Township of Langley

Est. 1873

SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 7:00pm
Langley Regional Airport
#300, 5385-216 Street
Langley, BC

MINUTES

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

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

Fraser Health Representative:
C. Chandra

Guests:
B. Stack, Program Manager, Langley Meals on Wheels Services Society
S. Woykin, Executive Director, Langley Meals on Wheels Services Society

Staff:
R. Nelson, Senior Planner
A. Penner, Community and Policy Planner
V. Gafka, Senior Manager, Economic Investment and Development
K. Stepto, Recording Secretary

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – March 16, 2022

Moved by L. George,
Seconded by S. Martin,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the March 16, 2022 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – February 16, 2022

Moved by M. Kramer,
Seconded by L. George,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee adopt the Minutes of the February 16, 2022 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Aldergrove Community Station House

B. Stack, Program Manager and S. Woykin, Executive Director, Langley Meals on Wheels Services Society provided a presentation on the organization and the new Aldergrove Community Station House. They provided the following information:

- The vision is a community where no one is hungry or alone.
- Meals on Wheels has 150 volunteers who provide many different services:
    - Meal delivery;
    - Meal subsidy program;
    - Home from the hospital meal program;
    - Kitchen outreach – fresh food supplied through food security program;
    - Culinary teaching program;
    - Community outreach.
- Meals are produced at little to no cost thanks to sponsorships and donations.
- 4,500 meals have been provided over the past two years.
- The Aldergrove Community Station House will work together to improve the overall health of the community so that people of all ages can live thriving, healthy, and independent lives.
- They will produce 150-300 meals per day.
- A café will be open to the public with an internet café which will allow people to print resumes, job search, learn a new skill, etc.

Discussion:

- Could there be a mobile service that provides access to a medical practitioner, dentist, foot care, pharmacy, etc.?

2. Township of Langley Age-friendly Business Recognition Program

V. Gafka, Senior Manager, Economic Investment and Development, provided a presentation on the Age-friendly Business Recognition Program. The following information was provided:

- The program was developed in 2016 with input from the Seniors Advisory Committee.
- The Township received a UBCM Age-friendly Communities Grant in 2017 to launch the program.
- Dementia awareness seminars were held for businesses and the pilot program launched in 2018.
- Certificates of Recognition for businesses committed to ongoing improvements to better serve people of all ages and abilities were awarded in 2019.
- 2022 Seniors Week will re-activate the program and explore the following opportunities:
    - Age-friendly employment awareness and opportunities;

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- Age-friendly tourism – curated Township-exploring day trips for seniors;
- Accessibility resource awareness for small businesses;
- Reconnect with recognized businesses regarding benefits of the program;
- Cooperate with organized business events(s) to encourage program sign-ups;
- Township eNewsletter program feature.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were provided:

- Is there a way to help seniors navigate online shopping? Can local businesses be highlighted for online shopping?
- Can we ask grocery stores to have a dedicated space that provides different senior necessities? Some stores are very large and confusing for seniors to find the items that they need.
- Can there be a senior's apothecary that provides medical cannabis without the stigma?
- It would be beneficial to have a pin or a ribbon that a person could wear to identify that they have dementia. This would help if a person were lost or acting differently.
- Langley Senior Resources Society could promote age-friendly businesses in their newsletters.
- Could there be an age-friendly employment fair? This could be coordinated with WorkBC.
- Could sporting events such as the Vancouver Giants have seniors' nights?

D. REPORTS

1. Co-Chairs Report

Councillor Arnason commented on an affordable housing project for people living with dementia in the District of Vanderhoof. This is a partnership project with BC Housing and offers a continuum of care.

Councillor Ferguson mentioned the Metro Vancouver recycling and liquid waste disposal campaigns.

S. Hedao raised a question about mental health and substance use and if the Township can provide modular housing for the underprivileged. Staff commented that housing for people who need support is outlined in the Housing Action Plan and that modular housing is often a provincial initiative. A suggestion was raised to place modular units on development lands that are in transition as an interim use.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Social Isolation

The Committee discussed the recent presentations and potential next steps regarding social isolation.

The following actions from the 2021 Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan have been included on departmental work plans for 2022:

- Action 2G: Develop processes with community partners to ensure BC211 is regularly updated.
- Action 5D: Map and inventory community gathering places with a view of identifying gaps and opportunities.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were provided:

- How are programs and resources being communicated to seniors? Could the Township website link to an interactive map that shows locations and characteristics of community gathering places?
- There is a disconnect between services being offered and awareness of these services.
- Volunteering could be a good option for seniors who are not comfortable attending social events but would feel more comfortable having a job to do.
- The different seniors' centres and societies have brochures but there needs to be one cohesive document that lists all of the services for seniors.
- Is there a better term for "seniors"?
- Many organizations do not have communication staff - they focus on providing the services, but not promoting those services.
- BC211 needs to be improved and updated with current information. This provincial service is here to stay so it is important to focus on making it better.
- Pathways is used by the medical community to provide information on resources, but this should all be in one place such as BC211.
- The Township website needs to be easier for seniors to find information. SAC could consider a recommendation to Council to explore the possibility of having more information on the website.
- Gathering places could include parks, restaurants, community halls, recreation centres, etc. Could SAC help with defining "gathering places"?

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: April 20, 2022
Location: Langley Regional Airport
#300, 5385-216 Street
Time: 7:00 pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by M. Kramer,
Seconded by G. Wong,
That the meeting terminate at 9:00pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair