



VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS Age-Friendly Committee Minutes

DATE: Thursday, July 24, 2025
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Council Chambers, Village Office
495 Hot Springs Road, Harrison Hot Springs, BC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Fred Talen, Chair
Alison Douglas
Hannelore Gidora
Audrey Johnstone
Marlene Reimer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Judith Barron
Karen Seraphim
Liz Webber

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Administrative Officer, Tyson Koch
Corporate Officer, Amanda Graham
Community Services Manager, Christy Ovens (via Zoom)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Talen called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mayor Talen acknowledged the traditional territory of Sts'ailes.

3. INTRODUCTION OF LATE ITEMS

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Audrey Johnstone
Seconded by Marlene Reimer

THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED
AFC-2025-07-01

5. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Alison Douglas
Seconded by Audrey Johnstone

THAT the Age-Friendly Committee Meeting Minutes of June 19, 2025 be adopted.

MOTION NOT VOTED ON

Moved by Alison Douglas
Seconded by Hannelore Gidora

THAT the Age-Friendly Committee Meeting Minutes of June 19, 2025 be adopted as amended by adding under item 6(e) – Community Meeting Space “plus insurance” after the words “\$60/month”.

CARRIED
AFC-2025-07-02

6. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

(a) Letter of Support for Seniors’ Housing Project

The Committee discussed the fact that assisted living is not supported by the funding stream for this proposed project. Although the project is for independent living with a focus on seniors, there would be the option to bring in support. The Village would provide the land via a long-term lease and potentially waive or reduce fees, and the building would be operated by Agassiz Harrison Community Services. The people who would live there would have the option to bring in support, but it is not intended to be assisted living with meals and cleaning provided. Council meets tomorrow to discuss this application and potentially provide a letter of support but there are still going to be negotiations and specifics further into the process. The Committee discussed the potential for job creation as a result of this project, and questions arose as to whether current Harrison Hot Springs residents would get priority.

Moved by Audrey Johnstone
Seconded by Alison Douglas

THAT the draft letter of support be approved and sent to Agassiz Harrison Community Services.

CARRIED
AFC-2025-07-03

(b) Community Meeting Space (Marlene)

The Committee discussed the need for a meeting space for residents to gather and socialize during the long, dark winter months that is not tourism based. Examples of such a space include the Harrison Mills Community Hall and the Friendship House in Agassiz. Provincial resources indicate that enabling seniors to maintain their independence, quality of life, health, connections, and social and educational interests are important for aging in place. The Committee discussed potential places, such as private meeting spaces in local hotels, the elementary school gym, the church and Memorial Hall.

Discussion ensued surrounding the rental fees, large size and operating costs of Memorial Hall. It was noted that the Harrison Mills Community Hall and the Friendship House are owned and operated by not for profits who are able to access the locations and provide any services they would like to. Village programming is currently grant dependent, as there are no budget or staff resources currently allocated to programs like chair yoga or line dancing. It was clarified that if a group of residents wants to do yoga in the park, there would not be a need for a permit or insurance. However, revenue-generating events do require a permit.

There was consensus that the Committee would like to make Council aware of this need and request that they continue to look for opportunities in the future.

Moved by Chair Talen
Seconded by Marlene Reimer

THAT staff draft a letter to Council summarizing recent discussions on this topic and outlining the need for a community meeting space.

CARRIED
AFC-2025-07-04

(c) Annual Work Plan/Budget

The Corporate Officer advised that with the updated Council Procedure Bylaw, Committees may now wish to develop annual work plans for Council's consideration and incorporate any budgetary items at that time. The Committee agreed to consider ideas for the next meeting, which will include a brainstorming session for what the Committee would like to achieve in 2026.

The Age-Friendly Bingo prizes have arrived, but staff will wait until September once the summer events have concluded before initiating the project.

7. ADJOURNMENT

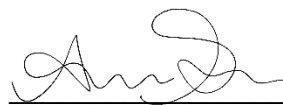
Moved by Alison Douglas
Seconded by Marlene Reimer

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

CARRIED
AFC-2025-07-05



Mayor Fred Talen, Chair
Age-Friendly Committee



Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer