

Minutes of a Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee held via electronic communications in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, commencing at 5:00 PM.

Present:

Jean-Marc Guillamot, Business Community, Vice-Chair
Brianne English, Oil and Gas Industry
Carolyn Evancio, Seniors Representative
Todd Hillier, Safety and Security Sector
Henry Hunter, Education Sector
Renee Moulard, Public-At-Large
Roy Williams, Land Development Industry
Funky Banjoko, Councillor

Absent:

Owen Erskine, Recreation, Culture and Heritage Representative, Chair
Sheri Pidhirney, Business Community
Melanie Walsh, Community Development Sector
Lance Bussieres, Councillor

Administration:

Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning and Program Management
Dennis Warr, Director, Engineering
Amanda Haitas, Senior Manager, Planning and Development
Nina Caines, Senior Manager, Parks, Roads and Rural Operations
Kevin Meacher, Coordinator, Strategic Planning and Program Management
Anita Hawkins, Legislative Officer

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair Jean-Marc Guillamot called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION:

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Roy Williams
SECONDER:	Carolyn Evancio
FOR:	Guillamot, English, Evancio, Hillier, Hunter, Mouland, Williams
ABSENT:	Erskine, Pidhirney, Walsh

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

3.1. Special Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee Meeting - February 10, 2022

MOTION:

THAT the Minutes of the Special Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee meeting held on February 10, 2022 be approved as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Henry Hunter
SECONDER:	Todd Hillier
FOR:	Guillamot, English, Evancio, Hillier, Hunter, Mouland, Williams
ABSENT:	Erskine, Pidhirney, Walsh

4. New and Unfinished Business

4.1. Temporary Flood Mitigation Update

James Semple, Supervisor, Strategic Planning and Program Management, provided an update on the Temporary Flood Mitigation Program, noting the temporary measures include clay berms, triple dams and sandbags. It was further noted that the intent of this program is to provide protection until the permanent measures are put in place.

Entrance

Brianne English, Committee Member, joined the meeting at 5:16 p.m.

The temporary clay berms currently in place will be incorporated in the permanent flood mitigation plans. Reference was made to various programs available to the residents such as the Sanitary Sewer Backwater Prevention Program; Household Preparedness Program and the Vulnerable Persons Registry.

4.2. Downtown Revitalization Incentive Program Update

Amanda Haitas, Senior Manager, Planning and Development, provided an update on the Downtown Revitalization Incentive Program, noting that \$4.2M have been allocated of the \$5M program established by Council and that \$3M were earmarked for the program through the budget process.

Downtown beautification was discussed, specifically as it relates to snow removal and the possibility of establishing a bylaw to provide an enforcement mechanism to expedite the snow clearing process. It was confirmed that the upcoming committee presentation to Council does include a review of existing bylaws, and policies, with a specific comment to enforce mandatory snow removal with consideration of costs plus safety and community cleanliness (i.e. clearing sidewalks, removal of snow piles in both public and private sector parking lots).

4.3. 2022 Priorities and Seeking Partnership Opportunities Update

Kevin Meacher, Coordinator, Strategic Planning and Program Management, provided an update on a meeting held with the Government of Alberta to discuss graffiti abatement mural(s) on roadway underpasses; floral beautification along Highway 63; removal of unused barricades along Highway 63 and early and ongoing cleanup of Highway 63. The Province was receptive to the floral beautification and requested the locations of the unused barricades, for their review. The Province has a cleanup program in place for which the Municipality can apply for a permit. It was further noted that graffiti abatement is not a preferred option for the Province as removal of graffiti is part of the bridge maintenance budget. It was suggested that further questions be raised with the Province in terms of data on which this decision is based, i.e. how many accidents have been caused by graffiti, where, how and why.

The Vice-Chair committed to discuss the location of the unused barricades with the Chair.

Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning and Program Management noted that the initial discussion with the Province was to create a relationship. Additional details and relevant policies can now be requested to assist with next steps for the Committee.

Action Items:

Administration committed to seeking clarification and specific regulations or guidance related to the type(s) of items allowed alongside a highway.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Chair