

Youth Council Monthly Approved Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2023
7:00pm – 8:00pm
Hybrid: TEAMS and Lang Rm City Hall

In Attendance

Ava Bendick
Colby Mask
Kristi Wahl, City Liaison
Sorrow Donkin
Sparrow Leanord

Regrets

Ceb Delaney
Councillor Jib Abitoye

1.0 Welcome, Call to Order, Land Acknowledgement

Call to Order Motion by Colby Mask called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm. Seconded by Ava Bendick. CARRIED.

2.0 Approve Agenda

MOTION by Colby Mask to approve the agenda. Seconded by Sparrow Leanord. CARRIED.

3.0 Approve Meeting Minutes

MOTION by Colby Mask to approve the September Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Sparrow Leanord. CARRIED.

4.0 Fort Saskatchewan Food Bank, by Kassandra Gartner, Executive Director

- a. The Fort Saskatchewan Food Gatherers Society is a registered Charity and follow the Society Act, established in 1985. There are 2.5 staff.
- b. Started as a program that helped individuals and families just during Christmas but found that people were asking for and needed help throughout the year.
- c. It was 100% volunteer run until a few years ago.
- d. In 2017 usage tripled with the economic downturn, currently experiencing an increase in usage.
- e. The new site has allowed for everything to be in one space rather than renting storage spaces and finding a space to do the Christmas hampers and toys.
- f. Believe in treating clients with respect and dignity.

- g. Currently are doing 310-320 hampers a month. An individual can only access the food bank every three weeks; unless they are unhoused, living rough or living in a trailer than they work with the individual to find food that meets the clients needs.
- h. 44% are youth (17 and under) that are accessing the food bank.
- i. \$150000 was spent on purchasing food last year that was not donated; in the past that money has gone to purchase perishable items, last year was the first year they have had to use some of the funds to purchase staple items.
- j. The food bank also offers personal care products, cleaning supplies and pet food.
- k. The food bank is a food rescue/food recovery location that picks up food from various locations 7 days a week.
- l. Hosts a shopping day that clients can shop various shelves for items such as salad dressing, spices, vegan items, chips, pop, candy, juice, etc. Every shopper gets two bags to fill.
- m. The Food Bank directly supports local schools, BGC, Families First, Fort Black Society, Multicultural Society.

5.0 City of Fort Saskatchewan Council Update

- a. Councillor Abitoye was not in attendance.

6.0 Youth Advisory Committee Update

- a. YAC has reached out to the schools and started to work on fundraising opportunities to raise money to purchase items that the schools can provide students in need. One community event the group will be hosting is Jumanji on November 20th at Fort Cinema.
- b. YAC will be in attendance at the Youth Swim on October 7th which is a Jaws theme, it is a Loonie swim, 7-9pm for 10+.
- c. YAC will also be at Fort Cinema beginning of November for the ERAS Tour film selling Taylor Swift bracelets.

7.0 Youth Council Blog

- a. Youth Council members need to provide a statement to Kristi for the Blog on why they joined Youth Council and what they hope to achieve.

8.0 Youth Council Action Items

- a. Policing Committee collaboration on Safer Community.
 - i. Presentation to Policing Committee on October 19th School Conversations results.
 - ii. Power point creation on Thursday, October 12th.
- b. Engaging Parks and natural spaces.
 - i. Update on ideas for next year on Park Activation and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in parks and natural spaces.
- c. Transportation within Fort Saskatchewan and regionally.
- d. Recreational

9.0 Mental Health and Doctor Access

- a. Mental Health and Doctor access in Fort Saskatchewan is difficult to attain. Doctors accepting new patients are extremely limited and access to long term counselling is limited, especially without coverage.

10.0 Youth Council Regional Conference

- a. Sturgeon County is hosting on April 27th in Calahoo.
- b. Youth Council has a budget for workshops and conferences and this will be one covered through the budget.

11.0 Meeting Time Change

- a. Colby Mask brought forward a **MOTION** to increase the length of Youth Council meetings to 6:00 – 8:00pm. Seconded by Ava Bendick. **CARRIED.**

12.0 Guest Speakers

13.0 Roundtable

- a. Sparrow Leanord spoke on behalf of the Fort Saskatchewan Indigenous Society asking Youth Council if they would be interested in helping on November 24th with the Light Up the Night Event.
- b. Ava Bendick asked about the changes to the Terms of Reference, the changes requested by the Youth Council are still under review with the Legislature Services.

14.0 Next Meeting

November 1, 2023

15.0 Adjournment

MOTION by Colby Mask to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Seconded by Ava Bendick. **CARRIED.**