

Minutes of a Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging of the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo held in the Boardroom 1033 at the Municipal Offices in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Thursday, February 13, 2020, commencing at 1:00 PM.

Present:

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

Absent:

Carol Theberge, Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council

Administration:

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community Services
Darlene Soucy, Legislative Officer
Melissa Williams, Program Assistant, Neighbourhood & Community Development

1. Call to Order

Chair Linda Mywaart called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION:

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Luana Bussieres, Public-at-Large - Urban
SECONDER:	Joan Furber, Golden Years Society
FOR:	Mywaart, Furber, McGrath, Bussieres, Hunter, Blasius
ABSENT:	Theberge

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

MOTION:

THAT the Minutes of the Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting held on January 16, 2020 be approved as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ingrid Blasius, Wood Buffalo Seniors Resource Committee
SECONDER:	Henry Hunter, Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation
FOR:	Mywaart, Furber, McGrath, Bussieres, Hunter, Blasius
ABSENT:	Theberge

4. New and Unfinished Business

4.1. Age Friendly Work Plan Review

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community Services, provided an overview of the current Age Friendly Work Plan that was developed from the Age-Friendly Needs Assessment initiated by the Advisory Committee on Aging in 2017. The review undertaken by Community Services included benchmarking of other municipalities which have similar advisory committees on aging and the work currently being undertaken by Administration. An updated work plan would be created by reviewing and updating the Committee's priorities. Administration has been invited to provide an overview of the various methods used by the Municipality to work towards being age friendly.

Greg Wolf, Chief Building Safety Codes Officer, provided an overview of barrier free accessibility in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, including opportunities to positively affect accessibility outcomes through the Land Use Bylaw, engineering servicing standards, and the various safety codes.

Matthew Hough, Director, Engineering, provided a summary of engineering servicing standards related to barrier free accessibility, highlighting that accessibility is a key priority in Council's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan; the portion of capital works overseen by Engineering meets or exceeds the barrier free accessibility standards and the current engineering servicing standards are being updated with accessibility as a priority in the proposed standards.

4.2. Advisory Committee on Aging Committee Structure

Chair Linda Mywaart proposed that a review be undertaken of the Committee's membership to ensure the right parties are represented. Deanne Bergey, Director, Community Services, noted that a review of the Committees Bylaw No. 17/024 is planned and welcomes any feedback during that review.

4.3. Action Log

The Action Log was reviewed, and the following updates were provided:

- Melissa Williams reported that the meeting with the Roads Department was successful and that the marking of the specific driveways and clearing of windrows will continue throughout the winter.
- Deanne Bergey reported that Human Resources has set up programming for employees on being an age-friendly and accessible Municipality.
- Additional resources have been coordinated to help with Seniors Week and other groups in the community have been stepping up to assist. Updates will be provided at future meetings.
- Henry Hunter noted that he has had another meeting with the Government of Alberta regarding the Rent Supplement Program and indicated that an interim program was expected in March; however, the full program would not be available for implementation until May or June, with the moratorium on new placements still in effect. Statistical information regarding the Rent Supplement Program recipients was provided to Administration in preparation for the February 11, 2020 presentation to Council.

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

4.4. Organization Reporting

Chair Linda Mywaart, Rural-at-Large, reported that the presentation to Council on February 11, 2020 regarding the Rent Supplement Program was very well received, and noted that Council voted unanimously to send a letter to the Minister of Seniors and Housing regarding the review process and to request a meeting with the Minister during the upcoming Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) Spring Convention.

Henry Hunter, Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation, noted that the focus remains on the changes to the Rent Supplement Program as this affects other residents in addition to the seniors.

Joan Furber, Golden Years Society, reported that the lighting in their building was recently upgraded and planning for work on the kitchen is underway. The new bus will soon have a bus wrap designed to incorporate senior's activities around the Municipality.

Exit

Joan Furber exited the meeting at 3:13 p.m.

Ingrid Blasius, Seniors Resource Centre, noted that a representative from the Transit Department was at their last meeting to hear their concerns with the SMART Bus and is

expected to report back to a future meeting. The YMCA is finalizing details for digital literacy workshops in March for seniors.

Councillor Keith McGrath noted that Council is intending to meet with the Government of Alberta during the RMA Spring Convention regarding the Rent Supplement Program and suggested that Henry Hunter may wish to participate.

Action Items

- Matthew Hough will review the crossing lights at Willow Square before the facility is open.
- Deanne Bergey will provide an update on the facility assessment reports at the next meeting.
- Councillor Keith McGrath requested that Committee Members provide him with any key items for Council to consider in the Strategic Plan Review.
- Deanne Bergey to invite other members of Administration to meetings where input is required for the Age Friendly Work Plan review.
- Melissa Williams will find out the necessary steps for an age-friendly designation from the Government of Alberta.
- Melissa Williams will arrange for the Committee Member bios on the website to be updated.

Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

Chair