



The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

Date	March 7, 2017	Report No:	CL-05-17
Directed To:	Mayor and Members of Council	Attachments:	
Department:	Council Services	Policy References:	
Prepared By:	Brenda Andreatta Director Council Services/Clerk		
Subject:	Youth and Seniors Advisory Committees		

RECOMMENDATION:

That the option proposed by the Director of Council Services/Clerk wherein Focus Group meetings would be held twice per year to hear input from the senior and youth populations of the community BE APPROVED.

or

That the Director Council Services/Clerk BE REQUESTED to report back with Terms of Reference for a Senior Advisory Committee and Youth Advisory Committee.

REPORT:

Councillor Akpata presented the following Notices of Motion at the November 22, 2016 Council meeting respecting the establishment of Youth and Seniors Advisory Committees:

Whereas The Town of LaSalle is an inclusive community that recognizes the contributions of youth;

And Whereas the contributions of young people are valued and are important in shaping the future of our community;

Be it resolved that the Town of LaSalle strike a Youth Advisory Committee in order to elicit input from the youth of LaSalle, and that it be open to youth between the ages of 12-21 that reside within the municipality;

And be it further resolved that the committee include up to 2 members of council, and that the established requirements for Town of LaSalle committees be applied.

Whereas The demographics of Canada have changed and as of September of 2015 Statistics Canada indicates that more than 1 out of 6 persons in Canada are now over 65 years

And Whereas LaSalle is an inclusive community dedicated to ensuring the growth of an accessible community by enhancing programs, services and facilities for all residents.

And Whereas LaSalle is committed to treating all people in a way that allows them to maintain their dignity and independence.

Be it resolved that the Town of LaSalle strike a Seniors Advisory Committee in order to elicit input from the Seniors of LaSalle, and that it be open to citizens 60 years or older that reside within the municipality.

And be it further resolved that the committee include up to 2 members of council, and that the established requirements for Town of LaSalle committees be applied.

Council adopted resolutions 463/16 and 464/16 respectively to refer both Notices of Motion to administration to provide a report outlining the Terms of Reference, cost and composition of the committees.

Youth Advisory

There are several examples of youth advisory committees in the municipal sector. Generally, the committee's mandate is to provide advice to Council and Administration on issues affecting area youth thereby providing youth with a voice in the community while fostering a positive image for young people. Age group eligibility varies among the examples with most starting at age 13 and ending anywhere from 18 to 21. Councillor Akpata has proposed eligibility for youth between the ages of 12 and 21 years.

Terms of reference for the committees vary as do their composition. It is common to establish the composition as being representative of students of elementary and secondary schools within the municipality and as such, all school boards should be represented. In addition, members should be from a diverse background.

Seniors Advisory

This committee exists in a number of municipalities and typically serves in an advisory capacity to council and staff on matters that impact the quality of life of seniors in the municipality. Membership typically consists of a cross-section of seniors, representatives of seniors groups and agency representatives. The eligible age for membership differs with some commencing at age 55, 60 or 65. Councillor Akpata has suggested a minimum age of 60 years.

Resources/Cost

The establishment of two new committees will require significant administrative resources. The act of creating agendas and minutes is a routine one. Attending meetings, responding to requests for information, creating reports, making arrangements for events, acting as liaison between members of both committees and administration and Council will require many more hours of administrative time. As youth and seniors advisory committees do not "match up" directly with services provided by the Town, there is no natural reporting structure or staff dedicated to carrying out the mandate/wishes of the committees. For this reason, the undersigned envisions that several members of Administration may need to attend committee meetings in a resource capacity and spend time following up on initiatives.

Costs associated with onboarding members to the committees include: council remuneration at \$2000/per member per committee annually, police clearance/vulnerable sector screening cost of \$20 per applicant, postage, meeting refreshments, newspaper advertisements.

If seniors and youth are recruited to sit on committees, there is an expectation that their ideas for projects, services and events will be followed through. There are costs associated with all of them, both direct and indirect or in-kind. No budget funds have been approved in the 2017 budget for any costs associated with these committees.

Before providing details of composition and terms of reference, administration is proposing an alternative for Council to consider rather than the immediate formation of seniors and youth advisory committees. Youth and seniors could be invited to attend twice yearly Focus Group meetings. Meetings specific to youth interests could be held in May and once in the fall. The timing would enable interested students to attend prior to the end of the school year and again when classes resume in the fall. Focus Group meetings would be scheduled so as not to conflict with class time.

The purpose of the Focus Group meetings would be to gauge the interest of youth in the community in bringing forward ideas and determining level of commitment. Council would then have an idea as to budgetary funds needed to accomplish projects and be able to plan for them in the future. This approach may also lend itself to more easily identifying priorities for the two groups and how much interest actually exists in the community. A similar meeting would be extended to seniors with a view to hearing what interests seniors in the community. One of the advantages of this option is that the feedback received can be reviewed to determine whether existing agencies/organizations in the community (ie. Friendship Club, LaSalle Youth Hang Out) already offer services or programs similar to the ideas brought forward at the Focus Group meetings. The municipality should not be in the business of duplicating "social services" offered by others. It would be prudent to examine whether the Town should be in the business of offering additional programs, services and/or events vis a vis the services it is mandated to offer.

Should Council wish to proceed with the formation of advisory committees as opposed to the Focus Group route, a report will be brought back to Council.

Ben Andueak

Reviewed by:							
CAO	Finance	Council Services	Public Works	DSI	Culture & Rec	Fire	