



MINUTES
CITY OF MERRITT
AGE FRIENDLY AND ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

Monday, September 27, 2021
2:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL
2185 Voght Street
Merritt, B.C

PRESENT: Mayor Linda Brown
Councillor Mike Bhangu
Ms. J. Heffernan
Ms. S. Fischer
Ms. J. Gray
Ms. E. Miller

REGRETS: Councillor Travis Fehr
Ms. G. Bloom
Ms. A. Dean
Mr. C. Kurik

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. S. Smith, CAO
Mr. D. McArthur, Director of Planning and Development
Services
Ms. L. Brick, Deputy Corporate Officer
Ms. S. Moore, Economic Recovery Advisor

GUESTS: Dr. John Chenoweth, AVP Academic, NVIT
Mr. Ken Tourand, President, NVIT
Ms. A. Pryzner-Dunn, Better at Home

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Age Friendly and Accessibility Advisory Committee Minutes - JULY 26, 2021

THAT the Minutes of the Age Friendly and Accessibility Advisory Committee held on July 26, 2021 be adopted.

Moved, Seconded, CARRIED

3. STAFF UPDATES

Nil

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Nicola Valley Institute of Technology Partnership Opportunities

Ms. Judy Gray will present to NVIT guests.

Ms. Judy Gray welcomed Mr. Ken Tourand, President of NVIT, and Dr. John Chenoweth, AVP Academic, and outlined the Age Friendly and Accessibility Advisory Committee request of NVIT in seeking a partnership benefiting the seniors of Merritt.

Mr. Chenoweth advised that NVIT students in the 24-week carpentry program currently work on community projects which fit with the curriculum; these projects have included sheds, decks, sidewalks, and a community gazebo. The program is offered every 18 months with 5-10 students. NVIT aligns the program with the School District schedule to encourage students to complete their first-year trade programs while in Grades 11 or 12. NVIT is willing to include community projects for seniors in the curriculum as they fit within the program, instructors make the final decision on the suitability of projects.

The Committee inquired if the City has the ability to require apprentices on City projects. Staff noted that the City can encourage contractors to have apprentices work with them through the RFP process; however, staff hiring for individual companies is determined by the companies not the City.

4.2 Public Service Directory

Ms. Brick will provide an update on the progress of the Public Service Directory.

Ms. Brick advised that the City was not successful in the recent grant application but will continue to seek funding opportunities for printing of the directory. The Committee requested that advertising opportunities be explored as an option to fund the project.

4.3 Action Plan Review

Mr. Smith will review 5. Respect and Social Inclusion of the Age Friendly Action Plan.

Mr. Sean Smith reviewed Section 5 of the Age Friendly Action plan with the Committee.

5.1 Develop volunteer programs to combat social isolation of seniors - This is offered through the umbrella of services of Better at Home, the challenge has been with gathering volunteers who are interested in providing this service.

ACTION: Staff promote Better at Home's search for volunteers through City media channels.

5.2 Reading Buddies - School district has a one-to-one reading program. The School Board could be encouraged to host an information session at Gillis house or Florentine to advise seniors what opportunities are available for volunteering.

ACTION: Jana Heffernan to contact the School Board to ask if there is a want or need for the City to assist in recruiting volunteers for this program through City media channels.

5.3 Locate child minding facilities within seniors facilities - the Committee determined it was best left to facility coordinators to determine the individual needs of facilities.

5.4 Sharing local knowledge - the City library or museum could coordinate a speaker series for the fall or winter season. Ideas included video tape locals sharing their stories and create data base to be shared on social media.

ACTION: Staff to speak with the NV Museum Coordinator to encourage development of such a program.

5.5 Increase participation of aging residents on committees; the Committee determined this has been accomplished through the establishment of the Age Friendly and Accessibility Committee.

5.6 After school work programs - Better at Home is implementing a program to provide grocery pick up for seniors. Meal prep and delivery is not a program that is being developed by Better at Home, the Committee inquired if NVIT catering students could provide meals for seniors.

ACTION: The City list this as a possible future grant initiative.

5.7 National Seniors Day - proclaim annually and cultural session by seniors association. Consider establishing a budget for 2022 for the Seniors Centre and Committee to organize an event and explore options for approaching other organizations to develop programs for specific events.

ACTION: Bring forward to Council during the next Grant-in-Aid budget session.

5.8 Community garden in central business district - the City is exploring parklets and vertical gardens.

5. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2021.

Ms. Pryzner-Dunn advised that the Snow Removal Program has 16 seniors who have expressed interest in services for the winter season; Better at Home is contracting an additional service provider.

Staff clarified the program streams, advertising campaign and program requirements.

6. **TERMINATION OF MEETING**

The Chair declared the meeting ended at 3:44 pm.

Corporate Officer
Greg Lewis

Certified correct in accordance with Section 124(2) (c) of the Community Charter

Confirmed on the ____ day of ____, 20____

Mayor
Linda Brown