

TOWN OF KIRKLAND LAKE
AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PLANNING
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Monday, June 19th, 2017

Council Chambers
3 Kirkland Street
Kirkland Lake, ON

Town Planner, Ashley Bilodeau, presented the topic of “Communication and Information”. She stated what other communities are doing, what issues and barriers seniors may face as well as some possible solutions, what methods of communication are available to the community, and some best practice methods to consider.

The following are discussions which took place during that meeting.

Inclusiveness/Diversity:

Some would like to see a better representation at meetings of minority groups such as people of colour, LGBTQ’s, Métis and First Nations. It is also beneficial to have input from people with mental and/or physical disabilities.

Collecting Information from Residents:

There were suggestions for questions to ask TPR/Extendicare residents: What made them leave their homes? What issues did they face in their home before moving out? What kind of issues do caregivers and service providers see?

It was mentioned that it would be important to find out how seniors still living in their homes get information or communicate with others. Some said that reaching out in more informal settings would encourage more participation from the public, for example churches, Tim Horton’s, grocery stores, complex, Kinross, etc.

Gathering census data or having census style questions in the survey may be beneficial. It was also mentioned that caregivers and older adults who are not yet retired should also be targeted with the survey. It was mentioned that the survey should ask about financial situations or what people are willing to pay for services. Another possible question would be to ask if they seniors in their homes are open to “friendly visits” for chatting and social interaction.

Involving more Community Groups:

It was suggested that more groups be contacted for meetings and to ask for help circulating the survey to as many people as possible. A few groups mentioned were Closing the Gap, Ensemble Melodia, the Arts Council, Centre de Santé, the Family Health Unit, and Club 50+.

Getting Information Out to Residents:

It would be beneficial to consolidate all information relevant to seniors and make it easily available. It was suggested that a pilot Community Guide be created to see if there is enough interest and how beneficial it would be. It was also suggested that the “Age-Friendly” label should be marketed to be more obvious about who the target audience is.

At the end of the meeting, it was suggested that the current format for the “committee” was more of a group session setting, and that the initiative may benefit from the creation of a formal committee in order to delegate responsibilities. It was decided that a draft survey should be ready for the next meeting and that, going forward, the public meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month. The topic for next month’s meeting was chosen, it will be “Outdoor Spaces and Public Buildings”.