

Youth Advisory Committee 2019 Annual Report

May 26, 2020

Background

- March 2019: Inception of Youth Advisory Committee
- Purpose
 - Provide advice and recommendations on issues and opportunities involving or affecting youth
- Members

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Cody Hanson | Katherine Prior |
| Emilia Housch (Chair) | Sydney Shymko |
| Destiny Meilleur | Kiara Vroman (Vice-chair) |
| Council Representatives: Councillors Dave Anderson, Bill Tonita (alternate) | |

COVID-19 and the Impacts on Youth

- COVID-19 has and will continue to impact youth in the community and has a significant impact on mental health.
- The Youth Advisory Committee will continue to explore how the committee can support and represent youth in these unique times.



YAC Mandate Alignment

Becoming Canada's most livable community

Strategic Goals

- Goal 1: Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents
- Goal 7: Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

Social Framework Outcomes

- Affordability, Access, Safety, Connectedness and Inclusion



Recreation and Culture Strategy and Transit Master Plan Principles

- Access, Collaboration, Forward Thinking, Viability, Safety, Customer-focused, Reliable, Efficient

YAC Mandate Items

Mandate Letter - 2019 Items


- Recreation and Culture Strategy
- Youth Democracy
- Youth Needs and Assets Assessment
- Diversity and Inclusion

Other requests

- Community Cemetery

Mandate Item:

Recreation and Culture Strategy

| Activities | Considerations |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed Recreation and Culture Strategy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Affordability (e.g. youth and student recreation discounts) |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided input to inform implementation planning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mental health training for front-line staff |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programming for 18-25 or 16-25 year olds |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flex passes for arts and culture programs |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inter-organization meetings of rec and culture groups |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer opportunities |

Mandate Item: Youth Democracy

| Activities | Considerations |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Implemented a federal election youth forum | <ul style="list-style-type: none">4 candidates18 participantsTopics:<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Post-secondary debt✓ Climate crisis✓ Affordability✓ Access to mental health services |



Mandate Item:


Youth Needs and Assets Assessment

Mental Health Background

- 1 in 5 Canadians will experience a mental health problem in any given year
- 50% of our population will have (or have had) a mental illness by age 40
- 10-20% of Canadian youth are affected by a mental illness or disorder
- 87% increase in number of anxiety related cases and 14% increase in number of depression cases referred to Strathcona County PCN (2014-19)
- 22% of parents and 20% of youth and young adults listed mental health supports as something that is missing in Strathcona County (YNAA,2019)

Mandate Item:

Youth Needs and Assets Assessment


| Activities | Considerations |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Served as a focus group for the project | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Affordable housing-community based solutions |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reviewed and provided advice on the recommendations | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mental health training for front-line county staff |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Access to mental health services |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased weekend and evening transit service to post-secondary |

Mandate Item: Diversity and Inclusion

| Activities | Considerations |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided advice on youth engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social media and incentives to engage youth |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviewed and provided feedback on draft diversity and inclusion policy | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Diversity and inclusion training for all front-line staff |



Mandate Item: Community Cemetery

| Activities | Considerations |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provided input on the viability and desirability of a community cemetery | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support inclusive affordable option |
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Celebration of life; aesthetic of park |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incentivize other uses of space for sustainability |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accessibility for people without cars, with accessibility issues, and seniors |

Focus for 2020

- Mental health
- Effective youth engagement
- Youth Needs and Assets Assessment response
- Access to post-secondary education
- Youth event



Recommendations

Mental Health

- Mandatory mental health training for front-line county staff

Transit

- Expand services to post-secondary institutions and recreation centres
- Enhance night time and weekend service in the county and in Edmonton

Affordable housing

- County to explore the status and need for affordable housing, and
- Develop an approach to take action on affordable housing



