Township of Langley

Est. 1873

SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 7:00pm
Via Zoom

MINUTES

Present:
S. Hedao, Community Co-Chair
Councillor P. Arnason, Council Co-Chair
Councillor S. Ferguson, Council Co-Chair

C. Eaton, L. George, M. Kramer, S. Martin, L. Solomon, and G. Wong

Fraser Health Representative:
T. Murphy

Guests:
P. Crump, Langley Seniors in Action
A. Kupferschmidt, Langley Senior Resources Society

Staff:
K. Stepto, Recording Secretary
P. Ward, Strategic/Social Planner

Election
S. Hedao volunteered to be the Community Co-Chair and was elected by acclamation.

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – February 16, 2022

Moved by L. George,
Seconded by C. Eaton,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the February 16, 2022 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – January 19, 2022

Moved by L. Solomon,
Seconded by G. Wong,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee adopt the Minutes of the January 19, 2022 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

D. REPORTS

1. Co-Chair Reports

Councillor Ferguson reported that Council has been in budget discussions and a draft budget with a 3% tax increase will be going to the public for input. He also noted that he attended a Metro Vancouver Indigenous Relations Committee meeting, where he was appointed to a Treaty Table, and a Liquid Waste Committee meeting where they are planning for future atmospheric river events.

Councillor Arnason also reported that Council has been in budget discussions and that with the COVID-19 restrictions lifting that she is hopeful that the Committee will be able to meet in person soon.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. 2022 Work Plan

Councillor Arnason noted that the project ideas that were suggested during the brainstorming exercise at the January meeting were incorporated into topic areas that relate to the Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan on the draft 2022 Work Plan.

Discussion ensued regarding accessibility and whether this should be a separate item on the Work Plan, or if it should be weaved throughout each project. It was determined that it will be intertwined with each project. In keeping with the implementation principles of the Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan, social equity considerations will be considered throughout the Work Plan.

To provide guidance on the Work Plan projects that might receive the most attention by the SAC, Committee members identified their “top three projects,” with the results as follows:

1. Accessible and affordable housing;
2. Seniors’ centres; and
3. Impact of climate change and extreme weather events on seniors.

MOTION
Moved by L. George,
Seconded by C. Eaton,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee endorse the 2022 Work Plan.
CARRIED

F. WORK PROGRAM

COUNCIL
Moved by G. Wong,
Seconded by L. George,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee recommends that Council endorse the 2022 Work Plan, presented as Attachment A.
CARRIED

2. Seniors Isolation

A. Kupferschmidt, Executive Director, Langley Senior Resources Society (LSRS), provided an overview of the organization and the services they provide.

LSRS is an independent, not-for-profit organization and registered charity that was founded in 1982. They provide social, recreational, and educational programs along with food, health, and supportive services. Their mandate is to connect people aged 50 years and older with recreation, resources, and programs designed to meet individual and specific needs and improve their quality of life. The mission is to deliver services through a holistic approach aimed at meeting the emotional, physical, and social needs of seniors and their families. Membership costs $63.00 per year and there are currently over 1,400 members. Membership is not required to access all programs, activities, and events. Some of the programs and services that are offered include:

- The Recreation and Resource Centre – social, recreational, and educational programs;
- Adult Day Program – specialized care and recreation for adults with physical and/or cognitive limitations;
- Outreach services – transportation, grocery shopping, light housekeeping friendly visiting, telephone buddies etc.; and
- Food services.

P. Crump, President, Langley Seniors in Action, provided an update on its Isolation Survey and Summit that was conducted in 2021. He noted that the online Summit was held in January 2021 that was attended by seniors, businesses, and faith-based organizations in Langley. The summit consisted of four speakers along with breakout sessions where they discussed how isolation and COVID-19 have impacted seniors. The survey was conducted in August 2021 where they focused on questions regarding social isolation during the pandemic, what services are needed for older adults, and how and where older adults access information they need about health care and community resources. 676 people responded to the survey. A summary of the results are as follows:

- 50% do not live alone;
- 95% have a weekly contact;
- 25% ranked their feeling of isolation at 7 out of 10;
- 22% ranked their stress level at 7 out of 10;
- Services needed for seniors: phone calls and interpersonal visitation;
- Fewer that 5% in Langley use BC211;
- A Healthcare and Community Resource navigator is needed in Langley;
- How information is accessed: online - 56%, LSRS - 53%, family and friends - 38%, faith-based community - 13%;

F. WORK PROGRAM

- 94% have a primary healthcare provider;
- 72% older seniors have a cell phone.

Discussion ensued and it was noted that collaboration between Langley Seniors in Action and Langley Senior Resources Society is a benefit for seniors in Langley. The Aldergrove Community Station House was also identified as an opportunity for additional space for seniors programming and services in Aldergrove.

3. Accessible and Affordable Housing

P. Ward provided an overview of 2021 Housing Action Plan. He noted that the purpose of the Plan is to address housing needs and affordability challenges, within the Township's role as a local government. The central responsibilities of the Township are education/research and planning/regulation.

The goals of the plan are:

1. Increase access to affordable, appropriate housing; and
2. Reduce homelessness.

Priority areas for action include:

1. Diversify housing types;
2. Catalyze rental housing;
3. Support vulnerable residents; and
4. Monitor trends and emerging priorities.

Following a review of the short-term actions (2022 – 2023) identified in the Plan, discussion ensued regarding opportunities for the SAC to engage in implementation. The following actions were identified by Committee members:

- 1B – Explore opportunities to enhance the adaptable housing policy
- 2C – Prepare a policy on the use of the affordable housing reserve fund
- 2D – Develop policy and regulatory changes that would allow detached accessory dwelling units (e.g. ground-level backyard suites) in some areas.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: March 16, 2022
Location: TBD
Time: 7:00pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by L. George,
Seconded by S. Hedao,
That the meeting terminate at 9:03pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair

Seniors Advisory Committee
2022 Work Plan

This document outlines the projects that the Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC) intends to undertake in 2022. In keeping with the Committee's Terms of Reference, engagement in these projects may include exchanging information, supporting strategic planning, making recommendations to Council, and providing input to Township staff. Each project includes information about the existing policy context.

2022 Projects

1. Accessible and affordable housing

- Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan Action 3B: Continue to develop and implement plans and policies, such as the Housing Action Plan, that support appropriate, affordable, and accessible housing.

2. Age- and dementia-friendly businesses

- Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan Action 1C: Continue to administer and promote the Age-friendly Business Recognition Program.
- Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan Action 1E: Seek opportunities to strengthen dementia-friendly components of the Age-friendly Business Recognition Program.

3. Social isolation

- Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan Action 5C: Explore opportunities to enhance rural area access to supports and services.
- Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan Action 5E: Increase opportunities and support for building and strengthening social connections, including intergenerational connection (e.g. through new community-based or recreation programs or integrated within existing programs).

4. Seniors' centres

- Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan Action 5D: Map and inventory community gathering places with a view of identifying gaps and opportunities.

5. Community health

- Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan Action 4D: Convene health authority, social service organizations, and community members to share information and explore opportunities for more effective referrals and access to appropriate healthcare and support services.
- Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan Action 4F: Advocate for affordable non-medical services (e.g. housecleaning, home, and yard maintenance).
- Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan Action 4G: Advocate for financial support for family or informal caregivers.

6. Mobility

- Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan Action 3F: Integrate an age- and dementia-friendly lens as part of the development of a new Transportation and Mobility Strategy with a view of strengthening accessibility features throughout the community.

7. **Public transit**
   - Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan Action 3G: Convene residents, including youth, older adults, and people with disabilities, local businesses, and TransLink to share information and identify opportunities to improve transit services, including HandyDART.

8. **Impact of climate change and extreme weather on seniors**
   - Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan Action 2M: Seek ways to further engage older adults, people living with dementia, and caregivers in emergency preparedness programs, and ensure updates to emergency response guidelines are inclusive of the full diversity of residents.

9. **Digital access and literacy**
   - Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan Action 2I: In collaboration with community partners, address technology barriers through training and support and by offering non-digital communication (e.g. use of print resources, where appropriate).

10. **Partnerships and Liaison with Local Seniors' Organizations**
    - Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan Implementation Principle: Collaborate across sectors – engage a range of organizations and service providers to reflect population diversity across the Township.