

The Town of Oakville

Department of Recreation & Culture

Seniors' Working Action Group (SWAG) - We're Age Friendly

Minutes – February 22, 2023, via ZOOM

In Attendance: Julie Pennal, Dee Webber, Beth Robertson, Bev Cathro, Margaret Kirwin, Pierre Wong, Pat Moore, Ted Lambert, Darlene Cox, Nabeel Rahman, Jen McPetrie, Kelly Meeussen,

Regrets: Councillor Cathy Duddeck, Ruth Sheridan, Michelle Nichols

Guest: Sarah Francom – Deputy Chief – Program Development Quality Improvement at Halton Region Paramedic Services

1. **Call to Order by Darlene Cox – 1:45 p.m.**

2. **Attendance / Regrets –** Regrets as noted.

3. **Acceptance of previous Minutes / Agenda**

Margaret, seconded by Pat. Carried.

Change: #8 Falls Prevention Committee: Remove Pat's name.

4. **Update from Jen McPetrie – no update provided at this time.**

5. **Guest Speaker:** Sarah Francom – Deputy Chief – Program Development Quality Improvement at Halton Region Paramedic Services

- When you call 911 the dispatch system has changed as per Ministry of Health.
- MPDS – Global system, highly successful and evidence based and proven to be a successful dispatch system.
- Prioritize calls, response times change: i.e. Old system: Fell and bumped knee and breathing heavy called ambulance and dispatch would send all resources.
- Now dispatch asks more questions to provide more detail, to help determine that the issue is not more serious than the heart attack that was called in earlier.
- Sarah mentioned to ask 911 how long it will take. Dispatch will call back to check in and provide a possible estimated time of arrival.
- Higher priority calls have improved. Getting to these calls faster than with old system i.e., Heart attack, fall down the stairs etc. With regards to calls dropped, do not have concrete data at this time.
- Sarah indicated that average wait time for less priority calls is 30-45 mins.
- Darlene: Do a larger presentation for many people to attend. Jennifer indicated that between Sarah and the Public Education Coordinator can facilitate a workshop. Julie suggested that Sarah could do a SWAG presents topic and attend our open houses this year. Sarah indicated that the Fire Department has more resources. Paramedics have less resources. Information cards are available with 911 information for the public.

Update from Jen McPetrie:

- a. Jennifer McPetrie: Discussed the Master Plan Update (this is done every 10 years with Parks, Recreation and Libraries) and the direction of where the town is going. Consultants Monteith Brown were hired back in Fall. Doing Facility Tours and Community Connections offered online and in person to share ideas. Will make this known to the group when the time comes. It is important to be part of it. Spring programs go live March 1st. Many seniors at our facilities for family day with great attendance. Busiest since Covid.

Standing Agenda Items

a. Older Adult Isolation Table Update – LITE Training: Nabeel Rahman

-Heather Thompson has decided to step down at Community Development Halton to pursue other things.

-Nabeel had an interesting conversation with the Canadian Red Cross, Director of Institute of Social Prescribing to discuss the landscape of what this looks like in Halton.

Julie: indicated that we are currently doing Social Prescribing for over 20 clients. There is opportunity for this group to connect to Julie or Jolaine. The OACAO was granted a substantial amount of money in Ontario for next 3 years. We are in start of year 2. Approximately \$2,500 in funds were provided. Jolaine has done an amazing job with the program to date.

Nabeel indicated that there is a gap in understanding as the Red Cross is so focused on the model not the delivery.

Facilitator for mental health for SWAG meeting. Nabeel to provide a name from the CMHA.

b. Councillor update: Cathy Duddeck

- a. Budget deliberations are currently underway and a key proposal in discussion is to provide free transit for Seniors and those under 18 years of age.
- b. Council heard the application for 50 Speers Road. Plans are for demolition and rebuilding an apartment rental building with 27 floors/6 stories. Concerns are raised in terms of accommodating the existing tenants. The applicant is planning to provide financial compensation for those in the building. Concerns are being raised about their being able to afford returning to this area after the work is complete. Both Councillor Chisholm and I met with Halton Regional staff to prepare a householder to distribute to the tenants informing them of the regional housing programs available to them in their search for new housing.
- c. The application is going to Council for a decision and the public will have an opportunity to comment on the planning report.
- d. The application for the development at the top of Kerr St. and Speers Road (the Food Basics site) was appealed to the OLT due to a lack of decision. Major concerns relating to the delay of the Kerr underpass and the impacts on the traffic congestion due to the 25+ towers being proposed. Other concern is the lack of an affordable grocery store to serve the area.
- e. The Region is developing a 4-story building at Kerr St. (former recreational building for seniors) that will house the PACE program at the bottom of the building while providing 52 affordable housing for seniors above the facility.
- f. The Region is also building 14 semi-detached dwelling units (7 buildings) containing assisted rental housing units for seniors and assisted independent living units with community supports. The location is on

Rebecca Street on the former St. Hilda's Anglican Church property. There will be 3 individual homes facing out onto Rebecca with the unit's situation behind these properties.

c. Oakville Meals on Wheels – Michelle Nichols

- a. Heard that they were denied for the Category One application to the 2023 Halton Region Community Investment Fund (HRCIF).
- b. Launched the snack pack program. This is a pack of 4-5 items to help supplement those that need extra support. This program was made possible through a grant from Mazon Canada.
- c. March is March for Meals month. Will be launching our Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser.
- d. Working with Mayor Burton to have our flag raised at Town Hall along with a proclamation for the month. Keep an eye on your inboxes for an invite.
- e. Hosting community champion the week of March 20-25. Many supporters joining to help deliver meals, including Mayor Burton, Town Councillors, MPP's and Julie Pennal.
- f. Launching our first social media campaign called "How do you do Lunch?"

d. Senior Connector Update – Pat Moore

- Received a letter from Heather Thompson that she was leaving as Director of Age Friendly Initiatives. CDH will no longer be initiating age friendly programs. March 7 is the last meeting with Heather, and they will find out what is coming for senior connectors. Heather's passion and initiative will be missed. Julie indicated that we could host something for Heather at the Colborne Centre similar to what was done at Christmas time.

e. enVISION Oakville Update – Ruth Sheridan

- a. Ruth is recovering at home and doing well. No update provided.

f. OAAC – Darlene Cox

- Online and in-person exercise classes offered by LifeMark for more isolated seniors. Call and register, only take 10-11 people. Julie to email the locations for the in-person and online classes. Program great for Senior Connectors.
- Feedback on Anti-Fraud awareness: 98 people registered. Largest to date. Forwarded link to 200 people. 48 registered for Consumer Protection. It is possible that people don't understand what the title represents. Darlene to ask Tom to send out reminder. Friendship Luncheon had a speaker from Scotia Bank. There are current bank frauds (Call and say they are from Scotia Bank and your account is under investigation for possible fraud). Julie indicated that the senior who lost money from a bit coin scam, her daughter was able to get money back from the gift cards. The money that was placed in the bit coin bank machine is lost. There are currently 17 Bit Coin machines in Oakville. This was mentioned to Councillor Duddeck last meeting to bring up to Council.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amica Event with Alison on February 28 at 10 a.m. She is looking for input. Put yourself in the space and what you would like to experience to be comfortable living there. Look at the floor plans. • Julie indicated on March 21 at the Colborne Centre is an in-person event with Amica and the Councillors from 1-3 p.m. regarding the same topic as the Zoom meeting. Julie suggested questions should be asked about the memory care floor and the costs associated with an internal move. Advocate for all in pricing as opposed to a la carte pricing. • Future Cannabis with Andy Donaldson. Darlene to follow up with Andy to provide a virtual presentation. Reached out to Active Aging Cannabis to see if they will do a presentation.
6.	<p>New Business Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privatization of hospitals: Town Hall presenting on this topic. Very concerned about this concept. Contact Darlene for the correct link as the current one is not working. • Margaret: This week is Halton Garden Week. Free online presentation through Haltonfood.ca. Oakville Green also offering online presentation: supporting backyard birds. • Ted Lambert: Clarification for tax clinics. The clinics are there to serve low income eligible for low-income supplements. Must be a basic income tax only. (Accounting firms offered through a clinic where staff volunteer their services) Pierre indicated that the churches who offer the service are open to all levels of income. Michelle Knowles coordinator of Oak Park Neighbourhood offering the service.
7.	<p>Information Sharing</p>
8.	<p>Date of next meeting – Wednesday, March 22nd at 1:30 PM via Zoom.</p>
9.	<p>Adjournment – Darlene thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was adjourned 3:30 p.m.</p>