Township of Langley

Est. 1873

SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 7:00pm
Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC

MINUTES

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

S. Baker, P. Chhina, S. Soheili, L. Solomon, and T. Taylor

Fraser Health Representative:
C. Chandra

Guest:
M. Larson, Gerontologist, B.A., PBD

In Attendance:
P. Crumb, Langley Seniors Resource Centre
K. Ludlam, Executive Director, Langley Seniors Resource Society

Staff:
A. Jensen, Manager, Strategic and Social Planning
K. Stepto, Recording Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE COAST SALISH PEOPLES

Councillor Ferguson acknowledged the Traditional Territories of the Coast Salish Peoples.

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – May 17, 2023

Moved by S. Soheili,
Seconded by T. Taylor,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the May 17, 2023 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – April 19, 2023

Moved by P. Chhina,
Seconded by T. Taylor,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee adopt the Minutes of the April 19, 2023 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan

M. Larson, consultant who helped guide the committee through creating the Dementia-friendly Action Plan, provided an overview of the plan, work-to-date, and next steps. The following information was provided:

Context:

- Dementia-friendly communities complement age-friendly initiatives by adding nuance and depth with respect to the needs of people living with dementia.
- Approximately 1,800 people living with dementia in the Township.
- Projected to be 3,200 by 2030.

Planning and Engagement Process:

- Plan is built on many years of work driven by the Seniors Advisory Committee and the Project Task Force.
- Building on research, the Task Force planned multiple engagement approaches and opportunities for residents, stakeholders, and staff.
- Key questions underpinned all engagement:
    - What could be done to make the community more friendly and inclusive for older adults and people living with dementia?
    - What could be done to better support unpaid or family caregivers?
- The Plan was presented to Council in December 2021.

Priorities:

- From the feedback received, five priorities were established:
    - Social Connection and Participation;
    - Civic Participation and Employment;
    - Communication and Information;
    - Community Support and Health; and
    - Places and Mobility.

Recommendations:

- Education to reduce stigma, myths, and misperceptions about aging and dementia;
- Mobilize the strong collaborative relationships that already exist;
- Value community assets – natural and built environments.

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Challenges:

- Reliance on technology;
- Contracts between rural and urban settings;
- Friction around responsibilities (healthcare, transportation, housing);
- Growing community;
- Resources.

Emerging Issues:

- Housing and supports;
- Climate change impact – heat event response.

Next Steps:

- Monitoring and Reporting;
- Integrate Age- and Dementia-friendly lens;
- Building on partnerships; and
- Consider resources.

Discussion ensued and the following comments were provided:

- Access to technology is an issue for many seniors. Of those who own technology, knowing how to use it and keeping it updated is also an issue.
- Some seniors must choose between paying their rent or paying for internet access.
- Could there be citywide free Wifi? More than what is provided in community centres and libraries. Some seniors cannot physically get to these locations.
- More volunteers are needed to do health-checks with seniors. Fraser Health currently offers this service, but more people are needed to make phone calls etc.
- CBC is doing a pilot project of placing heat sensors in homes of seniors to help determine their location and the temperature of the home during heat events.
- More needs to be done to protect seniors during a heat event.

D. REPORTS

1. Co-Chair Reports

Councillor Ferguson reported that he attended a Metro Vancouver Liquid Waste Committee meeting, and a Zero Waste Committee meeting.

Councillor Baillie commented on the need to look at how to make housing more affordable for first time home buyers and seniors needing to downsize.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Committee Member Updates

S. Baker requested an update on the action items in the Age- and Dementia-friendly Action Plan.

C. Chandra commented that Fraser Health currently does risk assessments on seniors, along with wellness checks.

T. Taylor commented that he assisted an individual with dementia who had driven herself from Coquitlam and was lost. He suggested that the committee discuss a potential project of supplying GPS tracking devices to seniors with dementia to place on their keys etc.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, June 21, 2023
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC
Time: 7:00pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by P. Chinna,
Seconded by S. Soheili,
That the meeting terminate at 8:45pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair