SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 7:00pm
Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC

M I N U T E S

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

S. Bennett, P. Chhina, S. Hedao, K. Ludlam, A. Nierop, S. Tingley

Fraser Health Representative:
C. Chandra, Fraser Health

Guest:
M. Larson, Consultant

Staff:
M. Gunn, Planner
C. Quin, Recording Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES OF THE COAST SALISH PEOPLES

S. Baker acknowledged the Traditional Territories of the Coast Salish Peoples.

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – March 20, 2024

Moved by S. Bennett,
Seconded by S. Hedao,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the March 20, 2024 meeting.
CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – February 21, 2024

Moved by S. Bennett,
Seconded by S. Tingley,
That the Senior Advisory Committee adopt the minutes of the February 21, 2024 meeting.
CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

D. REPORTS

1. Council Co-Chair Report

Council Ferguson reported an update from Metro Vancouver who continue to build and strengthen relations with local First Nations, together with all levels of government and other organizations.

Community Co-Chair Report

S. Baker welcomed everyone, and SAC members were introduced.

S. Baker announced the Road Safety Strategy Stakeholder Meeting. SAC members are welcome to attend and offer feedback at next meeting.

- Thursday, March 21 at 9:00-11:30am
- Langley Airport, 3rd Floor Presentation Room

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. 2024 Work Plan Discussion

M. Larson, Gerontologist, B.A. PBD, facilitated a Planning Workshop with SAC members. Presentation was provided on table.

SAC members were tasked with identifying what is important and prioritize specific ideas to the following questions.

Individual Priority – Solo Reflection.

Which priority action item is **most** important to YOU? Why?
- Direct and/or indirect experience?
- Scale or urgency of concerns?

What **specific action(s)** did you have in mind to address the priority item?
- Start a high-level to-do list for the next 3 months.

F. WORK PROGRAM

Group discussion comments were as follows:

- Belonging – start with survey and ask seniors what their needs are.
- Housing and Homelessness – housing is a basic need for people, lots of people cannot afford today's rental market, indirect experience via work and hearing about clients.
- Specific Action – identify areas of need for housing, advocate for funding, work with developers for accessible housing (wheelchair, hand bars, etc.).
- Transportation – lack of, impacts loneliness and seclusion.
- High Level Actions – piggy-back on Road Safety Strategy to move it along, includes physical and personal safety.
- More Transportation Actions – get SAC members to notice and share ways to improve existing infrastructure, to poll family/friends/contacts.
- Housing and Homeless – it is becoming worse, and the lower mainland is becoming unlivable due to affordability, urgent across all generations, especially seniors and developmental disabilities, minimum accessibility requirements for new buildings (design and adoptability, initiatives like Happiad (house matching), aging in place supports).
- Housing and Homelessness – indirect experience, extremely urgent, find statistics on the number of subsidized units for seniors, identify possible EWR locations and operators.
- Transportation – ask to increase the number of handicap parking stalls where seniors drive to the most, medical buildings/hospitals, drug stores, grocery stores.
- Belonging – aging in place.
- Healthy Living – Community Resources.
- Action – engage with partners for housing – financial, health, suggestion Chamber of Commerce.
- Business – engage with health agencies, food services (Meals on Wheels)
- Financial - unable to afford to retire, many seniors are not in a good financial situation.
- Age Friendly – community resources, IT education, work with partners to offer in person support.

Discussions ensued determining that there are many, many concerns that need to be addressed. A few common concerns were, Belonging, Transportation and Community Awareness. The next steps to think about would be who will take the lead and what is needed to move forward? What can SAC recommend to Council to address these common concerns?

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. 2021 Census Data

M. Gunn provided on table for SAC members to review and A. Jensen or M. Gunn are available to answer any questions.

2. SAC Photo

SAC photo to be taken at next meeting.

3. Accessibility Committee

M. Gunn reported on the new Accessibility Committee, and it is now open for applications until April 15, 2024 on the Township of Langley website.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, April 17, 2024
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC
Time: 7:00pm

J. TERMINATE

Moved by P. Chhina,
Seconded by S. Hedao,
That the meeting terminate at 9:00pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair