

2020 Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC) Annual Report to Priorities Committee

Priorities Committee Meeting
July 13, 2021

SAC Background

- March 2019: Inception of Seniors Advisory Committee (SAC)
- Purpose:
 - To provide advice and recommendations to Council on issues and opportunities related to the physical, emotional and social wellbeing of seniors in Strathcona County

2020 Members

- Robert (Bob) Leman (Chair)
- Barry Calder (Vice-chair)
- Luella (Peggy) Fleet
- Debbie Sinclair
- Marianne West
- Theresa Sarnecki (term expired Dec 2020)
- Council Representatives: Councillors Glen Lawrence, Paul Smith (alternate)
- Staff Liaison: Kristen Flath

2021 Members Added

- Larry Pope (new Jan 2021)
- Bob Small (new Jan 2021)

SAC 2020-21 Recap

Previous Reports to Priorities Committee

- 2019 Annual Report – March 10, 2020

Focus for 2020 (March 2020)

- Initiatives for supporting active and engaged seniors;
- Investigate seniors village/hub options;
- Engage with seniors groups;
- Monitor federal and provincial government directions;
- Follow up on existing recommendations

* This report covers the SAC Activities from March 2020 to June 2021

SAC 2020-21 Recap

- Conducted 4 public surveys through SCOOP – Health and Wellness; Seniors Housing; Community Involvement; Transportation
- Engaged other local seniors organizations in August (Antler Lake Seniors ; Ardrossan 55 Plus; Josephburg Seniors; Linking Generations; Seniors United Now; Sherwood Park 55 Plus; South Cooking Lake Seniors)
- Identified gaps in seniors programs and services offered in Strathcona County
- Investigated Seniors Centres in the Edmonton Region to see why so many 55+ are travelling to Edmonton for programs and services
- Compiled research data highlighting a Seniors Centre is needed in Sherwood Park

Summarized to Priorities Committee- 2020 Mid-Term Report – Oct. 20, 2020

SAC 2020-21 Recap

Following up Mid-Term Report and Priorities Committee feedback:

- Consulted with Subject Matter Experts on Seniors Needs and Seniors Centres
- Conducted extensive research and gap analysis on Seniors Centres in the region and offerings in Strathcona County/Sherwood Park
- Highlighted all SAC activities at Annual Summit with other Advisory Committees
- Presented Seniors Hub findings to Priorities Committee January 26, 2021
- Well supported by Council (9-0) to further explore Seniors hub – Renovate/retrofit or possible new build options
- Admin requested extension from Q2 (June 2021) to Q4 to prepare report

January 2021

January – Two motions result from the January 26, 2021 Seniors Hub Report to Priorities Committee

- Two motions by Council:
 - February 2, 2021 - THAT Administration provide regular updates to Priorities Committee, commencing at the end of Quarter 2 regarding progress with respect to Priorities Committee motion 2021/ P4 on ongoing work on the Seniors Hub Concept, including the results of ongoing stakeholder communication and research.
 - January 26, 2021 - THAT the January 26, 2021 Seniors Advisory Committee report, Seniors Hub Concept, be referred to Administration for a report, by the end of the fourth quarter of 2021, on options for establishing a seniors hub, including potential collaboration opportunities with stakeholders and options to combine with planned or existing County facilities or sites; and that the report include information on the implications, costs, and feasibility of the identified options.

February – March

- Orientation session for the two new SAC members
- SAC reps met with Mayor, Chief Commissioner and 55 Plus Club discuss Clover Bar Lodge, GARC and other potential retrofit/repurposed facility opportunities
 - New County dedicated position would be to coordination of the seniors Hub concept
 - Participants will meet again shortly to progress discussion
- SAC Subcommittees formed. Develop work plans as per mandate for 2021-2022 for Seniors Hub, Indoor Fieldhouse/new build; Seniors affordable housing; Technology and isolation; Community safety and well-being; Pandemic impacts
- March – Introduced to newly appointed resource for seniors hub project – Considerably broader scope is described with a focus on a much wider range of policies and issues. Project lead met with SAC reps for information and perspective
- No further activity or input on repurpose or retrofit of possible Seniors Hub Facilities or Indoor Fieldhouse engagement
- 2 SAC Members resign

April 2021

- Seniors Supports and Services Project Work Plan presented to Priorities Committee – April 20 – SAC input not reflected in Work Plan – first time seen
- Received job description for new resource position - no mention of seniors hub in goals or objectives
- April 26 SAC meeting – Dr. Haidong Liang; Executive Director Westend Seniors Activity Centre and Gerontology expert explains how seniors and their needs are different, and Seniors Centre integral to making Strathcona County Canada's most liveable community.
- Sue Hutton and Teresa Koslo from RPC explain recreation and culture programs and services currently available to seniors in Strathcona County
- No further activity or input on repurpose or retrofit of possible Seniors Hub Facilities or Indoor Fieldhouse engagement
- SAC Workplans and Status Report issued, waiting on input, engagement to proceed

May 2021

May 10 – Met with Mayor and Senior Administration to discuss numerous issues including mandates, working roles and relationships, work plans, Seniors Hub, communication. SAC members believe misalignment in messages is an issue, workplans depend on cooperation and involvement with Administration. All agree communication could improve

May 10 – SAC Meeting

- Fieldhouse - Council and administration confirmed the Fieldhouse detailed design is not far along and will be engaging stakeholder groups.
 - Senior Supports Project entering Phase 2
 - 2020 Annual report to Priorities Committee – July 13, 2021
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- 3 Additional SAC members resign

June 2021

June – 4 new members appointed, and attend orientation – Carley Dobko, Lynn Olenek, Carol Parsons, and Ishvarial Thaleshvar

June 14 SAC Meeting

- New members updated on Seniors Supports and Services Project and overview of the past year activities of the SAC, including work on Health and Wellness; Seniors Housing; Community Involvement; Transportation and Seniors Hub
- As only two original SAC members remain – the 2020 Annual report will be issued to cover activities prior to the new Board members joining
- Some of the new members were not in support of the recommendations going forward in this report

The Seniors Service and Supports Project and, “options for establishing a Seniors Hub” are not aligned in scope or overall objectives.

Two Different Projects - Outcomes

Seniors Services and Supports Project

- Defines Seniors and Strathcona County programs and services as 65+
- Worthwhile project to understand what currently exists in Strathcona County
- Broad range of scope; - looks at everything existing for seniors services in Strathcona County, recreation, wellness, transportation, etc.
- County Staff on project – no seniors representation
- Strong focus on educating “seniors” and the public on what’s already available
- Historical references to Community Hub – much different focus than seniors
- Senior Centre “public engagement” focus
 - SCOOP and “Seniors Engagement Conversation” still reinforce 65+
 - Delivering programs and services from existing multiple locations not a seniors hub
 - Senior/55+ facility opportunities not defined to the public; or existing facilities explored

Key Deliverable – A “What We Heard Report”

Two Different Projects - Outcomes

A "Seniors Hub/Centre Project"

- Currently exist all major centers in Alberta – "Older Adults" members 55 + not 65+
- Identifies opportunities and options for establishing a seniors hub - retrofit, repurpose, new build c/w associated costs and feasibility consistent with Council Motion
- Research indicates "must haves" – identify other needs with a positive focus on the benefits of a senior focused facility would bring to the public - Fieldhouse example
- Improve or consolidate services specifically targeted for seniors in one location
- Operational structure starts with Council support for a facility. Typical organization (Society, etc.) forms to drive grants, sponsorship, donations, community involvement
- No commitment of funds of any sort at this stage. Not hiring even an external consultant at this time, decide next steps based on information

Key Deliverable – Report delivered to Council based on the Jan. 26 SAC Seniors Hub Concept report on options for establishing a seniors hub and to collaborate with stakeholders. Include options to combine with planned or existing County facilities or sites and that the report include information on the implications, costs and feasibility of the identified options.

June 2021

This Council's Decision on what they want to see for Older Adults in Strathcona County and the vision to make Strathcona County the most liveable community in Canada

- You are engaged and knowledgeable of “both Projects”
- Both are legitimate projects – one is progressing, the other hasn't or won't without your support
- Given your knowledge of the information presented, this decision should be made by this Council

Please revisit the original motion and direct Administration to prepare a report containing opportunities for establishing a Seniors Centre/Hub in Strathcona County, complete with the implications, costs and feasibility of the identified options for a re-purpose/retrofit of identified existing County facilities, or new build options.

