



Age-Friendly and Accessibility Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

Type:

Select Committee

Purpose:

The purpose of the Age-Friendly and Accessibility Advisory Committee is to advise City Council on matters related to the achievement of an age-friendly and accessible City, including the following focus areas set out by the World Health Organization (“WHO”) Global Age-Friendly Cities Framework:

- Outdoor spaces and buildings;
- Transportation;
- Housing;
- Social Participation;
- Respect and Social Inclusion;
- Civic Participation and Employment;
- Communication and Information; and
- Community Support and Health Services

Composition:

The Advisory Committee shall consist of between seven and nine (7-9) voting members:

- Two to three (2-3) members of Council, appointed by the Mayor;
- A minimum of three (3) individuals over age 55 who have an active interest and awareness of the concerns of residents in their age group and persons with disability;
- Individuals who by reason of age or disability, have firsthand experience with accessibility challenges in the City;
- Individuals of any age who are involved or have experience in one or more of the eight age-friendly categories identified by the WHO.



In a non-voting advisory and support capacity:

- Chief Administrative Officer;
- Depending on the current initiatives of the Committee, the Chief Administrative Officer has authority to invite other City staff to provide support;
- Committee Clerk

Duties:

- To review the results of the “Our Merritt: Age-Friendly Action Plan” and prioritize, oversee, promote and encourage implementation of that plan;
- To develop a coordinated approach between local government, citizens, service providers, and community organizations to make the community more age-friendly and accessible;
- To encourage the community to view policies, projects and programs with an age-friendly and accessibility lens;
- To monitor funding available for age-friendly or accessibility initiatives, encourage local government or other eligible agencies to apply for this funding, and provide input on funding applications;
- To monitor changes to age-friendliness and accessibility, with consideration of the impact on people of all generations and abilities;
- To review and analyze any items directed to the Committee by Council, for the purpose of making recommendations regarding promoting age-friendliness accessibility;
- To make recommendations to community groups and organizations, including Council on a regular basis to continue age-friendly and accessibility initiatives; and
- Members of this Committee are expected to be involved in committee activities for approximately ten (10) hours per month, which may include evenings and weekends.

**Reporting:**

The Committee will arrange to report to Council, on at least a semi-annual basis, though the Committee may make arrangements to come before Council more often to meet the needs of the Committee.

Term:

The Term of Committee member appointments will coincide with the term of Council.

Meetings and Administration:

- At the first Committee meeting, members will appoint a Chair by vote.
- The Age-Friendly and Accessibility Advisory Committee will meet a minimum of four times per year, or more frequently at the call of the Chair.