

Minutes of a Meeting of the Youth Advisory Committee held remotely via Zoom on the above date at 6:33 p.m.

Present:

K. Ferguson
C. Hajek
K. Love
T. Harvey
L. Kachkar
L. Brooks
J. Rushton
M. Jackson
K. Melancon

Absent:

C. Fregene
S. Lavrinenko
R. Fitzner
Councillor Watkins

Staff:

K. Bell, Community Cultural Coordinator, Community Services
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 June 3, 2020 adopted as presented.

FUTURE PLANNING FOR AMPLIFY

K. Bell gave a detailed overview of the Amplify program; including background information of how it started seven years ago, explained the role of the steering committee and what has been offered during the Amplify Festival. K. Bell also noted the additional activities for youth during the year such as Open Mics, Poetry Slams, Ted Talks, the Illuminate Event and Fashion Show. K. Bell asked the Youth Committee for suggestions on:

- How to move forward with less funding
- Which key components of Amplify should remain if there are program cuts
- Is there overlap with any other youth programs in St. Albert

K. Bell promoted the Amplifying Ideas event taking place in October 2020. The Youth Committee will consider participation in this event.

JOINT YOUTH / SENIORS COMMITTEE MEETING

The committee discussed the best timing for a joint meeting with the Seniors Advisory Committee. It was agreed that October 21, 2020 at 6:30pm would be a feasible date for committee members to attend.

YOUTH COMMITTEE PROFILES UPDATE

- K. Love created a google form with a series of questions for committee members to answer, K. Love received 5 submissions to date. K. Ferguson suggested that 2-3 profiles be posted on Instagram per week.

REOPENING OF SCHOOLS DISCUSSION

Committee members provided input on this topic, their concerns and observations are as follows:

- It will be an adjustment for high school students having 4 semesters and only 2 classes per semester; 3 straight hours of the same class could be challenging
- There are so many uncertainties; classes will be in person but could switch to online at any point of the school year
- Difficult for students with ADHD, tough to focus at home as it is not a school setting, no clear boundaries of school and home
- Small Universities will meet in classrooms, labs will be in person at larger universities although the majority of the classes will be offered online. Depending on your learning style this could pose difficulties
- Wearing masks can be tough for the hearing impaired who read lips
- How will physical distancing work with classrooms of 40 students?
- There will be many adjustments and new ideas tried, be flexible
- Reminder to seek assistance from support staff at the school and to contact administration if there are safety concerns
- Some committee members thought that cancelling diploma exams next year would be a good option due to the added stress with COVID, other committee members highlighted the importance of continuing with diploma exams as a measurement tool

COUNCIL UPDATE - Councillor Watkins and YAC Council Liaisons

In Councillor Watkins absence, K. Ferguson provided an update on items of interest including the following:

- The City is doing everything possible to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 within our community. Wearing a face covering is one of the many important

elements in keeping each other safe. Masks will be mandated in public areas in the City of St. Albert.

- In a special ceremony held on August 5, 2020 in downtown St. Albert, Mayor Heron announced the name of the City's newest facility as the *Nakî Transit* Centre and Park and Ride – previously referred to as the Campbell Road Park and Ride Transit Centre.

ROUND TABLE

- The committee provided information on items of general interest.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Kyle Ferguson

Kyle Ferguson (Dec 5, 2020 14:57 MST)

CHAIR

Renee McDonald

Renee McDonald (Dec 4, 2020 14:30 MST)

DESIGNATED OFFICER