

Minutes of a Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging held via electronic communications in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Thursday, June 25, 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
Luana Bussieres, Public-at-Large - Urban
Henry Hunter, Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation

Absent:

Keith McGrath, Councillor

Administration:

Toni Elliott, Senior Manager, Community Services
Darlene Soucy, Legislative Officer
Donna Hrehirchuk, Legislative Officer
Melissa Williams, Program Assistant, Neighbourhood and Community Development

1. Call to Order

Chair Linda Mywaart called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. and noted that Ingrid Blasius, Wood Buffalo Seniors Resource Centre, has submitted her resignation.

Entrance

Henry Hunter connected to the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

2. New Business and Unfinished Business

2.1. Impact of Flood on Seniors

Chair Linda Mywaart spoke to the impact the April 2020 flood had on seniors, noting that over 600 seniors have registered with the Red Cross to date. Like many residents, seniors are having difficulties with the Provincial Disaster Recovery Program funding application process and are encouraged to call the Pulse Line to set up an appointment for one-on-one assistance with the funding application.

2.2. SMART Bus Charters

Luana Bussieres reported that since this item was put forward for the cancelled March meeting, there has been more flexibility provided for SMART Bus Charters.

2.3. Review of Summer Meeting Schedule

Chair Linda Mywaart noted that the next two regularly scheduled Committee meetings are July 9 and August 13. Based on Member availability and there being no urgent issues, it was agreed to cancel the summer meetings; therefore, the next meeting will be September 10, 2020.

MOTION:

That the July 9, 2020 and August 13, 2020 Advisory Committee on Aging meetings be cancelled.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Henry Hunter, Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation
SECONDER:	Carol Theberge, Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council
FOR:	Theberge, Mywaart, Furber, Bussieres, Hunter
ABSENT:	McGrath

2.4. Action Log

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

- Carol Theberge noted that the Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council has still not had a meeting so the requested statistics will be provided at the next meeting.
- Toni Elliott noted that due to COVID-19 and the flood, the Senior's Week launch event did not happen. Luana Bussieres noted that the grant funding originally targeted for the launch event, along with additional Government of Alberta COVID-19 funding administered through the Family and Community Support Services Association of Alberta, was used in a meaningful way to benefit seniors by providing them with meals during the flood.
- Toni Elliott noted that as Matthew Hough is now the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, the review of the crosswalk light will be reassigned to Dennis Warr, Acting Director, Engineering, who will be invited to attend a Committee meeting.
- Administration will invite Amanda Haitas, Senior Manager, Planning and Development, to the next meeting to provide input on the Age Friendly Work Plan.
- Melissa Williams will provide the Committee with the Provincial Age-Friendly designation process.
- Melissa Williams noted that updates to the Committee member biographies are on hold until the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's website is updated.

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

2.5. Organization Reporting

Joan Furber, Golden Year's Society, reported that the Golden Year's Society building is closed but they are still available to seniors and on-line programs are continuing. Alberta Health Services (AHS) had set up drive-through COVID-19 testing in the parking lot of the building on June 22, 2020 and the Society is willing to allow AHS to use it again if requested.

Henry Hunter, Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation, reported that there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 at Rotary House on June 23, 2020 and that AHS is working to test all residents with the results being available in three to five days. Rotary House was also evacuated during the April 2020 flood.

Luana Bussieres, Urban-at-Large, noted that seniors being disconnected from their usual networks during the COVID-19 pandemic raises concerns for elder abuse happening undetected. Many businesses have stepped up to accommodate seniors' needs during the pandemic, including arranging deliveries for seniors and specific seniors' shopping hours. It was also noted that there are a number of agencies providing resources during and after the flood, which Luana will work with Melissa to compile into a report.

Carol Theberge, Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council, offered congratulations to all the organizations and the community for the care given to seniors during these challenging times. It was noted that there was some flooding of the Willow Square parkade but it is unsure the impact this will have on the opening of the building. The Northern Lights Regional Health Centre is seeing relatively few COVID-19 hospitalizations.

Chair Linda Mywaart, Rural-at-Large, noted that the Willow Square Steering Committee has not met since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic so she has no update on the opening of Willow Square. She noted that the flood provided an opportunity to meet more seniors in the region and that the impact of the flood on seniors as well as the Vulnerable Person's Registry should be on the next meeting's agenda.

Action Items

- Toni Elliott will update Dennis Warr, Acting Director, Engineering, on the crosswalk light at Willow Square and invite him to a Committee meeting.
- Administration will invite Amanda Haitas, Senior Manager, Planning and Development, to the next meeting to provide input into the Age Friendly Work Plan.
- Melissa Williams will provide the Provincial Age Friendly Designation process to the Committee members.

- Melissa Williams and Luana Bussieres will compile information regarding the availability of resources and information related to the flood.
- Chair Linda Mywaart requested that the impact of flood on seniors be an item on the next meeting agenda as well as the Vulnerable Person's Registry.

Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Chair