

Request for Recommendation Priorities Committee



Type of Decision

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------|-----|---|----|-----------------|---------------|------|--|--------|
| Meeting Date | April 5, 2006 | | | | Report Date | April 4, 2006 | | | |
| Decision Requested | | Yes | x | No | Priority | X | High | | Low |
| | Direction Only | | | | Type of Meeting | X | Open | | Closed |

Report Title

Mayor and Council's Roundtable on Seniors' Issues response to the Definition of a Senior

Policy Implication & Budget Impact

This report and recommendation(s) have been reviewed by the Finance Division and the funding source has been identified.

Recommendation

FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

X

Background Attached

Recommendation Continued

Recommended by the Department

C. Matheson

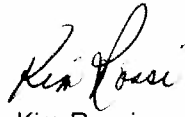
Catherine Matheson
General Manager, Community Development

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Mark Mieto
for Mark Mieto
Chief Administrative Officer

Date: April 4, 2006

Report Prepared By



Kim Rossi
Coordinator of Senior Community Services

Division Review

Randy Hotta
Director of Long Term Care and Senior Services

Executive Summary

A report presented to Priorities committee on March 8, 2006 pertaining to the need to establish a definition of a "senior" in the miscellaneous user fee by-law, was deferred, and at the request of City Council was brought to the attention of the Mayor and Council's Roundtable on Seniors' Issues (MCRSI). The Roundtable met on April 4, 2006 and reviewed in detail the information provided. The Roundtable supports Option #2 which will recognize the need to provide reduced rates for leisure programs and transit service, to older adults, those being 55+ years of age.

Background

Since amalgamation, inconsistencies remain within the miscellaneous user fee by-law in relation to reduced rates to "seniors". A senior in some departments has been recognized as an individual being 55 plus years of age and in others such as transit seniors 65 years of age and older are able to access reduced rates. In review of the options and recommendations provided by city staff, the Mayor and Council's Roundtable on Seniors' Issues passed with a majority vote to support option #2 that will see "older adults" those individuals who are 55 years of age or older accessing reduced rates for all leisure services programs as well as reduced transit cost. In September 2005, the MCRSI supported a motion presented by Councillor Callaghan that encouraged the city to review its current policy related to "seniors" bus passes and lowering the eligibility age from 65 to 55 but that the policy change be revenue neutral. In response to the miscellaneous user fee by-law the MCRSI supports option #2 in anticipation that there would be no impact to the current budget for 2006 but that this matter be reviewed by staff in the event that there would be an impact to the 2007 budget given this change to the policy.

Conclusion

It is recommended that City Council, in accordance with the report "Establishing the Definition of a "Senior" in the Miscellaneous User Fee By-Law , approve option # 2 , and recognize the need to change the language currently referencing a "senior" as a person who is 55+ years of age and refer to an individual in this age bracket as an older adult.

The Mayor and Council's Roundtable on Seniors' Issues supports the implementation of Option #2 with the understanding that there will be no impact to the 2006 budget, and that the miscellaneous user-fee by-law recognize an older adult as a person being 55 + years.

RESOLUTION / RÉSOLUTION**No.** 2005-318**Date** 2005-09-29

WHEREAS the price of gasoline has increased dramatically as a result of ongoing global conflicts, and particularly since hurricane Katrina;

AND WHEREAS the prospect of any reduction of future gasoline prices is unlikely in light of the current global economic climate;

AND WHEREAS Sudbury seniors/early retirees may want to consider options for counteracting and minimizing future expenses related to gasoline pricing;

AND WHEREAS Sudbury Transit (public transportation) could offer a viable option for minimizing personal expenses for this demographic group;

AND WHEREAS such a policy change could promote our City's Healthy Community Strategy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Sudbury Transit staff be asked to review current policy related to seniors' bus passes with the idea of lowering the current age limit from 65 to 55;

AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that this review not be centered solely from the perspective of revenue, but instead be reviewed with the idea that this policy change could be revenue neutral as a result of increased public transit usage.