



SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 7:00pm
Nicomekl River Meeting Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC

MINUTES

Present:

S. Baker, Community Co-Chair

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

Fraser Health Representative:

C. Chandra

In Attendance:

P. Crump, Langley Seniors in Action

S. Pattar, Guest

Staff:

M. Gunn, Community and Policy Planner

A. Jensen, Manager, Strategic and Social Planning

K. Stepto, 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 – September 18, 2024

Moved by P. Chhina,

Seconded by S. Bennett,

That the Seniors Advisory Committee approve the agenda and receive the agenda items of the September 18, 2024 meeting.

CARRIED

B. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Seniors Advisory Committee – May 15, 2024

Moved by S. Hedao,

Seconded by P. Chhina,

That the Seniors Advisory Committee adopt the Minutes of the May 15, 2024 meeting.

CARRIED

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Examining Aldergrove's Food System to Strengthen Food Security: Findings and Recommended Actions

M. Gunn provided a presentation on a report titled Examining Aldergrove's Food System to Strengthen Food Security: Findings and Recommended Actions. The project arose out of the work of the Let's Talk Food Aldergrove Group which was founded in 2022 and a financial partnership with Langley Meals on Wheels. The Let's Talk Food Aldergrove Group is composed of non-profits that serve Aldergrove by providing food and resources.

Aldergrove Food System Pilot Project was aimed at developing an understanding of food systems and status of food security. The objectives were to:

1. Identify and inventory food assets and resources and develop an interactive map
2. Engage community to understand issues associated with local food security and access
3. Develop recommendations in the form of an action plan outlining short-, medium-, and long-term action items

Four key findings from a series of engagement activities were:

1. Many Aldergrove residents are not accessing adequate food
2. Limited resources impede the capacity of Aldergrove Food Distribution Organizations
3. Food recovery can reduce waste and support food security in Aldergrove
4. Aldergrove residents support local food, but cost is a barrier

Five Goals of the project were:

1. Support food security across the Township of Langley
2. Increase resources and capacity for Aldergrove food distribution organizations
3. Increase procurement of Aldergrove farm products by food distribution organizations
4. Initiate and support food literacy programs across Aldergrove
5. Prioritize food recovery and waste reduction in Aldergrove

Four Pilot Projects:

1. Create additional cold storage for food distribution organizations
2. Create a campaign for local produce donations
3. Develop cooking classes for affordable healthy meals for seniors
4. Create an inventory system to better match donations with needs

COUNCIL

Moved by P. Chhina,

Seconded by S. Hedao,

That the Seniors Advisory Committee recommend that Council consider the following to support food security across the Township of Langley, as recommended in the Aldergrove food system pilot project report, with specific reference to the needs of seniors:

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Creating a Township-wide food system study to explore food security issues and solutions in all neighbourhoods within the Township of Langley;
2. Encouraging the Township of Langley to maintain and increase supports to existing and future food-related initiatives; and
3. Creating a Community Food Security Coordinator role.

CARRIED

2. Heat and Smoke

Dr. E. Newhouse, Medical Health Officer and Medical Director, Population and Public Health, Fraser Health Authority, provided a presentation regarding heat and smoke preparedness. She noted that Canada is experiencing extremely hot days for longer periods of time more than any other time during the 20th century, and it is going to increase. The following information was provided:

Heat Susceptibility – who is most at risk?:

- People who use substances
- Seniors
- Outdoor workers
- People with chronic illness
- Infants/young children
- Mental illness, particularly schizophrenia

Built environment – Risk Factors:

- Windows face south or west
- Windows on more than half of the wall space
- Being on the top floor
- Lack of air conditioning
- Lack of greenspace or cool neighbourhood spaces

Built environment – Protective Factors:

- Air conditioning or heat pump
- Neighbourhood green space
- Windows facing north

BC Heat Alert Response System:

- Two alert levels: Heat warning and Extreme Heat Emergency
- Issued through Environment Canada

Wildfire Smoke and Health:

- Protect your health by monitoring how you feel
- Prepare to have clean and cool air in the home
- Spend time in air-conditioned spaces in the community
- Be aware of and use mental health resources as needed
- Check with the Air Quality Health Index often to guide decision about outdoor activity
- Use a portable air cleaner with HEPA filters, or create a DIY air cleaner with a box fan and furnace filter

C. DELEGATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Long Term Planning and Policy Initiatives at the community level:

Policy Initiatives:

- Extending public site hours
 - Provide water
- Expand green and local shade spaces
 - Utilize climate vulnerability maps
 - Update the cooling map portal created by BC government
 - Mandating air conditioning in existing units
- Inclusion of air conditioners in new built units
 - BC Building Code changes incorporate temp
 - OCP amendment/rezoning

Long Term Planning:

- Increasing tree canopy cover at the neighbourhood level is critical
- Ensuring communal green spaces are designed for the needs of all ages
- Encouraging new developments to integrate design guideline requirements that focus on sustainability, climate action, and health.

Action: To be placed on the next SAC agenda for further discussion.

D. REPORTS

1. **Co-Chair Reports**

S. Baker reported that she attended the Seniors' Week tea at West Langley Hall in June.

She further commented on involving SAC in the search for new committee members. Staff reported that the call for applications will go out on October 1 using many marketing and communication tools including web news post, media release, slide on TV screens at Civic Facility and Recreation Centres, newspaper ads, social media posts, eNewsletter and an 8.5x11 print poster to display in libraires, recreation centres etc. A PDF of the poster will be forwarded to SAC members who can then print and display where they feel appropriate.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

F. WORK PROGRAM

1. Housing

See below.

2. Review

A. Jensen provided an update on work program items and recommendations to Council. He noted that Council passed the resolutions regarding handrails on raised structures and applying a senior's lens towards all emergency services response planning.

Affordable rental housing for low-income seniors was discussed. The committee will discuss this further and make a recommendation to Council at the next meeting after further data and statistics have been presented.

Action: To be placed on the next SAC agenda for further discussion.

P. Crump reported that a student from Kwantlen Polytechnic University has been requested to create a business plan for a potential senior's shuttle.

G. COUNCIL REFERRALS

H. OTHER BUSINESS AND ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1. salishan Place by the River Update

Memo included in package for information.

2. Poverty Reduction Task Group

Living Wage & Digital Literacy information provided in package for information.

MEETING EXTENDED

Moved by P. Chhina,

Seconded by K. Ludlam

That the meeting be extended to 9:30pm.

CARRIED

3. Seniors' Week Report

M. Gunn provided a report from the Recreation, Arts and Culture Division regarding the many activities that took place during Seniors' Week in June.

I. **NEXT MEETING**

Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2024
Location: Salmon River Committee Room
4th Floor, 20338-65 Avenue, Langley, BC
Time: 7:00pm

J. **TERMINATE**

Moved by S. Bennett,
Seconded by A. Nierop,
That the meeting terminate at 9:10pm.
CARRIED

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Community Representative Co-Chair

Council Representative Co-Chair