

Minutes of a Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging held via Electronic Communications in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Thursday, September 10, 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:

Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer
Deanne Bergey, Director, Community Services
Toni Elliott, Senior Manager, Community Services
Melissa Williams, Department Administrator

1. Call to Order

Chair Linda Mywaart called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Luana Bussieres request the "Role of Secretary" be added to the agenda.

MOTION:

THAT the Agenda be amended by adding item 5.4.1 Role of Secretary;

THAT Committee waive any requirement to serve notice relative to the proposed additions; and

THAT the agenda be adopted as amended.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Joan Furber, Golden Years Society
SECONDER:	Henry Hunter, Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation
FOR:	Theberge, Mywaart, Furber, Bussieres, Hunter
ABSENT:	McGrath

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

MOTION:

THAT the Minutes of the Special Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting held on June 25, 2020 be approved as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Henry Hunter, Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation
SECONDER:	Luana Bussieres, Public-at-Large - Urban
FOR:	Theberge, Mywaart, Furber, Bussieres, Hunter
ABSENT:	McGrath

With the consent of the Committee, items 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 were dealt with in advance of item 4.1.

5. New and Unfinished Business

5.1. Impact of Flood and COVID-19 on Seniors

Through discussions of the Committee, it was noted that the flood and COVID-19 has impacted seniors in several ways including being isolated due to a lack of contact and interaction with others, rising case of elder abuse, and caregiver support issues. It was indicated that various groups in the Municipality are actively working to help impacted seniors by providing such things as virtual programming, phone calls and assistance with flood recovery paperwork.

5.2. Vulnerable Person's Registry

Melissa Williams, Department Administrator, provided an update on the Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR), noting that currently there are 44 individuals registered and the VPR Administrator calls each registrant on a monthly basis to check in and provide resources as required. It was noted that community members may not be aware of the VPR or how to register.

5.3. Provincial Age Friendly Designation

Melissa Williams, Department Administrator, provided an update on the Provincial Age Friendly Designation, noting that in order to obtain the Designation, the Committee's

workplan must be completed and approved by Council. Deanne Bergey, Director, Community Services, noted that continuation of the workplan review would be on the next Committee meeting agenda.

4. Presentation

4.1. Murray Crawford, Alberta Health Services, re: Medical Services for Seniors

Murray Crawford, Senior Operating Officer, Northern Lights Regional Health Centre, Area 10, and Darline Reid, Area Manager, Seniors Health, provided an update on the Willow Square Continuing Care Centre, noting that the building is 90% completed and will have a final capacity of 144 single rooms. It was indicated that there was some flood damage to the basement of the building that has delayed the occupancy of the building until Spring 2021 and that the building has been built to meet 1:100 year flood requirements.

5. New and Unfinished Business (continued)

With consensus of the Committee, Items 5.4, 5.4.1 and 5.6 were dealt with together.

5.4. Advisory Committee on Aging Committee Structure, 5.4.1 Role of Secretary and 5.5. Committee Member Recruitment

Chair Linda Mywaart indicated that at the February 13, 2020 Committee Meeting, Administration provided an update on a planned review of the Committees Bylaw No. 17/024. It was noted by Administration that this review is ongoing, and that the results of research and benchmarking should be coming back to the Committee in the first quarter of 2021.

Luana Bussieres acknowledged the work of Administration in supporting the Committee and offered support to complete the minutes and to act as Committee Secretary. Administration thanked Luana Bussieres and indicated they would let her know should anything arise that she could support the Committee on.

Luana Bussieres raised a concern with respect to Committee members with terms expiring and the last time in 2020 as a result of COVID-19. Administration indicated that this topic has been discussed amongst Administrators previously. It was noted that the Committee may make a recommendation to Council to have Committee members reappointed and the application of the Selection Committee Policy waived to ensure continued viability of the Committee in 2021.

Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer, spoke to the annual Boards and Committees recruitment campaign which typically begins mid to late September of each year and runs for approximately one month.

5.6. Action Log

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

- Toni Elliott noted that the review of the crosswalk light has been reassigned to Keith Smith, Director, Public Works, and she will be following up with him.
- Administration will invite Amanda Haitas, Senior Manager, Planning and Development, to the next meeting to provide input on the Age Friendly Work Plan, noting that Planning and Development staff are currently involved with flood matters.
- It was noted that there were a number of resources and sources of information available to support seniors during the flood and no gaps were identified.

All other action items are ongoing and updates will be provided at future meetings.

5.7. Organization Reporting

Henry Hunter, Wood Buffalo Housing & Development Corporation, reported that they are continually getting updates from Alberta Health Services as well as operational process to implement.

Luana Bussieres, Urban-at-Large, noted that gaps have been identified in the region regarding caregiver support, isolation and strengthening the skills of seniors to effectively deal with elder abuse, and indicated that groups such as the Red Cross and the school boards are working collaboratively to try to fill those gaps.

Action Items:

- Administration will follow up on the ongoing awareness of the Vulnerable Persons Registry and report back to the Committee.
- Deanne Bergey indicated that Administration would review and update the draft workplan and provide to the Committee in advance of the next meeting, which has been identified as one of the main agenda items for the October ACoA meeting.
- Committee Members requested to have the draft agenda for the next meeting circulated to the Members on the Monday of the week before the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Chair