

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (WORKING SESSION) – MAY 15, 2001

CITY OF VAUGHAN SENIORS CLUB

Recommendation

The Director of Recreation and Culture, in consultation with the Programmes Manager, recommends:

That the City of Vaughan seniors clubs, with the exception of the East Woodbridge Senior Citizens Club, operate either based on the elected Board of Directors or volunteer sub-committee structure as indicated at their individual meetings (see attachment) and

That the East Woodbridge Senior Citizens Club have no elected Board of Directors and be operated by full and part-time staff with the assistance of member volunteers and the structure of the East Woodbridge Senior Citizens Club be reviewed in May 2002 and, further,

That all individual club constitutions be eliminated and replaced by a revised Senior's Policy applicable to all City of Vaughan seniors clubs regardless of their structure.

Purpose

To report back to Council the results of the meetings with the City of Vaughan seniors clubs and recommend an operating structure(s).

Background - Analysis and Options

At the Council meeting of January 29, 2001, staff were directed to consult with the membership of City of Vaughan seniors clubs to determine those who would like to adopt the new sub-committee format proposed by staff, that those clubs who chose not to adopt this format be advised that they are expected to adhere to any existing or new guidelines and that no elections within the clubs take place until staff report back to a future Committee of the Whole with their findings.

As per Council's direction, staff met with all thirteen seniors clubs with meetings commencing on February 1, 2001 and ending on April 30, 2001. The format for each meeting was similar with staff providing an overview of the meeting purpose followed by a review of the current structure of the club, the proposed structure, the similarities and differences. Following each presentation, staff responded to questions. Each meeting ended with individuals responding to a survey of the preferred structure. Everything presented verbally was also presented in writing and, as required, the verbal and written presentations were translated into Italian.

The responses from the clubs varied considerably. The collective membership of some clubs were extremely opposed to the sub-committee format while others, who already operate using this format, strongly support it. The surveys of some other clubs showed the membership to be equally split between the elected Board of Directors structure and the proposed volunteer sub-committee structure.

At the meeting with the East Woodbridge Senior Citizens Club, the membership overwhelmingly indicated support for the proposed sub-committee structure, however, staff are of the opinion that this indication is a result of the ongoing controversies at the club and the desire to have anything but what previously existed.

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As a result of the diversity of opinion and strong emotions expressed, staff recommend that each individual club select their own operating structure with the exception of the East Woodbridge Senior Citizens Club.

In January 2001, the executive of the East Woodbridge Senior Citizens Club was reinstated following a five month hiatus. Shortly following the reinstatement, there was, once again, conflict and mistrust amongst the executive resulting in the resignation of five of the ten executive members.

Recognizing that the East Woodbridge Senior Citizens Club still requires constant staff intervention and the term of office is finished for the current executive, it is recommended that for the next year, the East Woodbridge Senior Citizens Club be operated by staff only with support from member volunteers. In May 2002, the day-to-day operations of the East Woodbridge Senior Citizens Club will be reviewed with a view to the club assuming responsibility for their own operations using either the Board of Directors or Volunteer Sub-Committee format.

Further, in order to ensure that each club operates equitably, responsibly and in the best interest of all its members, it is recommended that the individual club constitutions be eliminated and replaced with a Council-approved, revised Seniors Policy. The Policy will address but not be limited to:

Membership Criteria

Board of Directors (as required)
Job Descriptions
Election Procedures (as required)
Disciplinary Action
Volunteers
Meeting Minutes
Financial Management
Committees
Staff Support
Equipment and Inventory
Conflict of Interest
Code of Ethics
Hours of Operation

Should Council approve the recommendation, the Policy will be forwarded for further consideration.

Conclusion

Staff have met with all thirteen seniors clubs regarding the two operating options either elected Board of Directors or volunteer sub-committee and, based on the discussions and the opinion poll (survey), it is recommended that all of the clubs with the exception of the East Woodbridge Senior Citizens Club determine their own operating structure.

Recognizing that controversies still exist amongst the members of the East Woodbridge Senior Citizens Club, it is recommended that staff take the leadership role in the day-to-day operations of the club with assistance from member volunteers for an additional year. In May 2002, the club structure will be reviewed again.

The elimination of individual constitutions and the implementation of a standard revised Seniors Policy will greatly assist staff in the management of all clubs regardless of their structure.

Attachments

srssurvey

Report prepared by:

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Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Epstein,
Director of Recreation and Culture.

SENIORS CLUBS SURVEY RESULTS

<u>CLUB</u>	<u>ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS STRUCTURE</u>		<u>VOLUNTEER SUB-COMMITTEE STRUCTURE</u>		<u>TOTAL</u>
East Woodbridge Seniors	34	20%	136	80%	170
Sonoma Heights Seniors	40	70%	17	30%	57
Thornhill Seniors	17	94%	1	6%	18
Garibaldi Seniors	65	84%	12	16%	77
Kleinburg Seniors	6	85%	1	15%	7
West Woodbridge Seniors	19	50%	19	50%	38
Pine York Seniors	43	90%	5	10%	48
Pinecrest Seniors	0	0%	19	100%	19
Maple Pioneer Seniors	65	65%	24	27%	89
GAWCC Seniors Bridge Club	30	68%	14	32%	44
Hadar Seniors	10	100%	0	0%	10
Centre Street Seniors	0	0%	12	100%	12
Woodbridge Seniors	24	100%	0	0%	24
TOTAL	353		260		613