

Minutes of a Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging held in Room 206 at the Municipal Offices in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 1:00 PM.

Present:

Luana Bussieres, St. Aidan's House Society Representative, Vice-Chair
Darline Reid, Alberta Health Services Representative
Denise Wilkinson, Senior-At-Large - Urban
Janice Eisenhauer, Public-At-Large
Ken Saunderson, Golden Years Society Representative
Patricia Scantlebury-MacInnis, Wood Buffalo Housing Representative
Ken Ball, Councillor (Via MS Teams)

Absent:

Carolyn Evancio, Seniors Resource Committee Representative
Dan Mercredi, Indigenous Representative

Administration:

Isela Contreras-Dogbe, Supervisor, Community and Protective Services
Martin Byaruhanga, Supervisor, Culture and Social Development
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer (Via MS Teams)
Heidi Major, Department Administrator, Community and Protective Services
Destiny Hilliard, Clerk, Legislative Services

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chair, Luana Bussieres, called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION:

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ken Saunderson
SECONDER:	Patricia Scantlebury-MacInnis
FOR:	Ball, Bussieres, Eisenhauer, Reid, Saunderson, Scantlebury-MacInnis, Wilkinson
ABSENT:	Evancio, Mercredi

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

3.1. Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting - October 12, 2023

MOTION:

THAT the Minutes of the Advisory Committee on Aging meeting held on October 12, 2023 be accepted as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Darline Reid
SECONDER:	Ken Saunderson
FOR:	Ball, Bussieres, Eisenhower, Reid, Saunderson, Scantlebury-MacInnis, Wilkinson
ABSENT:	Evancio, Mercredi

4. New and Unfinished Business

4.1. Appointment of Committee Chair

Due to absence of the Chair, and with consensus of the Committee, it was agreed that Luana Bussieres, will assume the role of Chair for the remainder of 2023.

4.2. Social Procurement Program Overview

Rachel Orser, Director, Supply Chain Management, presented an overview of the Social Procurement Program.

It was noted that the five streams of capital necessary to hold a social procurement program are social, cultural, human, economic and physical and that through engagement with internal and external stakeholders, five social value objectives were identified as Local Economic Development and Business Diversity, Local Jobs, Support Employment, Skills Development, and Inclusive Hiring. Further to that, to achieve these objectives, the following social procurement tactics were implemented; Local Businesses Opportunity and Directory, Social Procurement Questionnaires, and a Community Benefits Agreement.

Following the presentation, Committee Members provided feedback and Rachel Orser, confirmed the following;

- A copy of the questionnaire will be provided to the Committee.
- There is a social procurement working group that provides input and communicates with Administration and Council.
- Members of the Committee are welcomed to join a future Social Procurement Program Meeting to bring forward potential opportunities for contractors to bring back social good.
- Through the Community Benefits Agreement, there is an option for requests to be specified.
- Confirmation will be provided at a later date with respect to a member of the Committee joining the working group.

4.3. Committee Annual Update

Administration presented the milestones of the Advisory Committee on Aging which included the work done within the Accessibility Audit, receiving the Alberta Age-Friendly Provincial Recognition Award, the success of the Snow Angels Program, Seniors' Week, Senior Wellness and Intergenerational Programs, the 60 plus Awards, Accessibility training, enhancements for SMART bus user services and the transit master plan with proposed accessibility changes.

It was further noted that the Committee will continue to focus efforts on implementing the Wood Buffalo Age-Friendly Workplan, celebrating the Alberta Age-Friendly Provincial Recognition, engaging with stakeholders while celebrating milestones, and evaluating and accessing Wood Buffalo Age-Friendliness.

Luana Bussieres, Chair, confirmed that the Committee's annual report will be presented to Council at the November 14th Council Meeting, including a request for a resolution to have the Mayor send a letter to the Minister of Infrastructure requesting that the remaining land at Willow Square Continuing Care Centre site be transferred to the Municipality or held for an aging-in-place facility at a nominal fee of \$1.00.

4.4. Action Log

Martin Byaruhanga, Department Administrator, Community and Protective Services, provided updates on Action Log Items.

Action Items

- It was requested that continuing updates on the accessibility audit be provided to the Committee on a regular basis until completion.

Accessibility Audit Updates

It was noted that a user-friendly accessibility audit checklist will be made available on the Municipal website and stakeholders, such as the Chamber of Commerce, will be notified of its availability. It was noted that this checklist is still being drafted by the Working Group.

Isela Contreras-Dogbe, spoke to the Accessibility Audit noting that seven out of eleven assessments are complete and a meeting with property owners will take place the week of November 13 - 17, to provide resources, assistance and grants if available. It was further noted that a draft checklist that will be used in accessibility audits will be circulated to the Committee members for comments and review.

Administration indicated that a representative from the Chamber of Commerce will join the Committee meeting in January, in response to an invitation from the Committee.

4.5. Administrative Updates

Heidi Major, Department Administrator, provided an update on the Snow Angels Program noting that currently there are 51 applications submitted with five that did not meet the qualifications. It was further noted that 50 volunteer applications have been received, and due to five volunteers having outstanding documentation, the program is still looking for volunteers.

Ken Saunderson, Committee Member, noted that the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo's Winter Maintenance brochure states that the responsibility of cleaning windrows during the winter is that of the homeowner. Luana Bussieres, Chair, noted that with the weight of snow, removing windrows are a big risk to older adults. Committee Members had further questions regarding the previous windrow program and when it was removed.

It was noted that the annual Seniors' Luncheon will take place on November 27th, and that transportation to the event will be provided for seniors who reside in the rural service areas.

Denise Wilkinson, Committee Member, and Janice Eisenhauer, Committee Member, discussed the importance of creating initiatives for seniors, such as group purchasing of groceries and necessities in an effort to combat the steady incline in living costs. Further to that, Luana Bussieres, Chair, noted that St. Aidan's Society will be rolling out presentations on financial security to residents as many seniors are not accessing the full spectrum of supports available to them.

Committee Members discussed the Alberta Age-Friendly Provincial Recognition

Award

Celebration, suggesting that invitations be sent out to the Committee's current stakeholders, past and present Council Liaison, past and present Golden Years representatives, and past and present Committee Members.

Exit

Darline Reid, exited the meeting at 215 p.m.

Action Items

- Ken Ball, Councillor, to discuss the windrow program with the CAO and follow up with Committee Members at the next committee meeting.
- Isela Contreras-Dogbe, Supervisor, Community and Protective Services, to inquire about carrying the 2023 budget into 2024 and using that to host the Age-Friendly Recognition kick-off event. Confirmation will be provided to Committee Members at a later date.

4.6. Senior's Resource Committee Updates

Due to the absence of Carolyn Evancio, Committee Member, Ken Saunderson, provided a summary of the Senior's Resource Committee meeting that was held on October 17th, noting that discussions were held about the Alberta Age-Friendly Provincial Recognition, the upcoming Seniors' Christmas Luncheon, the upcoming Grand Old YMM Opry, the Seniors' Wellness program, and the Senior of the Year Program. An update on the SMART bus program was also provided. Further discussion occurred regarding the Committee's priorities and events for 2024, including the Seniors' Expo, Seniors' Week, and the Canada Day Parade.

The next Senior's Resource Committee Meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, November 14th.

4.7. Emerging Trends and Issues

Luana Bussieres, Chair, addressed concerns that some seniors face with attending events as most events take place during daytime hours, noting that Heritage Park is willing to move their lunchtime event schedules to the evening. It was further noted that collaboration efforts will continue with further organizations on planning events in the evening so that older adults can participate.

Further discussion occurred with respect to the financial challenges that older adults and individuals living on a fixed income are facing with the current economy and that staff at St. Aidan's Society recognized bigger level strategies need to be created to help mitigate this problem. This will require a multifaceted approach with multiple partners working towards strategies and solutions.

Further to that, it was noted that staff at St. Aidan's Society is once again at capacity and the wait times to serve seniors is becoming a concern.

4.8. Information Updates

No discussion occurred during the Information Updates.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Chair