

**VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS
MINUTES OF THE AGE-FRIENDLY COMMITTEE**

DATE: Thursday, July 18, 2024

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Council Chambers, Village Office
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

IN ATTENDANCE: Deputy Mayor Leo Facio (Chair)
Alison Douglas
Audrey Johnstone
Laura Lanfranchi
Lise Reimer
Karen Seraphim

Amanda Graham, Corporate Officer
Christy Ovens, Community Services Manager

ABSENT: Peggy Arndt
Sonya Boizard

1. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Facio called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.
Deputy Mayor Facio acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

2. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

Late item from Laura Lanfranchi – add “List of Vulnerable Residents Requiring Evacuation Support” as Item for Discussion 5(e)

Alison Douglas – passed around a list of potential activity ideas

Late item from the Corporate Officer to change Item for Discussion 5(b) – Update on Agassiz Harrison Community Services Society Presentation to “Agassiz Harrison Community Services Society Presentation”

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Alison Douglas
Seconded by Audrey Johnstone

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
AFC-2024-07-01

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Laura Lanfranchi
Seconded by Lise Reimer

THAT the minutes of the June 20, 2024 Age-Friendly Committee Meeting be adopted.

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**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
AFC-2024-07-02

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) District of Kent – Manager of Recreation / Culture & Projects, Skylar Gormley

Skylar Gormley brought copies of the Spring/Summer 2024 Leisure Guide and provided an overview of District of Kent programming and facilities. He highlighted some challenges with recreational and fitness programming, including a shortage of instructors and inadequate flooring. Additional considerations include wages and the cost of equipment. He highlighted some senior specific programs, including Heart Health (referral based) and upcoming low impact fitness classes. He discussed the District of Kent's mandate to offer programming within their municipal boundaries but suggested the possibility of doing a demonstration class in the Village. 23% of the Leisure Centre's user base are Harrison Hot Springs' residents, with 51% of total residents being registered. The largest age group of users are between 50 and 65 years of age, with 65+ being the second largest group. He discussed some other low-cost program options, including a monthly activity card that people can check off and/or a scavenger hunt that people can redeem for prizes. He brought forward the plans for the new Lets'emot Regional Aquatic Centre and discussed current challenges with the Ferny Coombe pool.

(b) Agassiz Harrison Community Services Society – Eunice Jasso and Kim Pretzer

Eunice Jasso, Food Bank Coordinator and Community Connector presented some of the programming AHCS offers. The Community Connector is a new program from Fraser Health and United Way for seniors 55 and over experiencing isolation. The program helps the participant develop a wellness plan that includes exercise, socialization and meals. The Food Bank has moved to a shopping model to allow participants to select culturally and diet appropriate foods. The Food Bank shopping day is once a week and participants can come once per month. Eunice advised that AHCS will be challenging communities to compete with one another to encourage food bank donations, and the group with the most donations will win a pizza part. She further reported that most users of the Food Bank from Harrison and Agassiz are single people and seniors. Donations of food that has not met expiry are accepted everyday.

Kim Pretzer, Social Meals Coordinator and Seniors' Support spoke specifically about senior programming. Better at Home is a program offering light housekeeping, transportation, friendly visitor and meal planning. There is about a two month wait for this program. The Drive4u program is eligible to anyone needing assistance going to medical appointments, shopping, the airport and some limited social events. AHCS is currently low on drivers but expecting an increase in the fall. The Seniors' Lunch takes place at the Legion in Agassiz, and twice a year at the Community Central Church in Harrison. The Committee discussed the possibility of having the lunch at Memorial Hall. Kim further reported on the mobile and stay Senior's Café program in partnership with the Fraser Valley Regional Library. AHCS is always looking for more volunteers, including for the Food Bank and Drive4U in addition to society members.

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(c) Budget

The Committee discussed the \$5,000 budget allocated to the Committee in the Village's Financial Plan. Alison Douglas provided a list of ideas including card/board games, crafts, dancing, yoga and calligraphy.

The Committee discussed hosting an Age-Friendly Open House event on a weekend or weekday evening. Community partners would be invited to have booths and a volunteer drive. A survey would be conducted to gather input on events or programs that the public would like to see to supplement the online survey conducted by the Village earlier this year.

Moved by Alison Douglas
Seconded by Karen Seraphim

THAT Council direct staff to organize an Age-Friendly Open House in late September at Memorial Hall.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
AFC-2024-07-03

Moved by Laura Lanfranchi
Seconded by Audrey Johnstone

THAT Council direct staff to develop a chair yoga pilot program over six weeks in Memorial Hall to be funded from the Age-Friendly Committee Budget at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.

**CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY**
AFC-2024-07-04

(d) Age-Friendly Grant

The Community Services Manager advised that there is a new call for applications for the Age-Friendly Grant with up to \$15,000 in funding available for project implementation. The Committee discussed the following highlights from the 2015 Age-Friendly Action Plan:

- Supporting increased transportation
- Examining and expanding information on Agassiz Harrison Community Services
- Intergenerational activities, including building model trucks and planes, a kite festival, and supporting the Community Garden
- Let downs on pavements, benches and rest areas

The Committee agreed by consensus to provide a letter of support for the grant application through the Chair.

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(e) List of Vulnerable Residents Requiring Evacuation Support

Laura Lanfranchi advised that she had brought this topic forward to the Emergency Support Services Coordinator, but they are not able to easily produce a list of vulnerable residents requiring support in an evacuation with their GIS program. It was suggested that AHCS might be a good starting point. The Community Services Manager provided some information on what evacuation procedures in the Village would be. There are resources that are available from the Province including window signs to indicate whether a resident needs help in the case of an emergency. The Community Services Manager will reach out to a group of emergency management contacts and bring more information back to the Committee. The Committee discussed having an Emergency Information display at the Age-Friendly Open House.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

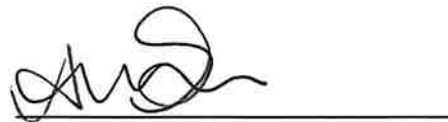
Moved by Alison Douglas
Seconded by Laura Lanfranchi

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY
AFC-2024-07-05



Leo Fazio, Chair
Age-Friendly Committee



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer