



SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 7:00pm
Nicomekl River Meeting Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC

MINUTES

Present:

S. Baker, Community Co-Chair
Councillor T. Baillie, Council Co-Chair

P. Chhina, S. Hedao, K. Ludlam, A. Nierop, and T. Taylor

Fraser Health Representative:

A. Chin

In Attendance:

P. Crump, Langley Seniors in Action

Staff:

A. Jensen, Manager, Strategic and Social Planning
K. Stepto, Recording Secretary

A. APPROVAL AND RECEIPT OF AGENDA ITEMS

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – May 15, 2024

Moved by S. Hedao,
Seconded by K. Ludlam,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the
agenda items of the May 15, 2024 meeting.

CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – April 17, 2024

Moved by S. Hedao,
Seconded by T. Taylor,
That the Seniors Advisory Committee adopt the Minutes of the April 17, 2024
meeting.

CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Indira Riadi, United Way, Regional Community Developer, Healthy Aging, Community Impact & Investment

I. Riadi provided a presentation regarding “Aging in Uncertainty: The Growing Housing Crisis for BC Seniors”. She noted that the right to adequate housing has been recognized as a basic human right internationally since the United Nations’ 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Lack of housing has a negative impact on physical and mental health. The following was noted:

- 20% of the population in BC in 2022 were seniors.
- average monthly rental cost of a one-bedroom apartment in BC in 2010 was \$871.00, and the cost has risen to \$1,432.00 in 2022.
- average rental cost of a one-bedroom in Langley in 2023 was \$1,857.00.
- 47% of senior-led renter households in Langley are spending 30% or more of their income on housing.
- 21% of senior-led renter households are spending 50% or more and are at risk of homelessness.
- a 70-year-old senior who is dependent on government benefits would be required to spend 78% of their income to rent a one-bedroom apartment.

The United Way prepared a report with the following goals and recommendations for all age-groups, including seniors:

1. Increase access to subsidized rent-geared-to-income housing for low-income people.
2. Retain the existing stock of low-income rental housing for all age groups.
3. Develop multisectoral community tables to identify common housing issues.
4. Increase the financial assistance for low and moderate-income seniors living in private market rental housing.
5. Increase access to housing with support.
6. Ensure that housing navigation supports are accessible.

The Senior Housing Working Group is a committee that was established to influence policy on affordable housing as it relates to seniors in BC. They meet every 1-2 months.

D. REPORTS

1. Co-Chair Reports

S. Baker reported that she attended the Transportation Mobility Strategy Open House and reminded SAC members to provide their input on seniors’ needs.

She further noted that she attended the Poverty Reduction Task Group meeting where they discussed digital literacy, which can be an issue for seniors. If the local newspaper disappears, it will be difficult for some seniors to receive information on emergency services such as cooling and warming centres during extreme weather events.

D. REPORTS

Discussion ensued regarding creating a brochure that provides information on how to receive assistance during an emergency, and locations of cooling and warming centres etc. The following comments were provided:

- Is this something the Township communications department could create?
- Has a brochure already been created by another agency?
- What would it cost to do a mail drop of these brochures?
- Could the brochures be included with the tax notices?

Action: Staff to look into the potential of a brochure being created and the best method for sending the brochure to seniors.

COUNCIL

Moved by S. Hedao,

Seconded by P. Chhina,

That the Seniors Advisory Committee recommends that Council direct staff to apply a senior's lens towards all emergency services response planning.

CARRIED

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Housing

A. Chin reported that a new Seniors Independent Living facility is being built in Aldergrove and that Fraser Health will have 97 units.

2. Transportation Mobility and Access

No report.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. Seniors Week Tea Parties

A. Jensen reported that Tea Parties will take place during Seniors Week on June 4 at Murrayville Community Hall and June 6 at West Langley Hall.

2. Willoughby Community Centre Open House

A. Jensen encouraged SAC members to attend the Open House for a proposed Willoughby Community Centre on May 23 from 2:30 – 9:00pm at Yorkson Creek Middle School.

I. NEXT MEETING

Date: Wednesday, June 19, 2024
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC
Time: 7:00pm

J. TERMINATE

The meeting terminated at 9:00pm.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair