

Minutes of a Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging held in the Council Chamber at the Municipal Offices in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Thursday, November 10, 2022, commencing at 1:00 PM.

Present:

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

Administration:

Toni Elliott, Senior Manager, Community and Protective Services
Isela Contreras-Dogbe, Supervisor, Community and Protective Services
Heidi Major, Department Administrator, Community and Protective Services
Caitlin Sheaves, 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 the Agenda be adopted as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Denise Wilkinson
SECONDER:	Ken Saunderson
FOR:	Ball, Bussieres, Evancio, Hunter, Reid, Saunderson, Wilkinson

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

3.1. Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting - October 13, 2022

MOTION:

THAT the Minutes of the Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting held on October 13, 2022, be approved as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Carolyn Evancio
SECONDER:	Luana Bussieres
FOR:	Ball, Bussieres, Evancio, Hunter, Reid, Saunderson, Wilkinson

4. New and Unfinished Business

4.1. Administrative Update

Snow Angels Program

Heidi Major, Department Administrator, Community and Protective Services, provided a brief update on the Snow Angels Program, noting that volunteer numbers have increased significantly this year, however; there has been some difficulty matching seniors in the downtown area with volunteers, due to lack of volunteers in the downtown area. The Department is working with Communications and Engagement to facilitate a targeted recruitment for volunteers in the downtown area.

The Committee discussed concerns around Seniors being denied from the service emphasizing the importance of being able to support those in need and discussed alternatives for ensuring all Seniors who qualify for the program are provided the service.

Exits:

Denise Wilkinson exited the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

Darline Reid exited the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

MOTION:

THAT the ACoA recommend to Council that funding be made available to administration to facilitate the Snow Angels Program so that no seniors over the age of 65 are turned down, with immediate effect until the end of the current snow removal season that being Spring 2023 and that Council ask Administration to review the Snow Angels Program and bring forward options in relation to future operations on the Program.

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

Seniors Resource Committee

Committee Member Carolyn Evancio provided an update on behalf of the Seniors Resource Committee noting that in partnership with the Golden Years Society they will be hosting the Grand Ole Opry on December 9, 2022 at the Golden Years Society. It was further noted that the event will be offered both in person and virtually, as well as an additional smaller version of the event being held at Willow Square for its residents.

Work Plan

Heidi Major, Department Administrator, Community and Protective Services, sought feedback from the Committee on what the next steps should be with respect to the Work Plan.

Members noted the importance of remaining connected with stakeholders and discussed how they can continue to engage with the Community.

Action Item:

Administration to send the Age Friendly Work Plan Assessment Tool to the Committee and will gather feedback at the January Committee Meeting.

4.2. Information Updates

Committee Member Ken Saunderson provided an update on behalf of the Golden Years Society noting that they are helping seniors stay active by offering numerous activities at their facility.

Committee Member Luana Bussieres provided an update on behalf of St. Aidan's Society noting that they have just hired a Link Worker to assist with administrative duties. It was further noted that the St. Aidan's Society Health and Wellness program will now be held at the Golden Years Society to allow for a higher capacity to attend and access the resources at one time.

Councillor K. Ball noted that Annual Seniors Holiday Luncheon will be taking place on December 6, 2022.

Chair Henry Hunter, provided an update on behalf of the Wood Buffalo Housing and Development Corporation, noting that nearly 10% of their affordable housing units are occupied by seniors. It was further noted that the Rotary House currently has numerous vacancies.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

Chair