

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 seven voting members, of which:

- One member of Council, appointed by Council;
- At least four individuals who self-identify that they have a disability or who support, or are from organizations that support, persons with disabilities;
- At least two individuals over age 55 who have an active interest and awareness of the concerns of residents in their age group or individuals who are involved or have experience in one or more of the eight age-friendly categories identified by the WHO; and,
- At least one member who is of Indigenous heritage.

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

- Assist the City in identifying barriers to individuals in or interacting with the organization;
- Advise the City on how to remove and prevent barriers to individuals in or interacting with the organization;
- Consult with the City in the development of the Accessibility Action Plan;
- To review the results of the Accessibility Action Plan and “Our Merritt: Age-Friendly Action Plan” and prioritize, oversee, promote and encourage implementation of those plans;
- 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 as needed.

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.

Approved by Council: April 11, 2023