

Minutes of a Meeting of the Youth Advisory Committee held remotely via Zoom on the above date at 6:35 p.m.

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**Present:**

K. Ferguson  
L. Kachkar  
C. Hajek  
S. Lavrinenko  
J. Rushton  
M. Jackson  
K. Love  
C. Fregene  
R. Fitzner  
T. Harvey  
K. Melancon  
Councillor Watkins

**Absent:**

L. Brooks

**Staff:**

J. Becker, Youth Asset Development Coordinator, Community Services

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

The Chair declared the agenda adopted as presented.

**ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The Chair declared minutes of March 4, 2020 adopted as presented.

**AFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON YOUTH AND FUTURE IMPACTS**

Committee members provided examples of mental and physical health affects and financial strain due to:

- long periods of isolation, boredom and not seeing friends
- Spending too much time with siblings and parents (increased arguments and tension)
- Many youth are getting laid off (they often lack experience and have less stable jobs)
- Lack of accessibility to mental health resources
- Excessive government spending and debts will affect youth for decades to come
- Computer screens lack personal connections
- Uncertainty with school (will school resume in September? How will that look?)
- Difficulties with online classes, lacking motivation to get school work completed

- Interviews for coops and internships are on hold
- Some community members are not social distancing which is causing stress for individuals, particularly those with disabilities and/or added challenges
- Many youth from the LGBTQ community do not have supportive families and they miss their external supports that are currently not available
- Some youth in the community have insufficient amounts of food at home due to economic hardship
- The City website is not that helpful or easy to navigate to find information
- Difficulties in setting up doctor appointments and applying for AISH
- Many youth are discouraged from applying for University this Fall
- Issues and frustrations surrounding honesty with writing online exams
- Financial strain and uncertainty with securing summer employment

## **SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

### Communications:

- Update our Instagram page to include resources
- Poll will be started to gather feedback from youth on the impacts of COVID-19
- Increased number of followers on Instagram

### Mental Wellness:

- The subcommittee will look for opportunities to support youth in St. Albert with mental wellness including sharing resources
- Members joined the Jack.org St. Albert Chapter

### Transit:

- Ridership is down significantly
- Interested in further developing our ideas from brainstorming session
- Create better dialogue and increased communication with Transit

## **COUNCIL UPDATE- COUNCILLOR WATKINS AND YAC COUNCIL LIAISONS**

Councillor Watkins provided an update on items of interest including:

- City Facilities shutdown in accordance with health standards
- Extension given to pay taxes
- Plans to reduce spending and assess which projects will be postponed and which will proceed

## **ROUND TABLE**

- The committee provided information on items of general interest.
- L. Kachkar has sent an email to committee members with details on the Municipal Plan (final draft); he is requesting input from the committee.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

*Kyle Ferguson*

Kyle Ferguson (Dec 5, 2020 14:56 MST)

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CHAIR

*Renee McDonald*

Renee McDonald (Dec 4, 2020 14:27 MST)

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DESIGNATED OFFICER