FOURTH REPORT

TO

HIS WORSHIP MAYOR SAM KATZ

BY

THE MAYOR'S SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

2011 - 2012

Mission Statement: The Senior Advisory Committee accepts the Age Friendly City concept, as defined by the World Health Organization, to be:

"In an age-friendly community, policies, services and structures related to the physical and social environment are designed to support and enable older people to 'age actively' – that is, to live in security, enjoy good health and continue to participate fully in society."

Public and commercial settings and services are made accessible to accommodate varying levels of ability. Age-friendly service providers, public officials, community leaders, faith leaders and business people:

- Recognize the great diversity among older persons,
- Promote their inclusion and contribution in all areas of community life,
- Respect their decisions and lifestyle choices,
- Anticipate and respond flexibly to age-related needs and preferences.

Mandate: To provide advice and recommendations to the Mayor on municipal issues such as transportation, safety, accessibility, and recreational and social programming. Our focus themes:

- Recreational and Social Programming,
- Transportation,
- Accessibility,
- Neighborhood Safety,
- Housing.

The members of the Mayor's Senior Advisory Committee are committed to working with the Mayor and within their various organizations to make the City of Winnipeg "age-friendly". Although this concept includes all ages, the focus of our work has been to highlight the work done for seniors at the municipal level to date, and to make recommendations on further improvements.



Top row: B. Salyn (Mayor's Office), M. Murray-Haddad, C. Perrault, C. Newman, P. Prendergast, Councilor G. Nordman

Front row: T. Antonio, M. Pankiw, R. Goldberg, M. Barbour

Missing: R. Johnson, V. Stunden

I. Committee Activities since the last report (Summer 2010)

a. The committee is pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with City staff and other key individuals on several occasions:

September 2010	Steve West, Manager of Corporate Communications, Lynne Milton, Web Specialist, Corporate Web Services, Becky Raddatz, OurWinnipeg Topic: Corporate Communications & Age Friendly
January 2011	Judy Redmond, Universal Design Coordinator Topic: City of Winnipeg Universal Design Policy and Accessibility Design Standards
February 2011	Mr. Andre Berard, Public Education Officer, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service Topic: Medical Preparedness
March 2011	Randy Hull, Emergency Measures Topic: An update on Flood Preparedness
April 2011	Darryl Antymniuk, Chief Instructor, Winnipeg Transit Jonathon Borland, Supervisor, Winnipeg Transit Topic: Driver Training
May 2011	1 - Marty Maykut, Manager Streetside Development Corporation Topic: Affordable Housing/Condominiums in City 2 – Dave Dessens, Planning, Property & Development Housing Policy Coordinator Topic: Affordable Housing/Condominiums in City
June 2011	1 - Bob Ashuk, Don King, Gordon Kroeker Good Neighbours Active Living Centre Presentation: Partnership between Good Neighbours Active Living Centre and Bronx Park Community Centre 2 - Catherine Caldwell, Manager of Client Services Winnipeg Transit Topic: Handi Transit
September 2011	1- Dan Prokopchuk, Manager, Community Development and Recreation Services Topic: Age Friendly Winnipeg in the context of Our Winnipeg and other community related services.

September 2011	2 - Bud Guest and Paul Berke – Wpg Police Service Topic: Update on Police Academy: Older Adults Division program
January 2012	Dan Prokopchuk, Manager Community Development and Recreation Services Topic: Update on programming; Free Programs for Older Adults
February 2012	Alex Regiec, Operations Planner, Winnipeg Transit Topic: Update on charter services for senior serving organizations
March 2012	Dave Domke, Manager of Parks and Open Spaces Topic: A description of our parks and open spaces
April 2012	Scott Gray, Assiniboine Park Conservancy Topic: Changes at the Park including the Zoo
May 2012	Luis Escobar, Manager of Transportation, Public Works Topic: What they do in the transportation division
June 2012	Todd Smyth, Manager of Winnipeg Parking Authority Topic: Regulations & Compliance

As well, December 2011, the University of Manitoba – City Planning students made a presentation to the committee on their Age Friendly research on two Winnipeg communities Corydon Village (urban); South St. Vital in Dakota Ward and Nova Vista neighbourhoods; and one rural community (Morden). Suggested improvements in these communities were shared with the committee.

b. On March 2, 2011 the co-chairs of this committee were invited to make a presentation to the Executive Policy Committee.

   Members met with M. Pagtakhan (housing) thus creating awareness of housing issues, shortages, affordability and the role & impact within city departments.

c. We have reviewed the following documents:
   - Physical Activity and Recreation Directory for Older Adults 2011-2012 (City of Edmonton)
   - Seniors Transportation Information Guide (City of Edmonton)
   - Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council – Annual Report 2010
   - Edmonton Seniors: A Portrait 2010
   - Creative Age Festival Overview 2008-2011 (City of Edmonton)

- Vision for an Age-Friendly Edmonton Action Plan – Spring 2011
- Edmonton Seniors Declaration (Edmonton's commitment to being an age-friendly city)
- Medical Emergencies – A Guide for Seniors (Public Service of Canada)
- Household Emergency Information (Public Service of Canada)
- Free Programs for Older Adults (City of Winnipeg)
- Leisure Guide (City of Winnipeg)
- Services for 55+ Community (FAFM)
- Resource Guide for Service Providers – Adults at Risk 2011
- SureFoot Safety Program (City of Winnipeg)
- Older Active Adults (City of Winnipeg)

d. On behalf of this committee, members volunteered to attend other Committees, including Citizens Synergy Committee (Vivian Stunden) and the Housing Committee (Peggy Prendergast).

II. Our Commendations/Highlights for 2011 – 2012

Once again SAC would like to express appreciation and gratitude for the ongoing cooperation that has been shown by City administration and management. The opportunity to exchange and share constructive ideas and solutions has been very beneficial. This collaboration with the Mayor and department staff speaks to the foundation on which "Age Friendliness" will flourish.

This has already been in evidence through accomplishments made since this committee began its work several years ago. We wish to acknowledge:

- The Mayor has been actively supportive of our work and receptive to making Winnipeg an Age Friendly city.
- SAC co-chairs have been invited to present at EPC meetings
- Our access to staff has allowed for two-way communications with decision makers within departments.

- City website: SAC has a permanent icon and links to other senior information
- City website: An Age Friendly icon is on the Mayor's portion

- The promotion of the DART transit service has regularly appeared in community newspapers
- Bus Driver attitudes seem more accommodating to older adults

- There are more walking/bike paths in our City and they are more usable all year round.

- The design improvement of the Leisure Guide Older Adult section which

include large print has been well received

- There is more focus on Library Programs as a result of increased visibility by the full time coordinator for Seniors Programming
- Many wonderful stories have been received as a result of the Senior of the Year Award; there is more public attention to these awards

- There appears to be more handicap parking spaces available in the downtown area.
- During winter (2010 – 11) there seems to be more effort to clear snow from downtown sidewalks and main sidewalks in the suburbs.

- The Our Winnipeg Report to the Community – May 2012 has included policy direction for accessible and affordable housing as well as for a recognition of our need for Age Friendly communities and universal design for all.

- Age Friendly monies were designated to the following City areas:
    - Community Services to begin a 'Snow Angels' promotion
    - Winnipeg Police Service for a Safety Program for Older Adults
    - Winnipeg Transit to provide more sessions of the Transit Training Program

III Our recommendations for 2011 – 2012

Recommendation #1 - **That the City consider a co-ordination of efforts for Age Friendly Winnipeg in the form of a staff position designated to be responsible for the age friendly initiative.**

Recommendation #2 - **That the City consider strategies for evaluating programming and services to meet the requirements of the World Health Organization and Manitoba Government Age Friendly Milestones document.**

Recommendation #3 - That the City of Winnipeg consider a Mayor's Recognition Award for businesses that are accessible by all with respect to entrances, washrooms, elevator (if needed), and parking.

Recommendation #4 - That the City of Winnipeg continue Senior of the Year recognition program for older adults by youth including the use of social media for promotion.

Recommendation #5 – That the City ensure there is printed recognition of each nominee available at the event.

Recommendation #6 – That the City of Winnipeg consider a permanent public recognition plan for Senior of the Year award recipients.

Recommendation #7- That the City consider installing "countdown" traffic walk signals to ensure pedestrians of any age have sufficient time to get at least get halfway across the street before having the light turn red.

Recommendation #8 – That the City of Winnipeg Public Works Department consider increasing the walk signal on major thoroughfares from three (3) to four (4) seconds per lane. Major thoroughfares are multi-lane and high speed roadways, including Pembina Highway, Henderson Highway, Main Street, Portage Avenue, Provencher Boulevard, and Archibald Street.

Recommendation #9 – That the City of Winnipeg consider a public/media education program with respect to the 'walk' signal. This education could happen in collaboration with Manitoba Public Insurance.

Recommendation #10 – That the City of Winnipeg Public Works Department improve the existing Snow and Ice Control Policy to include centres where programs for Seniors are delivered to ensure accessibility by all.

Recommendation #11 – That the City of Winnipeg Public Works Department consider posting a speed limit map indicating the various speed zones throughout our City on the City website.

Recommendation #12 - That Winnipeg Transit consider 'connecting' bus routes between existing north-south service and east-west service.

Recommendation #13 - That the City of Winnipeg designate resources for providing information, support, programming and guidance to those over the age of 55.

Recommendation #14 – That the City of Winnipeg establish an Older Adult (Seniors) Resource Guide which identifies the services and resources that currently exist within the City for the older adult population.

Recommendation #15 – That the City of Winnipeg encourage/promote areas for community gardens in all green space belonging to the City.

Recommendation #16 – That the City of Winnipeg support and promote the 'adopt a garden program'.

Recommendation #17 – That the City of Winnipeg consider piloting a design for an outdoor adult activity structure in a city owned recreational space.

Recommendation #18 That the City of Winnipeg - Community Services Department look at strategies for multi-generational use of the recreational buildings within our city.

Recommendation #19 - That the City of Winnipeg continue to encourage partnerships with Senior Serving Organizations that provide programming for older adults/seniors to ensure more efficient use of space within city owned buildings.

Recommendation #20 - That the City of Winnipeg - Community Services Department be encouraged to continue partnership design and funding provisions to effectively meet the needs of older adults at the community level.

Recommendation #21 - That the City of Winnipeg and the GCWCC Board continue to encourage partnerships with senior serving organizations to promote programming for older adults/seniors at community centres.

Recommendation #22 - That the City of Winnipeg and the GCWCC Board develop guidelines for better collaboration among and with community centres with a focus on volunteering, programming, and funding.

Recommendation #23 - That the City of Winnipeg allow for unique opportunities such as granny suites to be developed with a streamlined regulatory process.

Recommendation #24 - That the City of Winnipeg continue to participate in intergovernmental discussions on how to improve affordable housing options for those in need.

Recommendation #25 – That the City of Winnipeg have a representative from the Seniors Advisory Committee on the Winnipeg Housing Committee.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

Building on our recommendations from our last report, we have listed areas in keeping with our mission statement and mandate.

a. Age Friendly

In our fourth year of studying ways the City can meet the World Health Organization's Age Friendly criteria, the committee continues to grapple with the following questions:

- What departments within the city structure are Age Friendly?
- How does the City know?
- What does Age Friendly look like?
- How can the City meet these objectives without impacting significantly on current programming, advertising, and budget lines?

Recommendation #1 - **That the City consider a co-ordination of efforts for Age Friendly Winnipeg in the form of a staff position designated to be responsible for the age friendly initiative.**

Recommendation #2 - **That the City consider strategies for evaluating programming and services to meet the requirements of the World Health Organization and Manitoba Government Age Friendly Milestones document.**

To promote partnership, between the public and private sector, within the Age Friendly theme of 'Accessibility'…..

Recommendation #3 - That the City of Winnipeg consider a Mayor's Recognition Award for businesses that are accessible by all with respect to entrances, washrooms, elevator (if needed), and parking.

b. Senior of the Year Awards

In the Fall of each year, the committee is proud to present nominees for the Mayor's Senior of the Year Awards in four (4) possible categories. This is done with the intergenerational opportunity for youth to nominate a senior they admire.

Recommendation #4 - That the City of Winnipeg continue Senior of the Year recognition program for older adults by youth including the use of social media for promotion.

Recommendation #5 – That the City ensure there is printed recognition of each nominee available at the event.

Recommendation #6 – That the City of Winnipeg consider a permanent public recognition plan for Senior of the Year award recipients.

c. Transportation

Since the new transportation master plan encourages “healthy lifestyle options, it would seem that promotion of easy mobility throughout Winnipeg would follow.

We need a pedestrian safety strategy. There is confusion among pedestrians and motorists as to their "right of way" at intersections and other locations.

Winnipeg has drawn thousands downtown to the new MTS Centre. Making downtown more mobility friendly should be a priority.

Recommendation #7- That the City consider installing “countdown” traffic walk signals to ensure pedestrians of any age have sufficient time to get at least halfway across the street before having the light turn red.

Recommendation #8 – That the City of Winnipeg Public Works Department consider increasing the walk signal at major thoroughfares from three (3) to four (4) seconds per lane. Major thoroughfares are multi-lane and high speed roadways, including Pembina Highway, Henderson Highway, Main Street, Portage Avenue, Provencher Boulevard, and Archibald Street.

Recommendation #9 – That the City of Winnipeg consider a public/media education program with respect to the ‘walk’ signal. This education could happen in collaboration with Manitoba Public Insurance.

Recommendation #10 – That the City of Winnipeg Public Works Department improve the existing Snow and Ice Control Policy to include centres where programs are delivered to Seniors to ensure accessibility by all.

Recommendation #11 – That the City of Winnipeg Public Works Department post a speed limit map indicating the various speed zones throughout our City on the City website.

Many of the bus routes in our City are coordinated on a downtown plan. If one lives in the suburbs, the time involved in connecting to another bus route in a neighboring community could be lengthy and require a trip to the centre of Winnipeg first.

Recommendation #12 - That Winnipeg Transit consider ‘connecting’ bus routes between existing north-south service and east-west service.

d. Recreation and Social Programming

i) Communication

The committee has reviewed current information from many sources including City Services for 55+ (French), Community Centres programs for older adults, senior centres, libraries, wellness centres, City programs at City facilities.

In recognition of the impact of the growing senior population and realizing that many older people move into Winnipeg from rural Manitoba the committee found that our City has many services for the older adult and they are a best kept secret (eg. Movement of new garbage cans to the curb side)

Recommendation #13 - That the City of Winnipeg designate resources for providing information, support, programming and guidance to those over the age of 55.

Recommendation #14 – That the City of Winnipeg establish an Older Adult (Seniors) Resource Guide which identifies the services and resources that currently exist within the City for the older adult population.

ii) Green Space

The City of Winnipeg has several innovative uses for its 1000 parks. We were particularly intrigued with the new trend of community gardens, community adoption of parks and local buy-in for developing respect for the green spaces we have and adult recreation areas.

Recommendation #15 – That the City of Winnipeg encourage/promote areas for community gardens in all green spaces belonging to the City.

Recommendation #16 – That the City of Winnipeg support and promote the 'adopt a garden program'.

Recommendation #17 – That the City of Winnipeg consider piloting a design for an outdoor adult activity structure in a city owned recreational space.

iii) **Community Centres**

Concern for the future of community centres continues to be high on our focus. We are asking the following questions:

- Are these recreation centres for all ages or sports centres?
- Does the current structure of GCWCC satisfactorily meet the needs of a changing demographic?

Recommendation #18 That the City of Winnipeg - Community Services Department look at strategies for multi-generational use of the recreational buildings within our city.

Recommendation #19 - That the City of Winnipeg continue to encourage partnerships with Senior Serving Organizations that provide programming for older adults/seniors to ensure more efficient use of space within city owned buildings.

Recommendation #20 - That the City of Winnipeg - Community Services Department be encouraged to continue partnership design and funding provisions to effectively meet the needs of older adults at the community level.

Recommendation #21 - That the City of Winnipeg and the GCWCC Board continue to encourage partnerships with senior serving organizations to promote programming for older adults/seniors at community centres.

Recommendation #22 - That the City of Winnipeg and the GCWCC Board develop guidelines for better collaboration among and with community centres with a focus on volunteering, programming, and funding.

e. HOUSING

The City of Winnipeg has had a history of community and multi-level government involvement in housing issues. The City pioneered the use of tripartite agreements over 30 years ago, which saw billions of dollars spent on urban development and housing. The City needs to rejuvenate this commitment to address the upcoming affordable housing crisis for lower income and single person accommodations. This includes a strong commitment to create and police the licensing rules to allow for creative and unique opportunities. Projects such as the St. Matthews Church Housing conversion, the pocket suite project, granny suites, the conversion of derelict properties into multi-person shelter projects shows what can be done. The Mobile Home Park (south St Vital) or Paradise Village (Highway #1 east) may also be considered as models of affordable housing for older adults.

Recommendation #23 - That the City of Winnipeg allow for unique opportunities to be developed with a streamlined regulatory process.

Recommendation #24 - That the City of Winnipeg continue to participate in intergovernmental discussions on how to improve affordable housing options for those in need.

Recommendation #25 – That the City of Winnipeg have a representative from the Seniors Advisory Committee on the Winnipeg Housing Committee.

IV. FINAL COMMENTS

The original committee was constituted in 2007. This report is our fourth report to the Mayor.

Since our last report to the Mayor, the committee has had some changes to its composition.

Bill Hickerson left the committee after five years of dedicated service to it. He was known for his outstanding leadership with Good Neighbors Active Living Centre and brought dedication and passion to his commitment to our committee's work.

Jane Kilpatrick was an original committee member. She has left the committee to travel. She had been actively involved with Age & Opportunity. She was a board member for several years.

Helen Quinn finished her term with the committee to pursue other interests. In particular she brought to the committee an understanding of transportation issues and developments in the city through her leadership role in the Seniors Transportation Working Group, now Transportation Options for Seniors (TONS).

Ronna Goldberg accepted the position of Co-Chair, replacing Bill Hickerson.

The committee is looking forward to continued collaboration with the Mayor, as well as City staff as Winnipeg moves forward to becoming more Age Friendly.