



Corporate Report

Clerk's Files

Originator's
Files

8

DATE: November 4, 2013

TO: Chair and Members of General Committee
Meeting Date: December 4, 2013

FROM: Paul A. Mitcham, P.Eng., MBA
Commissioner of Community Services

SUBJECT: Establishment of an Older Adult Advisory Panel

General Committee

DEC 04 2013

- RECOMMENDATION:**
1. That an Older Adult Advisory Panel be established for the purpose of seeking citizen and stakeholder input in the planning and delivery of municipal services that impact older adults; and
 2. That the Older Adult Advisory Panel investigates and assists staff to pursue the designation of an Age Friendly City from the World Health Organization as outlined in the report dated November 4, 2013 from the Commissioner of Community Services.

**REPORT
HIGHLIGHTS:**

- The purpose of the Older Adult Advisory Panel (OAAP) is to extend advice and support to staff in pursuit of four outcomes:
 - coordinate the annual Older Adult Educational Symposium;
 - assist in planning Senior Month Activities for the month of June;
 - provide input into Future Directions through participation in a community physical space review for current and future needs; and
 - pursue designation as an Age Friendly City from the World Health Organization (WHO).

8a

- The OAAP will be comprised of 8 community members and 5 city staff representing each department.

BACKGROUND:

The City's Older Adult Plan (2008) was supported in principle by Council in February 2008. Recommendation 3A of the Older Adult Plan recommends that an Older Adult Advisory Committee with staff resources be established to assist in implementing the Older Adult Plan.

This report proposes a structure for such a panel to ensure residents' input in the development and continuous improvement of municipal older adult programs and services.

Staff reviewed similar committee models used in other municipal environments including Ottawa, Oakville, Halton, Waterloo, Vaughan, Edmonton, Calgary, Burlington, and Hamilton.

A growing number of cities worldwide are striving to plan for and better meet the needs of their older residents. Many neighbouring municipalities have created formal committee structures of citizens and staff to achieve this objective; these examples have been reviewed by Mississauga staff. Further, some Ontario municipalities (Ottawa, London, Waterloo, and Hamilton) have or are in the process of obtaining an Age Friendly City designation from the World Health Organization (WHO) – a top-tier international accreditation.

COMMENTS:

Many of the Older Adult Plan's recommendations have been implemented and reported to Council, most recently through the 2012 Report Card on Older Adults.

An outstanding recommendation is the formation of an OAAP to maintain the momentum of implementation outstanding recommendations and to renew planning efforts geared to ongoing service delivery for older adult residents. Staff have developed a work plan and governance structure for the OAAP. The principle components are highlighted below:

Panel Organization

The Recreation Division's Community Development Coordinator for Older Adults will provide governance support and act as Chair of the OAAP. Member composition includes:

- Eight (8) community panel members from Mississauga, representing the cities geographic areas;
- One (1) staff member from Transportation and Works Department;
- One (1) staff member from Corporate Services Department (Accessibility Coordinator);
- One (1) staff member from City Planning and Building Department;
- Two (2) staff members from Community Services Department; and
- Two (2) City Councillors as Ex-Officio members to be determined by Council in 2015 after the OAAP's first full year of operation.

The term for each Community Panel Member will be two years and members may serve on the OAAP for a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The selection criteria for community panel members will include:

- Must be 55 years of age or older;
- Is prepared to represent the broader interests of the older adult population;
- Applications for the inaugural term of the OAAP will be reviewed by a staff selection committee. The Terms of Reference will outline the process for ongoing recruitment and selection. Every effort will be taken to recruit panel members that represent Mississauga's ethnic diversity and gender balance.

Staff will promote the existence of and recruitment process for the OAAP through a variety of media:

- Pylon signs and interior digital signage in all recreation facilities;
- Seniors club newsletters;

- Notices to existing seniors clubs and affiliated groups; and
- Community agency websites and newsletters (i.e. CARP, ZOOMERS and Community Support Services groups).

The OAAP will not report directly to Council; however, status reports on the OAAP's activities will be included in the Recreation Division's regular updates on the Older Adult Plan.

Proposed Panel Work Plan

The OAAP provides an opportunity for information and advice to be exchanged between older adults and City staff, permitting informed decision making related to Older Adult programs and service delivery. The development of a multi-year work plan will be important to guide the panel's activity and focus. Key initiatives that will be advanced using the OAAP as an advisory group include:

- The City's submitting on to the WHO for the Age Friendly City designation;
- Planning and assisting in the Older Adult Educational Symposium;
- Organizing events for "June is Seniors Month"
- Providing input to the 2014 Future Directions Master Plan as it relates to facilities and services geared to Older Adults
- The OAAP will review recommendations of the OAP that are the responsibility of other departments (ie: Transit), to ensure all city services are applying an "Age Friendly lens"

Age Friendly Designation

Pursuing an Age Friendly designation from the WHO in a manner that involves community and staff working together demonstrates the spirit and intent of the internationally-recognized program. Further, the Province of Ontario, Ontario's Senior's Secretariat is providing support and services to municipalities in Ontario that aspire to achieve Age Friendly designation.

Criteria must be met in the following eight categories.

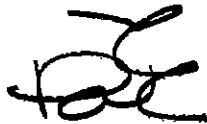
- social participation;
- respect and social inclusion;

- civic participation and employment;
- communication and information;
- community support and health services;
- outdoor spaces and buildings;
- transportation; and
- housing

STRATEGIC PLAN: The OAAP is a demonstration of older adult residents engaging with municipal government to make improvements in service delivery and programming that impact older residents. The OAAP supports City Mississauga's Vision; "*belong – ensuring youth, older adults and new immigrants thrive.*"

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There is no direct financial impact related to this report.

CONCLUSION: The establishment of the Older Adult Advisory Panel will establish a new approach for information sharing and service planning between older adults and city staff leading to the pursuit of an Age-Friendly City designation from the WHO.



Paul A. Mitcham, P.Eng., MBA
Commissioner of Community Services

*Prepared By: Lorena Smith, Community Development Coordinator,
Older Adults*

