

Age-Friendly Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 7th, 2019

Present: Sharon Tinkler, Member
Anne Learn-Sharpe, Member
Yvon Lalande, Member
Teresa Jazwinski, Member
Susan Makepeace, Member

Also Present:

Matthew Graystone, Ryerson Student
Madalene Albano, Ryerson Student
Nicole Cappadocia, Ryerson Student
Tom Ostler, Instructor – Ryerson University
Liam Munnoch, Junior Planner

1. Administrative Matters

Matthew - extends an invite to committee members to come to our final presentation on November 28th at Ryerson University. We can accept drop-ins.

Susan - would like to come - but not sure yet if she is able to come

Matthew - shares options for transportation - subway or GO

Liam - mentioned that some members can ride with staff members attending the final presentation

2. Wrap-up Discussion on Transportation

Sharon - spoke with the mayor - mayor says that we have taxis but taxis never get called - maybe due to funds?

Anne - convenience for having your car than relying on a taxi

Yvon - people view their car as an aspect of their life - when you're restricted to where you can go (outside of Angus)

Susan - any updates on Abe's taxi service?

Liam - no updates provided at the moment - he will look into any updates (as per last night's council meeting minutes)

Yvon - giving up your car feels like giving up your freedom

Anne - if the taxi goes through - you can spend \$2 from Angus to Barrie via bus transportation

Matthew - preparing the transportation portion of report - would it be beneficial to see different travel scenarios VS. having a car?

Teresa - not familiar with variety of transit - have to figure out which bus you have to go on

Yvon - not perfect in comparison to the car

Anne - likes the idea of a taxi coming to the door, rather than waiting at a bus stop for the bus

Matthew - switches item 4 with item 3 of agenda

3. Recommendations for Transportation

Matthew - asks committee members to provide their recommendations for transportation - short term and long term & cost - is it difficult to implement and expensive or easy to implement and cheap (keep in mind) - please provide realistic recommendations for transportation within Essa

Susan - short term - look into update on taxis

Susan - long term - due to cost - Council has looked into other options that we've spoken about and cost has overread the permitting of it - more benches on Mill st so walking is easier - long term always comes to cost

Matthew - ideal situation?

Susan - accessible shuttle bus around Angus - trips to Baxter

Sharon - shuttle bus that runs - Wasaga Beach

Yvon - Essa is different compared to Wasaga beach - tax base

Susan - probably subsidized (Wasaga's taxes are doubled Essa's)

Susan - \$5 increase in old age pension last month

Yvon - if there comes to a point that you're really stuck, move out of Angus and go to Barrie where the buses are - ambulance moves better than transportation

Teresa - short term - use taxes for buses to take people around

Teresa - long term - transportation implemented that will get people to Barrie - doctors and specialists are in Barrie

Sharon - Barrie uses small buses with lifts for wheelchairs - send to people's homes to pick people up and drive them to the doctors and stuff

Teresa - retirement homes - buses will take people to outings - shopping and group events

Yvon - taxi for minimum price - no long term recommendations - get a car

Sharon - not sure how the bus company in Barrie is funded?

Matthew - any transportation suggestions, different modes? (walking, trails, road widening)

Sharon - short term - taxis and government assistance with that

Madalene - smaller bus with specified times - maybe be better?

Madalene - travel to other communities (Baxter, Ivy, Thornton, etc.) - and coming to peacekeepers park to get to the bus stop

Sharon - we would need signage - where to stay - bus stops

Susan - agreed with Sharon as current signage and navigating tools are difficult to understand - maps not easy to read because they're so small

Anne - short term - taxi to a bus stop - coordinate with Barrie and subsidize bus at the other end - at Allandale Waterfront GO stop

Madalene - suggests a transfer

Matthew - going to prepare scenarios for cost of transportation to different places by different means - helpful for viewers to understand

Anne - population of Essa may grow - so there will be enough people at some point to support the bus system

Anne - how about others moving throughout Essa? - this can help how they can move from a rural part of Essa to Barrie

Matthew - restates Marias point from the last meeting - if you're living in a rural area your making a decision to live far from urbanized areas and depend on a personal vehicle

Anne - maybe people in rural communities would like to have a service to pay for - that will get them into the city

Anne - aspect of tourism - tour bus throughout Essa - parks and rec would probably take part in an aspect such as this

4. Recommendations for Housing

Matthew - asks committee members to provide their recommendations for housing - short term and long term & cost - please provide realistic recommendations for senior-friendly within Essa

Anne - keeping seniors in your home for as long as possible - building houses having that in mind

Sharon - used to live in Wasaga - condos built - and parks for recreation

Anne - modular homes - making your house more flexible - repurpose different parts of your home - wanting to add to your parent's house

Sharon - peer bought a big home and put their parents in an ensuite, while they lived in another part of the house

Anne - multi-purposeful

Madalene - short term - incentives for modular homes to be built

Liam - no initiatives for senior housing currently - comments on en suite and apartment within dwellings - updates to provincial policy - bill 108 - to permit secondary units in any home across zoning and secondary units - specifically within settlement areas - garden suites included

Susan - to apply to have a second apartment in your home - \$1500 to pay for the application to apply & no guarantees - but if you get turned down, you don't get money back - high risk

Liam - based on personal experience - basement apartment - require higher density of the zone - not just applying to have a basement apartment BUT a rezoning, which is a costly application (ex: R1 > R2 Zone) - issue - septic - prove that your septic/zoning can handle the additional unit - hoping to bring an amendment forth - bill 108 - permitted to enforce 2 buildings of a property - nothing implemented yet

Anne - difficult for people to get into their first house - services

Liam - city of Vaughan did a similar study - for students in basement apartments

Liam - parking is difficult to accommodate for

Liam - any long term incentives - renovating your home and living in your home for longer - provincial grants for seniors and renovations - accessible and affordable housing guidelines documentation (for future developers)

Yvon - nothing is cheap today - only way out is to move out of the town - if the township cannot get a developer to build a building for free then we're out of luck

Yvon - attract building with incentive to build and get benefit out of doing so

Teresa - province to provide funding - seniors housing needs to be looked at through incentives + retirement community in the Township

Susan - personal problem in Essa with bungalows - it took 4 years and many offers to obtain a bungalow - demand was so great that every newer bungalow that was for sale had many buyers & lots of bids - planning for the future & didn't wait until her and her husband were over 70 to look for bungalows - but long term - her pet peeve - how can

we try to get a nursing/ retirement home in Essa - so Essa residents have to go out of their community

Matthew - our team will try to put into our report, but just want to reiterate that our team is not creating a plan, but we are providing recommendations for what we think the township can do - with help from the steering committee meetings and data collected from surveys - initial steps to take

Anne - looking at demand - how many people want to stay in Essa?

Susan - trying to stay in their home to stay in their home

Susan - long term - start the work on retirement/nursing home - because it won't start happening for a long time - if we can help with coming up with the steps

Teresa - agrees with Susan - retirement community - incentives from the province - and the Township to work with them to build the buildings

Teresa - province cutting services - years ago PSWs could come twice a day

Matthew - encourages health discussion - can move forward in next weeks meeting

Matthew - question for Liam - in terms of incentives for developers to build housing that is senior friendly - of developments recently - are they getting through the municipality quickly?

Liam - busy now with new applications - not completed process - making things for efficient

- difficulty - developer has their own goal and strategy - generally in Essa - building single detached homes - not senior friendly homes
- explore options - with Simcoe County - go about our own way in developing seniors housing
- he believing now there will be difficulty incentivizing
- some developers only do senior friendly development - needs to be something attracting them to Essa
- not a lot of developable land now
- monitor incentives - in the official plan - can't do anything much until the OP is revised (shortly) - latest revision is OP 2001 - tools for updating the official plan
- maybe design guideline documents for reference

Matthew - how to make this known to developers?

Liam - hesitate to say the Township would try to seek developers - would happen through different levels of government - what could the county do?

Matthew - how to find location for seniors homes? demand based? political?

Tom - basic info from 1 or 2 companies that build senior complexes - find our threshold - to build X number of units - Chartwell Development Company - Matthew to discuss with Professor Webber

Liam - Kingsman retirement communities - developers did many throughout the GTA - try to get a contact at the county to provide information

Madalene - Chartwell has been buying many retirement spaces

Madalene - Aurora - plan of subdivision - included a retirement resident building - idea that the children lived in the subdivision and the parents to live in a residential condominium complex

Liam - county - 25% of the requirement of specified built-types in specified areas - ensuring a percentage of the land dedicated to seniors - need to be in the official plan

5. This Week's WHO Topic: Social Participation

Matthew introduces this week's topic - Social Participation

Susan - inform that Angus Legion is very active in the community and they have some things geared to seniors, and others not specified for seniors, but seniors are using them - Bid euchre Mondays, friendship club, dart clubs - legion members are an older population. the Lions Club is very active - weekly darts. Don't have to be a member of the legion to attend clubs, before you had to be a member to go in the legion. Same with Base Borden, before was for military members, now you can go to watch the show, bowling, yet people do not know this. she just found out that Anytime Fitness in Angus has a seniors drop in fee for \$2.00, when a manager is there (9am - 7pm) - most seniors would go in at that time (buying a book of 5 gym visits).

Susan - poor thing in Essa - no communication

Matthew - affordable options to allow seniors to participate socially

Susan - in the program guide - only thing is the walking club - a lot of the options available are not in the program guide

Madalene - people turn to the program guide to know the schedule of things (4 updates), community guide (1 update/ year)

Matthew - organizations - Township should reach out - how we can get more recognition to our programs

Sharon - word of mouth is the best form of communication

Tesera - pickleball at the arena on fridays - larger ping-pong

Yvon - his heart is in Barrie - can't find anything in Angus to amuse himself

Susan - trying to find things to amuse herself in Essa

Yvon - in Barrie - belonged to the Lions Club (27 years), joined the Knights of Columbus, worked at bingo twice a month for 10 years (then he quit) - Angus doesn't have anything for him

Matthew - maybe interest for local events and transportation to these local events

Yvon - derby - fishermen event - only a small amount of people

Susan - vision problems - find enough things to do in her community so she doesn't have a concern when the time comes, or have transportation

Matthew - maybe have A & B bus services for local events and festival

Madalene - strawberry festival and Stouffville - community initiative

Anne - santa parade - smaller individual community events (Baxter, Ivy, etc.) sponsored by a church or community centre.

Yvon - Angus horticultural society - at one part - the event was big, people brought their vegetables and people were involved, and now the majority of the members are aging throughout the last few years.

Susan - hard to get the younger generation into this

Anne - Essa historical society - majority senior members

Matthew - continue to think about things the township can implement and we will discuss at the beginning of next meeting

Anne - Friends of Utopia centre - free coffee and toast on Saturday mornings and have different concerts and dinners throughout the year, soupalicious - very active

Yvon - they dropped their strawberry dinner a few years ago because no one does it anymore

6. Continuation of the steering committee after November 21st meeting

Matthew - mentions appointing a new chair at the end of the next meeting - please think about if one of the committee members would like to take on this role

Matthew - how do the committee members feel about the structure and process of the past 2 steering committee meetings

Susan - views the meetings going very well - appreciates the number of people on the committee

Anne - likes how we can operate an open discussion and how we also go around the table - so everyone has a chance to say something/ force everyone to think about an answer and provide their opinion

Matthew - next week - to look at the terms of reference and state what we had from the beginning of the term - is there anyone who would like to take on being Chair of these meetings going forward after our last meeting?

Sharon - how long does this steering committee go on for?

Matthew - we would like for these meetings to complete a review of all 8 WHO dimensions, since we have conducted 4 of these meetings, we would like for another 4 to be completed in the upcoming year

Susan - idea to begin with that we initiate meetings once a month starting January

Liam - unfortunately we had to jam the number of meetings in a certain period (to accommodate student term), however moving forward, he will take the position of the students for the meetings following the next meeting.

Anne - would each meeting be accompanied with a package for each overarching WHO dimension?

Madalene - yes, we have included each in our interim report, and will make the report available to you for review

Liam - wanted students to set the stage and their final report would be used by a consultant hired by the Township to create a document for Essa

Matthew - is there an idea for putting the plan in place?

Liam - approximately 1-2 years (from his knowledge) - applied for funding through the County - achieved funding and moving ahead with the momentum

Matthew - go through and email members next week with our suggestion as a Ryerson team for changes to the terms of reference for the future of the steering committee

Susan - send us suggestions on how to progress in the future

Matthew - absolutely, we plan to present our suggestions through our final report, which you will have access to, as well as our final presentation

Susan - should the Chair be one of the committee members or staff member?

Liam - the Chair can be a staff member

Yvon - makes more sense coming from staff - staff has more information - staff knows what they want from the committee

Susan - consideration - someone will have to take minutes

Madalene - these are good things to think about

Liam - in similar committees - Amiee directs meetings and Elizabeth assists and takes minutes

Matthew - alright, moving forward we would like to see and discuss your mind maps

Yvon - highway from Toronto to Barrie and No Frills, Yvon discusses his time spent over the years attributing his time to non-profit organizations and organizing tshirts

Yvon - at the age of 75 I'm not in the cocoon

Sharon - walks to Willoughby - works out at the arena - shops at Giant Tiger - No Frills - take her granddaughter to the park where the tree planting is (baseball diamond), library

7. Profile photographs and group photograph (for those who were away last meeting)

Teresa - to fill out consent form and take photo by Madalene

Madalene - we can send the profiles and agenda on Monday November 18th

Adjournment - 7:00pm