reps will require written

confirmation from their respective organizations to continue in that capacity.

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Recruitment for community representatives must take place and while there are two listed above, there is a third vacancy created by the resignation of Linda Babstock in June of 2019.

The following members are eligible for a two-year extension in accordance with the terms of reference

Reid, Glenda 19-Dec-19 Community  
Moore, Neil 19-Dec-19 Pensioners  
Constantine, Ruby 19-Dec-19 Community  
Ryan, Devonne 19-Dec-19 Younger Generation

Staff will await the response from community organizations with respect to their member's continued representation on the Seniors Advisory Committee. A decision note will be forwarded to Council recommending extensions or replacements of members as per the direction of the organizations.

A recruitment process will take place for four community representatives following the Seniors Advisory Committee on March 3, 2020 with a deadline of March 20, 2020 and following which time a decision note will be forwarded to Committee of the Whole and subsequently to Council recommending appointments.

## **7. NEXT MEETING DATES**

The following dates were set for the next three meetings:

April 23, 2020

June 16, 2020

September 15, 2020



**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:21 am

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CHAIRPERSON, SHARRON CALLAHAN