Township of Langley

Est. 1873

SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 7:00pm
Langley Regional Airport
#300, 5385-216 Street
Langley, BC

MINUTES

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

L. George, K. Mackie, L. Solomon, and G. Wong

Fraser Health Representative:
T. Murphy

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

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – April 20, 2022

Moved by K. Mackie,
Seconded by G. Wong,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the April 20, 2022 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – March 16, 2022

Moved by L. George,
Seconded by G. Wong,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee adopt the Minutes of the March 16, 2022 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Wayfinding Signage Proposal

In the 2021 Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan, wayfinding and signage are addressed as follows:

- Action 2K: Review signage standards and implement consistent age- and dementia-friendly symbols/icons (e.g. facility and parks signage).
- Action 3I: Explore opportunities to enhance wayfinding resources and signage.

K. Barry provided a presentation regarding the project to develop consistent wayfinding signage for Township facilities. Wayfinding refers to information systems that guide and enhance an individual's understanding and experience of the space. Wayfinding signage provides direction, confirmation, and information. It should be accessible for all, inclusive for everyone, and consistent across all facilities. The installation location is to maximize visibility, legibility, and tactile zones.

The pilot project for the signage will occur at McLeod Athletic Park Stadium. Based on the outcome of this project, the signage could be rolled out to additional facilities, incorporated into new construction and renovations.

Discussion ensued, and the following comments were provided:

- Evaluation is important with this project.
- Reviewing the signage used at facilities with people living with dementia could be beneficial.

D. REPORTS

1. Co-Chairs Report

Councillor Ferguson reported that Arbour Day is taking place on Sunday, April 24 at Derek Doubleday Arboretum at 1:00pm.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Adaptable Housing Policy

2022 SAC Work Plan Item #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.

Relevant 2021 Housing Action Plan action:

- 1B: Explore opportunities to enhance the adaptable housing policy.

F. WORK PROGRAM

P. Ward facilitated a discussion on the adaptable housing policy. He noted that adaptable housing has design features that improve accessibility and facilitate easy modification to enable residents with limited mobility due to age or disability to live in their homes with relative independence.
In the Township, new single detached, rowhouse, and townhouse developments must have 5% adaptable units, and new apartment developments must have 10%.

Examples of adaptable housing design features include:

- Accessible parking;
- Barrier-free circulation;
- Extra wide doorways and corridors;
- Lowered windows;
- Convenient outlets and switches;
- Spacious patios and balconies;
- Convertible kitchens;
- Accessible bathrooms housing; and
- Thoughtful bedroom design

Discussion ensued and the following comments were provided:

- Does the percentage of adaptable units need to be reviewed?
- Who else in the community should be engaged to review the policy?
- Should those who are living in adaptable units be surveyed to inquire if they know that their unit is adaptable, and if they chose that unit for a reason.
- More resources (tax credits) are needed for people who must renovate their homes to age in place.
- Can the adaptable housing brochure be forwarded with the TOL newsletter to inform the community this feature is in place?
- Is there a better marketing term for “adaptable”?
- Vision and hearing challenges should also be addressed with adaptable housing, along with access to the front door from the outside.

COUNCIL
Moved by K. Mackie,
Seconded by G. Wong,
Whereas the 2021 Housing Action Plan endorsed by Council on November 22, 2021 includes “explore opportunities to enhance the adaptable housing policy” as a short-term action (2022 – 2023);

Therefore be it resolved that the Seniors Advisory Committee recommends that Council consider increasing the proportion/percentage of adaptable units in new apartment developments as part of the recently initiated review of the adaptable housing policy; and further

That the policy review include exploration of opportunities to address the needs of people living with vision impairments, hearing loss, and dementia.
CARRIED

F. WORK PROGRAM

2. Community Gathering Places

2022 SAC Work Plan Item #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).

2022 SAC Work Plan Item #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.

To help scope the type of community gathering places that might be considered in an inventory, P. Ward facilitated a brainstorming session, with the following questions discussed:

What is a gathering place?

- Food and drink
- Sharing and talking
- Public
- Accessible
- Social connection
- Seniors' centres
- Libraries
- Recreation centres
- Eating places
- A place to connect with more than one person
- Churches
- Any type of centre
- Connecting place
- No cost
- Supported by transit
- Education centres
- Training
- Parks
- Golf courses
- The Legion
- Enjoy, meet, relax, socialize, indoor or outdoor
- Comfort, washrooms, sheltered, seating, accessible, safe
- Accepting environment
- Welcoming environment
- Sharing resources

F. WORK PROGRAM

Why are gathering places needed?

- These places are so important to prevent social isolation
- In times of chaos and disaster, these connections save lives and build resilience
- Gathering places are not necessarily physical locations

What kind of features and amenities facilitate connection in a gathering place?

- Food and beverages
- Soft lighting
- Different types of seating
- Different sections in the space
- Connecting with people
- Learning from others
- Volunteering
- Quiet
- Ability to hear what people are saying
- Nature – being outside
- Getting to know people and learning from them
- Interest in dialogue
- Intellectual discussion
- Being comfortable
- Feeling welcome
- Knowing others
- Knowing expectations before going to the gathering
- Understanding
- Warm environment – ambience, soft lighting etc.
- Facilities – kitchens etc.
- Participants willing to share
- Lower barrier – physically, socially, and financially
- Acceptance
- Friendship
- Warmth
- Atmosphere
- Commonality of interests
- Intergenerational communication– if wanted

This topic will be discussed further at a future meeting as the map and inventory project progresses.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. 2022 SAC Meeting Schedule

The committee discussed the possibility of having a meeting in July due to the shortened meeting schedule this year. Staff will survey the committee via email regarding availability.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: May 18, 2022
Location: Langley Regional Airport
#300, 5385-216 Street
Time: 7:00 pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by L. Solomon,
Seconded by L. George,
That the meeting terminate at 9:04pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair