

Minutes of a Meeting of the Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Committee held in Room 206 at the Municipal Offices in Fort McMurray, Alberta, on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, commencing at 5:30 PM.

Present:

Owen Erskine, Chair, Recreation, Culture and Heritage Representative
Jean-Marc Guillamot, Business Community
Ahmed Jouda, Public-At-Large
Nayef Mahgoub, Land Development Sector
Marty Noskey, Indigenous Representative (via MS Teams)
Ijeoma Uche-Ezeala, Public-At-Large
Melanie Walsh, Community Development Sector (via MS Teams)
Funky Banjoko, Councillor (via MS Teams)
Lance Bussieres, Councillor

Absent:

Chantal Beaver, Public-At-Large
Henry Hunter, Education Sector
Ayisha Salman, Public-At-Large

Administration:

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services
Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning and Program Management
Laurie-Anne St. George, Department Administrator, Strategic Planning and Program Management
Darlene Soucy, Clerk, Legislative Services

1. Call to Order

Chair Owen Erskine called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

At the request of RCMP Superintendent M. Hancock, who noted other work commitments, and with consensus of the Committee, it was agreed to move Item No. 3.4 RCMP Policing Priorities and Downtown Crime Statistics to immediately follow Item No. 3.1 Request for Leave.

2. Minutes of Previous Meetings

2.1. Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee Meeting - April 5, 2023

THAT the Minutes of the Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee Meeting held on April 5, 2023, be approved as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Nayef Mahgoub
SECONDER:	Melanie Walsh
FOR:	Erskine, Guillamot, Jouda, Mahgoub, Noskey, Uche-Ezeala, Walsh
ABSENT:	Beaver, Hunter, Salman

3. **New and Unfinished Business**

3.1. **Request for Leave**

MOTION:

THAT Ayisha Salman be excused from Committee Meetings up to and including June 16, 2023.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ahmed Jouda,
SECONDER:	Marty Noskey
FOR:	Erskine, Guillamot, Jouda, Mahgoub, Noskey, Uche-Ezeala, Walsh
ABSENT:	Beaver, Hunter, Salman

3.4. **RCMP Policing Priorities and Downtown Crime Statistics**

Superintendent Mark Hancock, RCMP, presented the 2023 - 2024 Wood Buffalo RCMP Annual Performance Plan, including community consultation, division and detachment membership, and quarterly reporting. It was noted that the policing priorities outlined in the Plan include property crime, drug trafficking, traffic safety, and enhancing public confidence and engagement. Superintendent Hancock provided an overview of the downtown crime statistics and noted that the RCMP has information available for residents and businesses on how to protect themselves and their property.

Pecuniary Interest and Assuming the Chair

Chair Owen Erskine declared a conflict of interest in Item No. 3.2 Tawâw Housing Initiative due to a family relationship, and disconnected from the meeting at 5:59 p.m. Committee Member Jean-Marc Guillamot assumed the Chair.

3.2. **Tawâw Housing Initiative**

Jo-Anne Packham, Executive Director, Christine Burton, Board President, Wood Buffalo Wellness Society, and Carola Cunningham, Consultant, presented an overview of the Tawâw Housing Initiative, which would be located in downtown Fort McMurray to provide permanent supportive housing for Indigenous individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. It was further noted that this initiative would create a collaborative environment with support staff on-site to respond to client needs and to

intervene with potential issues that could impede the client's progress in maintaining long-term housing stability. This initiative aligns with the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo Community Plan on Homelessness' goals of education, change management, prevention, rehousing and the provision of support to these individuals and families.

Recess and Resuming the Chair

A recess occurred from 7:00 p.m. to 7:05 p.m., at which time Chair Owen Erskine rejoined the meeting and resumed the Chair.

3.3. Street Sweeping Program Update

Kelly Colbourne, Manager, Roads, provided an update on the Street Sweeping Program, noting that the majority of street sweeping throughout Fort McMurray has been completed, and that the program is about a month ahead of the 2022 timelines. It was further noted that street sweeping in the downtown area would continue on weekend nights throughout the summer.

3.5. Downtown Wayfinding Strategy and Plan

Megan Langille, Strategist, Public Engagement, presented an update on the Wayfinding Strategy and the Downtown Fort McMurray Wayfinding Plan (the Plan), noting that the Plan for downtown Fort McMurray is guided by the Wayfinding Strategy and is intended to support navigational needs, community identity, and tourism in the downtown and waterfront areas. It was also noted that the Plan supports recent streetscape improvements, including upgraded sidewalks, throughout the downtown to create more attractive and comfortable streetscapes for pedestrians.

3.6. Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan Update

Christopher Booth, Manager, Community Planning Development, provided an update on the Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan (DARP), noting that the final round of public engagement is completed, and that the feedback received would be incorporated in the proposed DARP, which should be presented to Council for first reading before summer recess, with a public hearing planned for the fall.

3.7. Downtown Revitalization Incentives Program Update

Jennifer Wardle, Planner, and Susan Frampton, Planner, Planning and Development, presented an update on the Downtown Revitalization Incentives Program, noting that the final intake phase of the Program closed on April 30, 2023, with over 160 applications received. It was also noted that Council recently approved an additional \$2,600,000 in funding to bring the total Program budget to just over \$7,101,000. An overview of completed projects and those currently underway was presented, as well as next steps including an evaluation of the Program with the intent to bring forward a revised incentive program for Council's consideration in the future.

3.8. Highway 63 Jersey Barrier Removal Update

Laurie-Anne St. George, Department Administrator, Strategic Planning and Program Management, provided an update on the jersey barriers north of Morrison Street, noting that the excess barriers have been removed. It was also noted that the Communities in Bloom Committee submitted letter to Alberta Transportation requesting that the main Highway 63 corridor be cleaned, maintained, and beautified to showcase the area to residents, and visitors as well as in anticipation of the upcoming 2023 Communities in Bloom Symposium and Awards in September.

3.9. Action Log Review

With consensus of the Committee, the Action Log Review will be moved to the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Chair

June 5, 2023

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Section 194 of the *Municipal Government Act*, RSA. 2000 c.M-26, a Special Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee Meeting is hereby scheduled to take place at 5:30 p.m. on the 14th day of June, 2023, in Room 206, Jubilee Centre, to consider the following:

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting
2. Request for Leave
3. Tawâw Housing Initiative
4. Street Sweeping Program Update
5. RCMP Policing Priorities and Downtown Crime Statistics
6. Downtown Wayfinding Strategy and Plan
7. Downtown Area Redevelopment Plan Update
8. Downtown Revitalization Incentives Program Update
9. Highway 63 Jersey Barrier Removal Update
10. Action Log Review



Owen Erskine
Chair, Wood Buffalo Downtown Revitalization Advisory Committee
Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo