

Seniors Advisory Committee

Tuesday April 10, 2018

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Canada Room

Minutes

Attendance:

Patricia Anderson
Satya Arora
Gail Leet, Chair
Laila Jiwa
Arul Rajasingam
Christine Wong
Yash Kapur
Almas Mawani
Ramma Chabra, Vice-Chair
Diane Gabay
Alam Muhammad

Regrets:

Regional Councillor Nirmala Armstrong
Councillor Colin Campbell
Councillor Amanda Collucci
Kamla Malhotra
Mithan Lal Kansal
Anthony Ko

Staff:

Janet Beatty, Recreation Coordinator
Josh Machesney, Acting Council/Committee Coordinator
Andrea Berry, Senior Manager, Corporate Communications &
Community Engagement

Item	Discussion	Action Item
1. Call to Order &	The Seniors Advisory Committee convened at 3:07 PM with Gail Leet presiding as	

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest	Chair.	
2. Approval of the February 13 and March 13, 2018 Seniors Advisory Committee Minutes	That the February 13, 2018 and March 13, 2018 minutes be approved. <p style="text-align: right;">Approved</p>	
3. Sumi Prabakaran – Executive Director of Senior Services Network	<p>Sumi Prabakaran, Executive Director of the Seniors Services Network was present to discuss senior services in Markham and York Region.</p> <p>She began by thanking the Committee for having her. She explained that she is proud to have been a Markham resident long enough to witness the changes to Markham’s demographics over the years.</p> <p>Sumi provided some facts regarding seniors in York Region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seniors are the largest growing population - By 2023, 1/5 of the population will be over 65 - Seniors in Canada are living longer than ever before (84 years on avg.) - Despite this, there appears to be less and less services available to seniors in York Region <p>Sumi explained that she is being forced to give up her job to take care of her elderly mother, and that many caregivers are now being placed in the same difficult situation as her. She further explained that there is very little, in terms of investment, being made into seniors who live in York Region – either by the Region or the Province. She argued that Committee members, as leaders, need to advocate for more resources for seniors in York Region.</p> <p>With respect to Senior Services Network (SSN), she advised that many seniors who come to SSN live in isolation, and lack sufficient socialization, which leads to early death. SSN attends places of worship to offer services to seniors in Markham and some other locations in York Region. They offer adult day programs for different seniors groups. Though the SSN reaches out to as many people in York Region as possible, there is a lack of resources to touch all the seniors that need support and assistance.</p>	

4. Update on Craft Fair	Janet Beatty provided an update on the craft fair. She advised that there have already been 7 applications for vendors looking to participate at the fair. She further advised that the Subcommittee had a productive meeting with Corporate Communications staff, in an effort to develop materials to help promote the event. As a result, posters have already been placed in each of the City's community centres.	
5. Update on Markham Life and Q & A Discussion	Gail provided a brief update on Markham Life.	
6. New Business	There was no new business.	
7. Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 4:02 PM	