



Advisory Committee on Aging

Room 207, 2nd Floor, Jubilee Centre
9909 Franklin Avenue, Fort McMurray, AB T9H 2K4

Thursday, October 12, 2023
1:00 PM

Agenda

1. **Call to Order**
 2. **Adoption of Agenda**
 3. **Minutes of Previous Meetings**
 - 3.1. Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting - September 14, 2023
 4. **New and Unfinished Business**
 - 4.1. Review of Committee Action Log
 - 4.2. Administrative Updates
 - 4.3. Senior's Resource Committee Updates
 - 4.4. Information Updates
- Adjournment**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging held in Room 206 at the Municipal Offices in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 1:00 PM.

Present:

Henry Hunter, Chair, Wood Buffalo Housing Representative
 Luana Bussieres, St. Aidan's House Society Representative
 Carolyn Evancio, Seniors Resource Committee Representative
 Darline Reid, Alberta Health Services Representative (via MS Teams)
 Denise Wilkinson, Senior At Large – Urban
 Janice Eisenhauer, Public - At - Large
 Ken Ball, Councillor (via MS Teams)

Absent:

Dan (Clement) Mercredi, Indigenous Representative
 Ken Saunderson, Golden Years Society Representative

Administration:

Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer
 Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services
 Isela Contreras-Dogbe, Supervisor, Community and Protective Services
 Heidi Major, Department Administrator, Community and Protective Services
 Destiny Hilliard, Clerk, Legislative Services

1. Call to Order

Chair, Henry Hunter, called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION:

THAT agenda item 4.1 be moved to the end of agenda; and agenda item 4.7 be moved to the beginning of the agenda; and

THAT Willow Square be added as agenda item 4.8; and

THAT the Agenda be adopted as amended.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Luana Bussieres
SECONDER:	Janice Eisenhauer
FOR:	Ball, Bussieres, Eisenhauer, Evancio, Hunter, Reid, Wilkinson
ABSENT:	Mercredi, Saunderson

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

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

MOTION:

THAT the Minutes of the June 12, 2023 Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting be approved as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Janice Eisenhauer
SECONDER:	Carolyn Evancio
FOR:	Ball, Bussieres, Eisenhauer, Evancio, Hunter, Reid, Wilkinson
ABSENT:	Mercredi, Saunderson

4. New and Unfinished Business

4.7. Administrative Updates

Accessibility Audit

Jake Papineau, Consultant, Urban Matters, presented an update and overview of the RMWB Accessibility Audit, the four phases of the workplan, and the project timelines.

It was noted that Phase 2 is complete, and there were audits undertaken within 11 buildings in the community and that discussions are occurring with respect to virtual audits for spaces in Fort Chipewyan. Urban Matters advised that audit reporting complexity varied based on buildings and noted that the scores are based on the Rick Hansen matrix, with elements including parking, general access, and innovation.

It was further noted that a report is currently being developed to provide a summary of the work completed, overview of gaps and recommendations to improve accessibility; and that once this has been completed, information, such as that related to grants, will be provided to the property owner(s).

Committee Members asked questions and provided feedback with respect to the project update. A discussion occurred with respect to private buildings taking part in the audit and it was noted that privately owned buildings are not obligated to participate.

Action Items

- Administration indicated that they were looking into organizing an event for the International Day of People with Disability noting that this would fall during the week of November 27, and they are looking to run various scenarios related to accessibility.
- A discussion occurred with respect to the Workplace Inclusion Charter and leveraging that as part of a discussion to ensure accessibility and accessibility audits are further considered.
- Further conversation ensued regarding an internal expert with expertise in accessibility. Administration confirmed that the checklist being developed is intended to be used by anyone and indicated that they would look into a point of contact.
- Discussion also occurred with respect to providing a sticker or a type of recognition on the RMWB website for those who completed the audit and are considered accessible businesses.

4.3. Accessibility Recommendations

Carolyn Evancio, Committee Member, provided an overview to the Committee noting concerns regarding continuance of accessibility audits and ensuring accessibility requirements are met in the region once the Urban Matters Consultant concludes the project work in September 2023.

It was noted that the RMWB should designate an internal expert to aid agencies, businesses and groups seeking to meet accessibility standards. It was requested that Accessibility be included in the Downtown Revitalization Incentive Program with clear messaging and promotion of accessibility.

Administration confirmed that the consultant will provide a final report of accessibility recommendations and outline next steps and recommendations for the Municipality.

A discussion occurred with respect to potentially using the report and tools created to engage businesses as part of the Workplace Inclusion Charter and through the Chamber of Commerce.

Action Item

- Administration committed to reviewing the handout on accessibility provided by the Committee regarding Accessibility Recommendations and providing an update at a later date.

4.2. Healthy Aging Summit Conference

Luana Bussieres, Committee Member, noted that a Healthy Aging Summit Conference will be taking place in Calgary October 10 - October 12, 2023. Administration confirmed that Heidi Major, Community and Protective Services will be attending.

4.4. Seniors' Week

Janice Eisenhauer, Committee Member, noted the highlights and successes of Seniors week. It was further noted that all events take place during the day which covers only one demographic.

A discussion occurred with respect to bringing forward a recommendation to the Committee Members and Council that in the future, Seniors' Week host events that also take place in the evening hours to accommodate all demographics. Administration confirmed that the concerns will be presented at the next Seniors' Resource Committee Meeting, taking place on September 15, 2023.

4.5. Carolyn Evancio, Seniors Resource Committee Representative re: Seniors' Resource Committee Updates

Carolyn Evancio, Committee Member, noted that the Seniors' Resource Committee did not hold a meeting over the summer and that the next Seniors' Resource Committee meeting will take place on September 15, 2023 where the Committee will determine its priorities. It was further noted that updates with respect to the Committee's priorities will be presented to members of the Advisory Committee on Aging at a later date.

4.6. Snow Angels Working Group Updates

Luana Bussieres, Committee Member, provided an overview of a meeting that occurred with the Snow Angels Working Group, noting that the Snow Angels Program has been successful to date due to the financial support from Council. It was further noted that while the 2021-2025 Council supports this program, long term sustainability will only occur if the program is transitioned into a community-based program.

Committee Members discussed options for change, and it was recommended that the program be adjusted over the next few years and indicated that the program would see fees associated with its use, based on income, with funds rotating back into the program. It was further noted that data shows this program has a high abuse rate and vulnerable seniors are missing out on the advantages provided.

Further discussion occurred regarding eligibility criteria for individuals who sign up, including an assessment process on every home in which staff from the St. Aidan's Society is committed to assisting with.

MOTION:

THAT the Advisory Committee on Aging recommend that the Snow Angels Program include assessments in partnership with St. Aidan's Society for 2023-2024; and

THAT the parameters of the program be reviewed and adjusted to support those most vulnerable; and

THAT the program be transitioned into a community-based program.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Luana Bussieres
SECONDER:	Janice Eisenhauer
FOR:	Ball, Bussieres, Eisenhauer, Evancio, Hunter, Reid, Wilkinson
ABSENT:	Mercredi, Saunderson

4.1. James Semple, Supervisor re: Residential Accessible Parking

James Semple, Supervisor, Public Works, presented an overview of Residential Accessible Parking Permits, providing information on the process for applying, the process for annual review and the eligibility guidelines.

Committee Members provided feedback and asked questions regarding the presentation in which clarification was provided on the length of the application process, how accessibility parking permits physically look, future plans for the program as it moves forward and how the program was generated.

Age-Friendly Work Plan Additional Support

Deanne Bergey, Senior Manager, Community and Protective Services, provided an update to a discussion that took place during the June 12 meeting regarding additional support for the Age-Friendly work plan, noting that moving forward Martin Byaruhanga, Supervisor, Culture and Social Development, will work with Heidi Major, Department Administrator, as well as a program assistant to support the work. It was further noted that the working group will be invited to assist with the workplan.

Action Item

- Administration indicated that data from reports within the Community Investment Program will be provided to the Committee at a later date, in which outcomes and gaps will be identified.

Age-Friendly Provincial Recognition Celebration

Heidi Major, Department Administrator, noted that the Committee has received the Age-Friendly Provincial Recognition award and recommended a celebration occur to recognize the accomplishment.

Action Item

- A discussion occurred with respect to ideas for a celebration. It was noted that Administration will review these ideas further, and an update will be provided at a later date.

Action Log

Administration committed to providing support in introducing an action log to the committee to assist with tracking action items outlined in the committee minutes.

Willow Square Addition

Henry Hunter, Chair, advised that a letter was sent to the Minister of Infrastructure requesting that the remaining land at the Willow Square facility be transferred to ensure it's available for an Aging in Place facility, adding that the St. Aidan's Society also gave a letter of support.

The Committee discussed asking the Mayor's office to send a letter of support to request that the land remain for a future Aging in Place facility.

Action Item

- Through consensus of the Committee, a request will be sent to the Mayor's Office requesting a letter of support be sent to the Minister of Infrastructure requesting that the remaining land at the Willow Square site be transferred or held for aging in Place. Administration committed to following up with the Mayor's Office regarding this letter of support request.

4.8. Emerging Trends and Issues

Luana Bussieres, Committee Member, discussed the financial challenges that older adults and individuals living on a fixed income are facing with the current economy.

4.9. Committee Member's Information Updates

Henry Hunter, Chair, noted an increase in residential applications at the Rotary House Lodge.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Chair

Administration Update

Presenter: Martin Byaruhanga

Department: Community and Protective Services

Meeting Date: October 12, 2023.



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF WOOD BUFFALO

Attachment: Administration Update (Administrative Updates)

Administration Updates

Update

The Working group revised the Snow Angel application now available for residents.

Recruitment of volunteers started at the Fall Tradeshow.

Snow Angel Kick off supper at the Golden Year's Society Scheduled for October 4th.

Action Log was updated, it will be a standing agenda item.

Age Friendly Working group met to go over the progress report, The next meeting is scheduled for Oct 19th



Questions?

