

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mandate:

To advise and make recommendations to Council on all matters with respect to youth recreational and social issues in the Town of Slave Lake. This will provide a communication link between the youth of Slave Lake and Slave Lake Town Council. The needs of the youth shall be addressed with recommended action to Council to enrich the quality of life and well-being for the youth in the community.

1.0 Role of the Youth Advisory Committee

- 1.1 To advise Council in regard to issues which will have an impact on Slave Lake's youth.
- 1.2 To keep Town Council informed of important matters facing Slave Lake's youth.
- 1.3 To act as a positive advocate for youth and youth initiatives.
- 1.4 To promote positive meaningful activities for youth in partnership with Community agencies.
- 1.5 To actively seek input from youth on matters delegated to the Committee by Council.
- 1.6 To provide leadership experience for youth.
- 1.7 To set out clear goals for the Committee for the term.

2.0 Organization of the Committee

The Committee should be composed of young people within Slave Lake who demonstrate a strong commitment to the Terms of Reference. A cross section of individuals should attempt to be chosen in order to bring to the Committee relevant technical and professional expertise, as well as strong advocacy, communication and organizational skills. Members can be anywhere from ages 12 to 18.

- 2.1 Vacancies for citizen appointments will be advertised as per the Town's procedures for Committees of Council.
- 2.2 Committee members will be appointed by Council.
- 2.3 The Committee shall have a minimum of six members (one Council representative, one representative from High Prairie School Division, one from Living Waters School Division, and a minimum of four and maximum of seven youth community members) with a maximum of nine members in total.
- 2.4 The term of a Committee Member is two years.
- 2.5 Additional members may be appointed throughout the term.
- 2.6 One member will be appointed by vote of the committee at the first meeting of each term to Chair the meetings for that term. At this time, they will select a vice-chair for the same duration. These appointees must not be School or Council representatives.
- 2.7 Administrative staff shall act in an advisory manner to the committee and the role of staff liaison shall be fulfilled by a Town of Slave Lake employee.

3.0 Meetings

- 3.1 The Committee will hold a minimum of four meetings a year with a maximum of one meeting per month.
- 3.2 The date and time of the regular meetings will be established at the first meeting of each term.
- 3.3 Meetings will have a formal agenda.
- 3.4 Agendas and information packages (including previous meeting minutes) will be sent electronically to Committee Members prior to each meeting.
- 3.5 A majority of Council appointed Committee Members will constitute quorum for the transaction of business.

4.0 Role of the Chair

The Chair is responsible for ensuring the smooth and effective operation of the Committee and its' roles. This will include responsibility for:

- 4.1 Calling the meetings to order.
- 4.2 Encouraging an informal atmosphere to encourage the exchange of ideas.
- 4.3 Creating an agenda in consultation with the Secretary and staff liaison.
- 4.4 Chairing the meetings to ensure business is carried out efficiently and effectively.
- 4.5 Acting as spokesperson.
- 4.6 Representing the Committee on other committees when necessary.
- 4.7 The Chair shall conduct meetings in accordance with the Town's Procedural By-Law.
- 4.8 In the absence of the Chair, these responsibilities will be undertaken by the Vice-Chair.

5.0 Role of the Secretary

The Secretary is responsible for ensuring a complete up-to-date record for the Committee. The Secretary will be the staff liaison for the Committee.

- 5.1 In liaison with the Chair, arrange date, time, and venue for meetings.
- 5.2 In liaison with the Chair, set agendas and circulate agendas to the members two business days prior to the meeting.
- 5.3 Circulate draft minutes to the members.
- 5.4 Keep a complete up-to-date record of the committee minutes.

6.0 Role of Members

Membership on the Committee is a position of responsibility and requires a strong commitment to the Terms of Reference.

Committee members are required to:

- 6.1 Attend all regularly scheduled meetings. Members shall notify the Chair and Secretary if they are unable to attend a meeting.
- 6.2 Adhere to the provisions set out in the Policy for Boards and Committees of Council. If a member has an unexplained absence of three or more consecutive meetings, then their seat on the Committee shall be declared vacant.
- 6.3 Review all information supplied to them.
- 6.4 Prepare information for use in the development of materials for the Committee.
- 6.5 Promote the role of the Committee and its' decisions made.
- 6.6 Offer input to Committee reports to Council.
- 6.7 Attend training as required to effectively perform their role as a committee member.

7.0 Role of Town of Slave Lake Administrative Staff

The Town of Slave Lake, by its nature and purpose, affects and is affected by many different administrative departments. Assistance will be provided on an as required basis from various departments. Administrative staff will be responsible for carrying out the following functions with respect to the Committee:

- 7.1 Act as an information resource.
- 7.3 Assist the Committee in its' reporting to Council.
- 7.4 Provide correspondence to the Committee.
- 7.5 Responsible for maintaining accurate and up-to-date Committee records and providing minutes to Council.

8.0 Reports to Council

The Committee may advise and make recommendations to Council in accordance with its' role. Reports may be submitted as follows:

- 8.1 Verbally by a Council representative.
- 8.2 Written Report from the staff liaison and presented by the Chair or the designated representative to Council.

An annual report will also be submitted and presented to Council at the beginning of each year outlining the Committee's accomplishments in the previous year.