

Age Friendly Steering Committee –

Members in Attendance: Sharon, Barbara, Susan, Anne, Yvon, Teresa, Maria

Staff: Liam, Aimee

1- Mid-point Reflection

- Liam revisits the scope of the project and the content of the meetings to come. Content focused on survey data, final report as prepared for by Ryerson Students
- Susan questioned how the County funding will be spent
- Yvon noted that we can't just spend the funds on paperwork, there needs to be an allocation of funds to the deliverables that need to be seen in the community.
- Committee members want to continue with the collection of the surveys and will continue to distribute until April 2020 – Pinewoods Chapel will be in receipt of hard copies
- Susan making a recommendation to have someone participate in a meeting with physical limitations
- Maria commented that the recommendations are too broad and perhaps overwhelming for Council to digest. How can we take the initial recommendations and make them into action oriented tangible deliverables?
- Sharon recommended a site visit to find out what are the needs of long-term care facilities to find out what the gaps in service is and how can the local level support closing these gaps. How is growth management addressing the need for long-term care facilities.
- Discussion on pending development applications that are looking to provide Senior's accommodations, the Committee questioned affordability, housing types that would be the most appropriate – considering life leases would the County consider being the long-term landlord.
- Discussion on communal living, what would that look like and how can we ensure that local level policies and regulations do not stand in the way of this type of preferred living

2- Review of the Ryerson Students Presentation

- Liam went through the key take-aways from the Student Presentation
- Discussion occurred on tangible deliverables resulting from the student recommendations

3- This Week's WHO Topic: **Communication and Information**

- Q1. How do you ensure successful communication with others?
  - i. Emails, face to face visits with neighbours, through social gatherings (church), facebook postings, telephone calls, aim to listen more and talk less, ask people direct questions, texting – group chats, regular check-ins, listening as well as talking, technology can act as a barrier to modern day communication due to lack of access or reliability, miscommunication can often occur from texting and emails so not always a valid form of communicating, non-spoken communication through neighbourhood watch, television, facebook messenger
- Q2. Through what methods of communication do we receive information?

- i. Television news, when we volunteer and seek it out, social media, local newspaper, are we phoning as much as we use to? Aging comes with potential limitations of our senses, for instance speaking on the phone can get more challenging due to reduced hearing
  - Q3. Can you explain one method of communication which conveyed information in an impactful way?
    - i. Emails that you can go back and verify details on, printed copies, note taking from phone calls, sticky notes on the fridge, following Council Agendas and minutes to stay informed of decisions that are being made in the Township, landline still preferred method of communication, Essa's website as a reliable site for community events
  - Q4. What are some of the best practices that the Township could manage?
    - i. A bulletin board/ community board that would be dedicated to Senior's information that stands out and that could be easily identifiable and updated online as well as in the physical – information management through the Clerk's Department, email alert systems from the Township, promotion through the local paper, radio ad, tv ad, and the mailer, you have to take a layered approach, even property tax mailers do not reach all residents because there are renters that would not open tax bills.
- 4.- Introduction of Next Meeting's Topic Discussion, Civic Participation and Employment and Brainstorming
- LM gave context on the County's framework around the importance of Senior's being active parts of the community in a volunteer capacity and through civic engagement
- 5.- Other Business
- Liam reviewed the Government Services Breakdown Handout
  - Liam reviewed the articles provided
  - Committee agreeable to making a delegation of Council for support of the Committee – eg. Can the Township advocate for stronger cell service as email is a main method of communication, can the Township set up a mass email distribution list for information sharing, what would the back-up plan be for those who don't have access to email? How can the Township assist with connecting people via wifi.
  - A couple of the most important issues have already been discussed.
  - Aimee reviewed the change in meeting dates noting that the Committee would be continuing after April to work on a delegation to Council on immediate deliverables from the Committee
- 6.- Next Meeting Wednesday February 19, 2020 1:00PM to 3:00PM
- 7.- Meeting Adjourned at 3:00 PM