

# **Youth Advisory Committee**

## **2020 Year End Report to Council**

### ***Message from the Chair***

This last year has very much been a test of commitment and drive for not just the Youth Advisory Committee but the community at large. We started 2020 with new members, new ideas and hit the ground running in our first few meetings of the year. We identified our annual priorities and subsequent subcommittees of Mental Wellness, Communication and Transportation with outlined plans of what each wanted to accomplish for the year. Unfortunately, we then went into a period of uncertainty and confusion due to COVID-19, but that did not stop the group of amazing youth that makes up our committee.

Everyone tried their hardest to stay engaged in the community and keep on track with our annual priorities, even if they had to work on it from their own home. Our Mental Wellness Subcommittee members joined the jack.org chapter for the City of St. Albert. Our Transportation subcommittee provided input and feedback to the Transit department on the new bus routes and future planning. Our Communications Subcommittee created presentations for schools and attended some classes online to promote and get our recruitment numbers up. While everything we did had the added challenge of being online and just harder to do in general, our members never gave up. I am so proud of the group that we went through 2020 with.

Looking towards 2021, I am excited for what this year will bring for YAC. We accomplished so many of our goals we set last January and with our highest membership yet, this coming year is sure to be something special. We have already had one meeting and all the new members have brought some amazing ideas and an eagerness that is so refreshing and exciting. We lost some long-time members in the last year and I want to say thank you to them for everything they have done. I know that they will succeed in what ever they choose to do, and we wish them well on their journey. In a few short years we have really built something through this committee and there are no signs of slowing down.

Thank you,

Kyle Ferguson



## 2020 Highlights

- Provided feedback to the Recreation and Parks Department on the proposed Parks Bylaw changes
- Mental Wellness subcommittee members joined the Jack.org Chapter
- Discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on youth and looked at what we can do to help
- Created a detailed promotion plan for the YAC to create both an online presence and a community presence
- Provided input to Amplify on what youth are looking for, and how can we help each other
- Increased our Instagram following by a large number and created a posting schedule to keep interaction with the community high
- Members presented to schools through online platforms, mainly to increase our membership numbers and encourage youth to get involved in the community
- Provided feedback on the City's Posted Speed Limit Review and members attended the focus group on our behalf
- Had a joint meeting with the Seniors Advisory Committee and discussed many topics that impact both of our demographics, such as transit, low income, and mental health. We also voted to amend the bylaw so there is one scheduled joint meeting per year.
- We created a Cultivate the Conversation page to gather feedback from youth and/or parents in an official City format rather than just through word of mouth and social media
- Provided input to Library Staff on what programs interest youth and they shared ideas they have for online programming during COVID



## 2021 Plans

- Finalize and publish the Cultivate the Conversation Page;
- Build a relationship with more schools to build a base in which to get feedback from and the larger youth perspective;
- Continue to grow the YAC Instagram page;
- Continue to work with groups like Amplify, BAM, and Jack.org to support youth in St. Albert;
- Collaborate with the Seniors Advisory Committee to identify shared concerns and bring that to Council; and,
- Work on projects of interest that pertain to the four subcommittees that were established: Mental Health and Disability Accessibility, Communication, Post Secondary & Education, Environment and Recreation.

*\*Photo below was taken pre-COVID*

