SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 7:00pm
Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC

MINUTES

Present:
Councillor S. Ferguson, Council Co-Chair

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

Staff:
A. Jensen, Manager, Strategic and Social Planning
J. Lowe, Project Manager, Parks Design and Development,
S. Maleska, Sustainability Programs Specialist, Sustainability
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 – September 20, 2023

Moved by S. Baker,
Seconded by S. Soheili,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the September 20, 2023 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – June 21, 2023

Moved by S. Soheili,
Seconded by P. Chhina,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee adopt the Minutes of the June 21, 2023 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Extreme Heat Planning Study: Langley Cool Parks

J. Lowe, Project Manager, Parks Design and Development, and S. Maleska, Sustainability Programs Specialist, Sustainability, provided a presentation on Langley's Cool Parks, a heat and shade study of six Township of Langley parks that will result in Cool Parks Guidelines. They noted that a summary report will be developed soon and presented to Council. The following information was provided:

Project Background

- Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and the Climate Action Strategy was adopted in 2021. The public placed Green Space and Ecosystems, and Health and Emergency Preparedness as first and third most important priority areas.
- "Langley's Cool Parks" received a $30,000 grant through the Provincial Emergency Preparedness Fund for Extreme Heat Risk Mapping, Assessment and Planning.

Applicable actions from the Climate Action Strategy

- Implement shading features in public parks, greenways, and active transportation corridors.
- Update Langley's Emergency Response Guidelines for extreme heat events.
- Explore enhanced opportunities for cooling outdoor spaces.
- Increase quantity of permanent public drinking fountains.
- Purchase and maintain a portable water station and misters.

2021 Heat Dome

- Record daytime temperatures over 40c.
- 23 deaths in Langley.
- Climate change increasing risk and likelihood of extreme heat events.

The Case for adapting to Extreme Heat

- Over a quarter of all 2021 heat wave deaths occurred in neighbourhoods that had poorer quality housing, lower incomes, less green space, and less recreation opportunities.
- Without action on adaptation there could be an average of 1,370 heat-related deaths in Canada per year by 2030.
- Proactive adaptation interventions like urban greening and mechanical cooling can reduce the annual cost of heat-related hospitalizations by up to 30% by mid-century.

Project Background - Parks

- The Township of Langley is home to over 600 parks covering 811 hectares.
- Parks can provide a cool refuge within suburban neighbourhoods.
- The Township is well-positioned to provide cool refuges at parks, while also cooling down nearby neighbourhoods.

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Context of Study

- Chose six parks to study from the most densely populated neighbourhoods:
  - Fort Langley Community Park (Fort Langley)
  - Walnut Grove Community Park (Walnut Grove)
  - Noel Booth Park (Brookswood)
  - Routley Park (Willoughby)
  - Denny Ross Memorial Park (Murrayville)
  - Philip Jackman Park (Aldergrove)
- An audit was done to assess the amount, type, and quality of shade, cooling, and hydration available at each park with a focus on accessibility.

Next steps

- Present Case Study and Report to Council.
- Provide a summary report to SAC.

D. REPORTS

1. Co-Chair Reports

Councillor Ferguson reported that Council will soon be discussing the budget and that several projects are underway throughout the Township.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. 2023 Work Plan - Update

A. Jensen provided the following update:

- Council approved a work plan for the Primary Care Network at their July meeting.
- An “Intergenerational Programming Workshop” in support of the Skills and Stories Project was hosted by the Township. Staff will provide an update on this project in the October SAC meeting.
- Staff are working on policy updates for Accessible and Affordable Housing which will include a Detached Suite Policy.
- Staff are also working on Inclusionary Zoning policies to propose that a number of units in new builds be provided at below market value.

2. Senior’s Tea

The committee briefly discussed the potential of a Senior’s Tea and suggested that an event held during Senior’s Week in June would be appropriate. Some

F. WORK PROGRAM

members of the committee expressed interest in being part of a working group to plan the event. A. Jensen will contact the TOL events staff to find out more information regarding this event.

3. Seniors Recreational Pass

As a follow-up to a question raised at the June 21 SAC meeting, A. Jensen reported that the Township is comparable to surrounding municipalities in regard to a Seniors Recreational Pass. The Township goes one step further by providing an additional discount for those 80+ which most other municipalities do not. A. Jensen will compile the information and present it at the October meeting.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Committee Member Updates

S. Baker reported that she attended a workshop with the United Way where they discussed collaboration with municipalities and other stakeholders.

S. Bennet reported that Inclusion Langley is doing a food drive.

L. Solomon reported that the Langley Seniors Centre has completed their Strategic Planning Process and some key findings were as follows:

- The community would like to see the Centre be more inclusive and diverse.
- The Centre should be more involved with providing information to seniors regarding how to access the different services offered in the community.
- The community would like to see the services provided in all areas of the Township, not just in the City of Langley.
- The community would like the Centre to re-focus on fragile seniors and outreach services.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2023
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338 - 65 Avenue, Langley, BC
Time: 7:00pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by S. Soheili,
Seconded by S. Thompson.
That the meeting terminate at 8:57pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair	Council Representative Co-Chair