

Minutes of a Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging held via Electronic Communications in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Thursday, May 13, 2021, commencing at 1:00 PM.

Present:

Henry Hunter, Wood Buffalo Housing Development
Linda Mywaart, Public-at-Large - Rural
Luana Bussieres, Public-at-Large - Urban
Carolyn Evancio, Seniors Resource Committee
Carol Theberge, Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council
Keith McGrath, Councillor

Absent:

Joan Furber, Golden Years Society

Administration:

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services
Jade Brown, Chief, Legislative Officer
Toni Elliott, Senior Manager, Community and Protective Services
Sonia Soutter, Manager, Senior Legislative Officer
Destiny Hilliard, Clerk, Legislative Services

1. Call to Order

Henry Hunter, Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

Entrance

Keith McGrath, Councillor, joined the Meeting at 1:10 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Carolyn Evancio, Seniors Resource Committee
SECONDER:	Linda Mywaart, Public-at-Large - Rural
FOR:	Bussieres, Hunter, Evancio, McGrath, Mywaart, Theberge
ABSENT:	Furber

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

3.1. Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting - April 8, 2021

MOTION

THAT the minutes of the Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting held on April 8, 2021 be approved as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Luana Bussieres, Public-at-Large - Urban
SECONDER:	Carol Theberge, Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council
FOR:	Bussieres, Hunter, Evancio, McGrath, Mywaart, Theberge
ABSENT:	Furber

4. New and Unfinished Business

4.1. Administrative Update re: Age- Friendly Work Plan

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services, noted that the Age Friendly Work Plan will be presented to Council at their May 25, 2021 meeting. It was indicated that the bylaw amendment will be presented for first reading, with second and third readings being presented at the June 8, 2021 Council meeting. It was noted that further changes were made to the Amendment being proposed for Committees Bylaw 17/024:

- a) Section 26, deleting the current wording and replacing it with the following:

The Chief Administrative Officer shall ensure that adequate administrative support is provided to the Committee for their scheduled meetings.

- b) Section 27, adding the following words:

“Adequate administrative support” is to be determined solely by the Chief Administrative Officer. Committees shall not direct or otherwise delegate Committee functions to Municipal staff. Municipal staff shall consider suggestions and recommendations from Committees with respect to implementation strategies, in keeping with the Committee's Mandate and within Council approved budgets.

- a) Appendix A - Advisory Committee on Aging. Appendix A is amended by deleting the content of the current "Membership" section and replacing it with the following:

Membership:

Up to 9 Members, with one from each of the following six organizations:

- 1 – Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Council
- 1 – Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation
- 1 – Alberta Health Services
- 1 – Golden Years Society Board
- 1 – Wood Buffalo Senior Resource Committee
- 1 – St. Aidan’s House Society

And up to 3 Members as "Seniors-at-Large". Membership in this category will be comprised of 1 rural community representative, 1 urban service area representative and 1 Indigenous representative. Members in this category should consider themselves as "senior". If there are insufficient applicants in this category, Council may appoint one or more alternate seniors-at-large from any of the three representative groups.

Following review of the proposed amendment, it was suggested that the following wording be added to the end of the wording proposed for section 27.

"Within approved budgets and departmental day-to-day operations. This is intended to clarify the relationship between Committees and Administration and does not otherwise diminish the mandate of Committees or their responsibility to bring forward recommendations to Council."

It was further suggested that the wording "Municipal staff shall consider suggestions and recommendations" be revised to "Municipal staff shall consider suggestions and ideas".

It was agreed that once the wording has been inserted in to the document the updated document will be provided to the Committee via email.

4.2. Accessibility Audit Update

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services, noted that Administration is coordinating a working group to ensure age friendly initiatives do not get overlooked in the upcoming accessibility audit, planned to be released in early 2022. Henry Hunter, Chair, and Linda Mywaart, Vice Chair, agreed to participate on the working group.

Committee member, Luana Bussieres, noted the Wood Buffalo Community Foundation has a "Healthy Community" grant open for registrations to municipalities until the end of May, 2021. The committee supported the suggestion that the Social Planner, Martin Byaruhanga, apply on behalf of the Committee with hopes of having the age friendly accessibility initiatives go through the grant rather than the audit as it will likely be quicker and more efficient.

Exit

Councillor, Keith McGrath, disconnected from the meeting at 1:42 p.m.

4.3. Seniors' Week - June 13-17, 2021

Carolyn Evancio, Committee Member, noted that Seniors Week will take place between June 7-13, 2021. A schedule of events taking place during Seniors Week, such as bingo, trivia and signage outside the Golden Years Society, will be sent out to the Committee. Prizes will be attached to these events as an incentive for residents to participate.

4.4. Action Log

Deanne Bergey, Director, noted the Vulnerable Persons Registry held a media campaign to spread awareness for the group in which the number of members increased from 52 to 66. There will be another campaign later in the year to continue awareness.

All other action items are ongoing.

4.5. Information Updates

Henry Hunter, Chair, noted the Wood Buffalo Housing offices are closed for three weeks as a result of increased COVID-19 cases in the region.

Linda Mywaart, Vice Chair, commended Wood Buffalo Housing on their efforts to get the rent supplement program reinstated.

Carol Theberge, Committee member, noted that the move to Willow Square is still scheduled to proceed on June 21, 2021 as it has previously been delayed a month due to a COVID-19 outbreak amongst the contractors.

Carolyn Evancio, Committee member expressed thanks for the efforts of the Seniors Resource Committee to support seniors during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Luana Bussieres, Committee member, noted efforts of the hospital in light of the recent restrictions put in place as seniors are reluctant to attend the hospital, it was also noted there will be an upcoming interprovincial meeting with different provincial and federal Health Ministers to look at age friendly initiatives across Canada and what each province is experiencing.

Action Item:

Department Administrator, Melissa Williams, to provide monthly updates to the Committee from meetings held with the provincial government.

Adjournment

The Meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Chair