

Minutes of a Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Aging held via electronic communications on Thursday, December 9, 2021, commencing at 1:00 PM.

Present:

Henry Hunter, Wood Buffalo Housing
Linda Mywaart, Public-At-Large - Rural
Luana Bussieres, Public-At-Large - Urban
Carolyn Evancio, Seniors Resource Committee
Joan Furber, Golden Years Society
Carol Theberge, Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council
Ken Ball, Councillor

Administration:

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services
Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning and Program Management
Jade Brown, Chief Legislative Officer, Legislative Services
Sonia Soutter, Manager, Legislative Services
Steve Andrejiw, Department Administrator, Community and Protective Services
Caitlin Sheaves, Clerk, Legislative Services

1. Call to Order

Chair Henry Hunter called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of Agenda

MOTION:

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Luana Bussieres
SECONDER:	Carol Theberge
FOR:	Hunter, Mywaart, Bussieres, Evancio, Furber, Theberge, Ball

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

3.1. Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting – November 18, 2021

Committee Member Linda Mywaart spoke to the proposed November 18, 2021, minutes noting that information was omitted with respect to the discussion on the accessibility audit that occurred. Committee Member Luana Bussieres also suggested that content

be included to speak to the concerns raised on November 18, 2021, with respect to the delay and timelines of the working group.

The Committee requested that the following be included in the November 18, 2021, minutes:

“Questions and discussion occurred with respect to the accessibility audit and concerns by Committee Members were raised with respect to the delay and timelines of the overall audit and the formation of the accessibility audit working group.”

THAT the Minutes of the Advisory Committee on Aging Meeting held on November 18, 2021, be approved as amended.

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Linda Mywaart
SECONDER:	Joan Furber
FOR:	Hunter, Mywaart, Bussieres, Evancio, Furber, Theberge, Ball

4. New and Unfinished Business

4.1. Introduction of New Council Committee Member

Introductions were provided to welcome the newly appointed Council member, Councillor Ken Ball.

4.2. Strategic Plan Process Overview

Kelly Hansen, Director, Strategic Planning and Program Management provided an overview of the Strategic Planning and Program Management Department, noting that their role is to connect internal departments and determine how to best meet the community's needs. It was further noted that the department has been reviewing previous years strategic plans to evaluate how they have been developed and implemented successfully. Findings will be presented to Council to determine the best strategic plan for the Region.

Committee Member Linda Mywaart expressed the importance of updating the language pertaining to seniors in the strategic plan, noting that including "Age Friendly Practices" would be ideal to support the work of the Advisory Committee on Aging and seniors in the community.

4.3. Facilities Update

Age Friendly Assessment

Chris Bond, Manager, Facilities, provided an overview and update on the Age-Friendly Assessment. An overview of the Age Friendly Initiatives was provided, as well as an update on the current timeline for completion. It was noted that assessments have been completed at all RMWB facilities.

The Committee provided feedback with concerns regarding current timeline, assessment tools, and the alignment of various accessibility audits to ensure results are happening concurrently, rather than piece by piece. It was also noted that municipal departments should be collaborating on this initiative to ensure the same tools are being used for all assessments.

Action Items:

1. Administration was requested to provide the Committee with a copy of the assessment checklist.
2. Following a discussion with respect to municipal facilities and facilities operated by other organizations, it was requested that Administration consider an assessment for all other municipally owned facilities including Shell Place, Frank La Croix Arena, CentreFire Place, etc...
3. Administration was asked to research the various accessibility grants and programs that are available both provincially and federally and bring information back at the next Committee meeting in January.
4. Through discussion of the Committee, it was noted that the Regional Advisory Committee on Inclusion, Diversity and Equity was also discussing accessibility as well as the RRC. It was requested that Administration align the accessibility audit to cover all areas to ensure full collaboration and a coordination approach amongst municipal departments and municipal corporations.

Snow Removal

Nina Caines, Senior Manager, Parks, provided a brief overview of the current snow removal program.

Committee members discussed concerns with the current Snow Angels program and provided feedback on how the program can be improved.

Action Item:

Administration committed to looking into ways to improve community involvement in the Snow Angels Program and to make improvements to the current messaging for the program.

4.4. Best Practices - Accessibility Audit

Isela Contreras-Dogbe, Supervisor, Community and Protective Services, provided an overview of the Accessibility Audit, including the proposed objectives and deliverables.

The Committee provided feedback on the Audit and suggested that it should be a wide-sweeping audit rather than focused on one area at a time. Members expressed the importance of forming the Accessibility Audit Working Group to begin hearing from residents who have lived experiences with accessibility issues, before the audit goes to request for proposal.

Exit:

Councillor Ken Ball disconnected from the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

4.5. Communication with Strategic Partners, Stakeholders, and Advisory Committee on Aging Members

Committee Member Luana Bussieres suggested that a strategy be developed to ensure the Advisory Committee on Aging (ACoA) is connecting with a broader number of community members and residents, noting that conversation cafes or public engagements may help educate members of the Community about ACoA and its mandate.

The Committee also discussed the opportunity to invite ad hoc members to their meetings moving forward.

Action Item:

Administration committed to engaging with the Communications and Engagement Department to develop concepts for community engagement and bring those suggestions back to the Committee.

4.6. Action Log

Steve Andrejiw, Department Administrator, Community and Protective Services, provided an overview of the Committee Action Log, noting that a list of ACoA's past achievements has been compiled and will be provided to Council in a briefing note. It was further noted that the Stakeholder Engagements list will be updated and provided to the Committee for review.

4.7. Information Updates

Chair Henry Hunter advised that a letter was sent to Murray Crawford of the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre regarding concerns with parking at the Willow Square Continuing Care Facility. It was noted that parking is not under Mr. Crawford's jurisdiction, but he committed to passing the letter of concerns on to the appropriate parties.

The Committee agreed that the letter should also be shared with the Mayor, MLA and the Minister of Seniors and Housing, on behalf of ACoA.

Deanne Bergey, Director, Community and Protective Services, advised that Administrative Updates will be added to the agenda as a standing item moving forward.

Chair Henry Hunter thanked outgoing members Linda Mywaart and Joan Furber for their commitment to the Advisory Committee on Aging.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.

Chair