



Burlington Seniors' Advisory Committee Meeting

Minutes

Date: October 27, 2025
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Room 305, City Hall, third floor

1. Members Present:

Bob Chepyha (Chair), Kerry McGregor (Vice-Chair, OAAC), Patricia Robinson, Pinki Virani, Catherine Evans, Ron Earl Tansley, Jill Randall and Meg Uttangi Matsos (Burlington Public Library)

2. Others Present:

Nazia White, (Manager, Adult Recreation Services), Sarah Philips, (Manager, Housing Strategy), Kim Selman, (Manager, Culture Programs), Councillor Bentivegna, Debbie Hordyk (Clerk)

3. Land Acknowledgement

4. Declarations of Interest:

None

5. Approval of Minutes:

5.1 Approve the Burlington Seniors' Advisory Committee meeting minutes of September 29, 2025

Moved By: Ron Earl Tansley

CARRIED

6. Delegation(s):

6.1 Sarah Philips, Manager, Housing Strategy, presented regarding the City of Burlington's Housing Strategy

Sarah provided a presentation regarding the Housing Strategy specific to Additional Residential Units (ARUs) and how it relates to Senior housing.

Senior Advisory Committee members are encouraged to view the City of Burlington's [Housing Connections web site](#) for more information.

Committee members provided the following feed back regarding ARUs:

There is concern that ARUs would be used for short term rentals and not for the intended purpose. It is also important to be aware of the number of people occupying a unit. A public list of ARUs should be available to the public.

Sarah noted that there will be check ins on the status of completed ARU's to determine whether or not owners are abiding by the rules set forth. Building inspections will be ongoing. Penalties and fines will be given to home owners who are not complying.

Parking has been an ongoing issue. Sarah noted that Council passed a by-law to allow on street parking. This will assist with ARUs that have been added.

If a person (Senior) has built an ARU and needs to sell before the 10 years. Reduced penalties start at the 5 year mark.

Sarah noted that ongoing strategies are being implemented to encourage builders to build lower income rental units. A report is going to Council in December regarding the Housing Strategy.

Councillor Bentivegna noted that the City of Burlington is recognized for it's Housing Strategy, for automation and development in real time.

- 6.2 Kim Selman, Manager, Culture Programs presented an overview of the City of Burlington's "What We Heard engagement report" to request the committee's feedback on draft recommendations.

Staff are looking for feedback regarding the 10 year culture plan. The full report with draft recommendations for the final plan is available here: [Culture Plan](#)

The public is invited to attend an engagement session at Burlington Performing Arts Centre on November 4, 2025.

Committee members noted that a Culture Plan is important for the future and well being of young and old citizens.

There needs to be a stronger difference between religion and culture. The difference between the two needs to be defined.

A mission statement is required to define Culture. Kim noted that this is being taken into consideration in the next phase - to build the definition of Culture.

Approximately 1600 people have provided input. Demographics showed that the bulk age group was 45 to 55 years old. The youth demographic was low - less than 6 %.

It was noted that more public consultation is required for input and diversity. Festivals and events are important, but should not blur the lines with current situations.

7. Regular Items:

7.1 Chair Updates

Bob attended a Men's Shed meeting. The group is looking to expand. The President of the group is going to connect with ward Councillors to see if they can get the word out through their news letters.

7.2 Staff Liaison Updates: Nazia White (Manager of Adult Recreation Services)

Outreach to NORCs

- Staff collecting contact information for all NORC buildings.
- Sites provided by Ron have been activated, waiting to hear from them.

North Burlington Programming – Tansley Woods

- Social Hub at Tansley Woods coming soon — integrated with aquatics programming.
- Winter programs beginning; testing a micro senior-centre model (2–3 hours/day based on demand).
- Awaiting coffee equipment before launch.

Skyway Community Centre

- Drop-in programs and indoor track now available to older adults.
- Increased focus required on awareness and promotion.
- Add to BSAC roadshow

Program Participation Stats

- Socials & Special Events:
 - Fall 2024 – 10 events
 - Fall 2025 – 33 events
- Leisure Programs (arts, music, discussion, learning):
 - Fall 2024 -83 offerings
 - Fall 2025 -104 offerings
- Sports, Fitness & Wellness:
 - Fall 2024 – 8,156 opportunities
 - Fall 2025 – 10,011 opportunities (23% increase)

Fee Assistance & Equity

- GTHA comparison: some cities provide free programming, but

challenges remain (non-resident use, low participation, staffing costs unaffected).

- Burlington model: any program can be free for those who need it — more equitable and targeted.
 - Key opportunity: increase awareness + reduce stigma around accessing support.
 - Request for SAC advocacy to help:
 - Normalize asking for help
 - Promote awareness of assistance programs
 - Ensure no older adult misses out due to financial concerns
- OACAO (Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario)
- Partner in the Feb Seniors Active Living Centre (SALC) Fair.
 - Offers free information sessions — can share future opportunities with SAC.

Thank you to Ron for representing us on National Seniors Day (Oct 4).

7.3 Burlington Public Library (Meg)

The Burlington Literary Festival is in November, a number of Authors will be visiting the library.

There are three programs available to help people understand e books and e technology at the Burlington Public Library.

A new manager of outreach and inclusion will be starting, Meg will invite them to attend the next Seniors Advisory meeting.

7.4 Burlington Integrated Transportation Advisory Committee (Pinki)

Food 4 for Feed Back input showed a need for more road safety and pedestrian only safe areas. Although e Scooters are a great success there is a need for more accountability of users.

Councillor Bentivegna noted that safety regarding e Scooters is being emphasized at City and Regional Levels with on going discussions. Public engagement will happen in person and online in the new year. Councillor Bentivegna will notify the committee when these meetings are available.

7.5 Burlington Accessibility Advisory Committee (BAAC) (Jill)

There are ongoing issues with the inappropriate use of accessibility parking spaces. There is a Mobility parking application available that the public can use to report mis-use of these spaces that can connect through to by-law

The committee is investigating if it is a feasible option to address this issue.

There is an electronic strategy application available called "what 3 words" it locates a persons location geographically for example if you are out on a trail and require emergency assistance.

7.6 Older Adult Advisory Committee - Halton, (Kerry)

- Event by Seniors Working Action Group "How AI Tools are Changing Everything"
- Thursday, November 6 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Trafalgar Park Older Adult Centre (133 Rebecca Street)
- Pre-registration is recommended by visiting the Trafalgar Park Community Centre or by calling 905-815-5960 or 905-338-4406
- Discussed Ontario Health at Home
- Halton Accessibility Repair Program (HARP) 2025 funding renews each year, and is not guaranteed. Need to apply for eligibility
- Attended the CARP Wellness Fair.
- OAAC talked about their table displays and the improvement over the years.
- OAAC is planning on setting up various focus groups. Ron and I suggested the NORCS and mentioned we can join forces on this and work together.

8. Other Business:

None

9. Adjournment:

Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.