

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held in Boardroom 1033 at the Municipal Offices in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Thursday, January 16, 2020, commencing at 1:00 PM.**

**Present:**

Carol Theberge, Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council  
Linda Mywaart, Public-at-Large - Rural  
Joan Furber, Golden Years Society  
Keith McGrath, Councillor  
Luana Bussieres, Public-at-Large - Urban  
Henry Hunter, Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation  
Ingrid Blasius, Wood Buffalo Seniors Resource Committee

**Administration:**

Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer  
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community Services  
Toni Elliott, Senior Manager, Community Services  
Darlene Soucy, Legislative Officer  
Melissa Williams, Program Assistant, Neighbourhood & Community Development

**1. Call to Order**

Darlene Soucy, Legislative Officer, called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

**MOTION:**

THAT the Agenda be amended by adding the following:

- item #4.5 - Kelly Williams, Pulse Overview;

THAT the Committee waive any requirement to serve notice relative to the proposed additions; and

THAT the Agenda be adopted as amended.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Henry Hunter
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Joan Furber
<b>FOR:</b>	Theberge, Mywaart, Furber, McGrath, Bussieres, Hunter, Blasius

### 3. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**

#### 3.1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting - December 12, 2019**

THAT the Minutes of the Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting held on December 12, 2019 be approved as presented.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Carol Theberge
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Linda Mywaart
<b>FOR:</b>	Theberge, Mywaart, Furber, McGrath, Bussieres, Hunter, Blasius

### 4. **New and Unfinished Business**

#### 4.1. **Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair**

Darlene Soucy, Legislative Officer, called for nominations for the position of Chair. Carole Theberge nominated Linda Mywaart, who accepted the nomination. As there were no other nominations, Linda Mywaart was appointed Chair by consensus of the Committee.

##### Assuming of the Chair

Linda Mywaart assumed the Chair at 1:15 p.m.

Chair Linda Mywaart called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Joan Furber nominated Henry Hunter, who accepted the nomination. As there were no other nominations, Henry Hunter was appointed Vice Chair by consensus of the Committee.

#### 4.2. **Review Committee Meeting Schedule**

THAT regular Advisory Committee on Aging meetings be held at 1:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Joan Furber
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Carol Theberge
<b>FOR:</b>	Theberge, Mywaart, Furber, McGrath, Bussieres, Hunter, Blasius

#### 4.3. **Action Log**

The Action Log was reviewed, and the following update was provided:

- Toni Elliott reported that the increase in user fees should have a minimal impact on seniors as they should be less than \$7.00 per month.

All other Action Items are ongoing, and updates will be provided at future meetings.

#### 4.4. Organization Reporting

Carol Theberge reported that the Health Advisory Committee will be meeting with all the North Region's committees at the end of January.

Henry Hunter reported that Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation are continuing to work with the Government of Alberta on the ongoing review of the Rent Supplement Program. He noted that during the review, there is a moratorium on any new tenants for the program; therefore, there are vacancies that cannot be filled until the review is complete. This impacts not only seniors and the unemployed, but those with low incomes who would otherwise not be able to afford a place of their own.

The Committee agreed that the moratorium and review of the Rent Supplement Program should be brought to Council's attention to start lobbying the Government of Alberta for answers.

#### MOTION:

THAT the Advisory Committee on Aging bring forward a recommendation to Council to lobby the Government of Alberta to expedite the review process for the Rent Supplement Program and provide information to impacted Municipalities as soon as possible.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Linda Mywaart
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Joan Furber
<b>FOR:</b>	Theberge, Mywaart, Furber, McGrath, Bussieres, Hunter, Blasius

Ingrid Blasius, Seniors Resource Committee, spoke about the challenges that seniors have with snow clearing and SMART Bus usage, and noted that there will be an electric bike available for the seniors to use this summer.

Joan Furber, Golden Years Society, noted that the new bus is a fabulous resource for the community and the drivers were trained by Municipal staff on all the features and the ramp operation. The bus will not operate if the temperature is minus 30 or lower as it is too difficult for the volunteer operators to be out in the cold for long periods assisting riders getting on and off the bus.

Luana Bussieres, Urban-at-Large, is working on Seniors Week, noting that although St. Aidan's Society has applied for a grant, it is a regional initiative that requires more stakeholders to be involved in the planning and execution of events.

#### **4.5. Pulse Overview**

Kelly Williams, Manager, Pulse, provided an overview of Pulse, which is the customer contact centre for the Municipality. It was noted that if a senior self-identifies when submitting a request to Pulse, then the information provided can be tailored to support the senior; however, due to the privacy legislation, that information cannot be requested by the Pulse operator.

##### Action Items:

- Deanne Bergey to arrange a planning session for next meeting to review the Committee's work plan and determine goals for 2020 and noted that the Committee should also review their Age Friendly Work Plan.
- Deanne Bergey will arrange for the Communications Advisor assigned to the Committee to attend a future meeting.
- Carol Theberge to report on statistical information when available (ongoing).
- Carol Theberge noted that the Health Advisory Committee has not had their first meeting of the year but will follow up with St. Aidan's Society regarding advocating for individuals requiring specialized medical services in the region rather than requiring travel to Edmonton (ongoing).
- Henry Hunter noted that he has met with the Government of Alberta regarding the Rent Supplement Program and it is anticipated that changes to the program will be implemented by the end of March. Henry will provide statistical information regarding the program recipients to Administration in preparation for a presentation to Council.
- Melissa Williams follow up with Roads Department regarding the marking of specific driveways and clearing of windrows for seniors and seniors lodging as well as the SMART Bus policies when she meets with them on January 17, 2020.
- Deanne Bergey to request Human Resources that programming be offered to employees on being an age-friendly and accessible Municipality.
- Toni Elliott will coordinate additional resources to help with the Seniors Week. Luana Bussieres will provide a list of what is needed.

##### Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is at 1:00 p.m. on February 13, 2020 in Boardroom 1033.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

---

Chair