

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

Advisory committee name:	Seniors Advisory Committee
Reporting to:	Community Services and Housing Standing Committee
Date of formation - expiration date:	February 22, 2016
Meeting frequency:	Minimum of 3 times per year
Staff lead:	Manager of Community Development
Other staff liaison:	Manager of Housing Manager of Citizen Services Manager of Parks and Open Spaces
Council member:	Councillor Bruce Tilley

2. PURPOSE

The Seniors Advisory Committee provides information and advice to the Community Services and Housing Standing Committee on matters related to older persons that intersect City policies and programs, as referred to it by committees of council, or as initiated by the committee. Specifically the committee will:

- Provide the perspective of older persons on civic matters that affect their daily lives, i.e. transportation, parks and open spaces, etc.
- Provide advice and perspective to the City on its policies, services and programs that pertain to seniors, e.g. housing, recreation, taxes, etc.
- Identify gaps/barriers and suggest solutions to participation of older persons in all aspects of city programming.
- Provide a forum for dialogue among older persons, seniors’ organizations and the City on matters relevant to the three parties.

Advisory committee recommendations to a standing committee of council will occur in the manner defined by these terms of reference to best support City Policy. The advisory committee has no decision making authority and is advisory only. The purpose of the Older Persons Advisory Committee in relation to specific City policies, plans and strategies is as follows:

Advisory Committee Relationship to Strategic Plan:

- Neighbourhoods build our city – safe and secure neighbourhoods, improved neighbourhood level services, increase access to type and range of housing, develop parks and places for people.
- A city for all seasons –develop a winter city strategy, support year round active transportation, year-round active leisure and recreation facilities and programs, promote active and healthy living
- Fiscally responsible – develop appropriate user fees
- Responsive and Progressive – create a culture of engagement, become a welcoming and inclusive city, build social and demographic factors into policy-making.

Applicable Legislation/City Bylaws:

- NA

Other City Plans, Guides or Strategies:

- Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan, 2014
- Recreation and Parks Master Plan, 2008
- Affordable Housing Business Plan, 2014
- Seniors Discount Policy
- World Health Organization Age-Friendly Design Plan

Other Distinct Deliverables and Considerations:

- The Committee will be consulted on any city public engagement processes where getting the perspective of the older persons demographic is identified in the plan.
- The Committee, working with City staff, will identify distinct opportunities to engage older persons in civic matters, this may include forums or other events.
- Work with City staff to review rationale, criteria and process for Senior of the Year Award.

- Review age friendly City template to ensure it is consistent with the mandate of the Committee/link to City plans.

3. MEMBERSHIP AND COMPOSITION

3.1 COMPOSITION

The Advisory Committee will be comprised of a minimum of 9 and maximum of 11 total members from the following stakeholder groups:

3.1.1 Public Members

Committee Chair

Advisory committees are chaired by members of the public. One advisory committee member will be elected as chair by the committee every two years. The public member chairing a committee will have responsibility for ensuring the committee carries out its work as per the terms of reference.

Public Members

The Committee will be comprised of no more than 5 residents who are at least 55 years of age or older, or their caregivers. Public members are volunteers and will receive no compensation for participation. Preference will be given to residents of St. John's.

Organizations

The Committee will be comprised of no more than 5 persons serving as organizational representatives who are connected to the interests of older persons in the community. Each organization may also appoint an alternate representative to attend committee meetings in the event that the primary member is unable to attend.

Nexter Representation: In accordance with the Next Up! Program, at least one Nexter (public member, aged 19-35) will be appointed to each advisory committee. Nexter representatives must be between the ages of 19-35 at the time their application is submitted.

Subcommittees: When deemed necessary, the Committee may strike a working committee or subcommittee to deal with specific issues or deliverables. Subcommittees must have at least one advisory committee member. Composition may also include other members of the public and organizational representatives. Subcommittees shall meet as an independent group, reporting to the advisory committee on specified meeting dates, or as deemed necessary by the committee Chair or Lead Staff.

3.1.2 Staff and Council Members (Ex-Officio Members)

Lead Staff

A Lead Staff will be appointed to the advisory committee by the appropriate City executive or senior management. Other staff support/attendance may be requested by the Lead Staff where required.

City Clerk

The City Clerk will have representation on each advisory committee.

Council

Each advisory committee will have one council representative acting as advisory committee spokesperson/champion.

3.2 LENGTH OF TERM

Public Members

Unless otherwise indicated, the advisory committee term of appointment is two years. Recognizing the value of experience and the need for continuity, incumbents who are willing to seek reappointment may signify their intent to serve an additional year, for a total of three years. In some cases members may be encouraged to provide guidance, expertise and attend in a bridging capacity following the end of their term.

Organizations

The role of an organization will depend on its relationship with the committee and ongoing ability to represent interests of a stakeholder group relevant to the purpose of the advisory committee. Where appropriate organizations will be required to alternate appointed representatives following the completion of a three year term.

Lead Staff

A review of Lead Staff role will occur every three years as part of the advisory committee review.

Cooling-off Period (Former City Staff and Council)

There will be a cooling-off period of two years for Council and Staff once they are no longer associated with the City. Setting term lengths with a cooling-off period will promote gradual turnover, ensuring a constant balance between new members and former staff or council.

Additional Considerations:

- Public members may not serve on more than one advisory committee at a given time.
- Midterm Appointments: When an appointment is made which does not coincide with the beginning of a term (i.e. to fill vacancy) the partial term (i.e. less than two years) shall not count towards the maximum length of service or number of terms on the Committee for the appointee.
- Unless otherwise expressed in this Terms of Reference, the limit on length of advisory committee membership for any public member is three consecutive years.

Exceptions to the above terms are as follows: when an insufficient number of applications have been received; if a particular area of expertise is indispensable and there are no other suitable replacements; if the advisory committee would suffer from a lack of continuity (i.e. more than half of all members are replaced at once); if directly related to the Advisory Committee’s purpose as defined in its Terms of Reference.

4. ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND REPORTING

4.1 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

As a municipal advisory body, Advisory Committee roles include:

- Advising and making recommendations to standing committee(s) of council, in a manner that will support City policy matters relevant to the committee's defined [Purpose](#).
- Providing resident and organizational based expertise.
- Working within given resources.

Shared Member Responsibilities**Conduct**

Members shall strive to serve the public interest by upholding Federal, Provincial and Municipal laws and policies. Advisory committee members are to be transparent in their duties to promote public confidence. Members are to respect the rights and opinions of other committee members.

Preparation

Meeting agenda and accompanying materials will be circulated electronically one week prior to all meetings; members are expected to review all distributed materials prior to meetings. Alternate material distribution methods to be made available upon request.

Agendas

- Agendas to require focus with clear parameters for content and alignment with terms of reference/purpose.
- Agendas will be finalized one week before advisory committee meetings.
- Items and accompanying material that are received after the agenda has been prepared and distributed (but prior to the meeting) will be moved to the following meeting's agenda at the discretion of the City Clerk.
- All public members are to submit potential agenda items and related material to the Committee Chair and Lead Staff person for consideration.

Attendance and Participation

Active participation in advisory committee meetings is expected of all public members. "Active participation" may refer to both meeting attendance and/or engagement. An effort should be made to attend meetings in person or remotely. Members who do not actively participate in more than 3 consecutive meetings without justified absence may be retired from the committee at the discretion of the City Clerk.

Committee members who wish to request a leave of absence for an extended period of time (3+ months) may submit such a request to the City Clerk. Previously submitted applications may be used to fill temporary vacancies created by approved leaves of absence.

Voting

Council members and individuals from City Staff are ex-officio and therefore non-voting.

4.2 MEMBER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.2.1 City Staff

Lead Staff

- To act as a liaison between the committee and the City; linking across departments on issues relevant to committee work.
- Ensure the committee is informed about City policy, procedure and available resources in reference to specific agenda items, and provide procedural and/or technical advice to assist committee where appropriate.
- Request additional staff support/attendance as needed.
- To develop agendas in cooperation with the Chair and City Clerk's Office for distribution.
- Incorporate input from the advisory committee into ongoing City work where appropriate (e.g. projects, staff updates, publications)

Other Staff Liaison

- The work of Other Staff Liaisons intersects the purpose of the advisory committee and therefore they may be required to participate.

City Clerk

- To be responsible for legislative functions related to advisory committee operation, establishment, review, and term amendments. This includes leading or supporting day-to-day committee activities such as the co-ordination of meeting schedules and the external/internal distribution/posting of advisory committee agendas and reporting forms (i.e. meeting notes/minutes).
- Facilitate and support the recruitment and appointment process through assisting in the development of "Notice of Vacancy" contents while ensuring all relevant forms and supporting documentation are completed and received.
- In adherence with the terms of reference, the Office of City Clerk and Office of Strategy and Engagement will oversee committee selection with input from relevant departments.
- The Office of the City Clerk will work with Lead Staff members to ensure new members receive orientation.

4.2.2 Public Members

Chair

- The presiding officer of an advisory committee will be referred to as "Chair." Advisory committees shall elect, from among their voting members, a Chair at the end of the prior chair's term. An advisory committee member shall not serve as a Chair for more than three consecutive years except in extenuating circumstances (see Term Limits).
- Uphold advisory committee processes and functions in accordance with all terms presented, maintaining productivity and focus. This includes ensuring committee members' conduct themselves in a professional manner.
- If appropriate, with support from the City Clerk and Staff Lead, the Chair will help build and coordinate a work plan for the advisory committee.

- Prepare and submit agenda items and accompanying materials to the City Clerk (i.e. act as a conduit for all communications between public members and the City Clerk).
- Where appropriate, support the Lead Staff and/or City Clerk in fulfilling committee requirements related to reporting processes (annual presentations, written reports, FAQ's etc.).
- Assist in the development of content for Notice of Vacancy documents.
- Review advisory committee terms of reference with City Clerk and Staff Lead at the end of each term and be prepared to propose amendments as needed.

Public Members

Public members are expected to advise City decision making; applying personal skills, knowledge and experience in carrying out functions commensurate with the defined purpose of the committee. Roles to include: active participation in committee meetings; electing a Chair; representing select committee interests in the community, and engaging with residents and experts when appropriate.

Organizations

In addition to the responsibilities held by all public members, organizational members will also be conduits to/from their respective organizations. As such they will be expected to provide insight on behalf of organizational stakeholders, and update their members on the work of the committee.

4.2.3 Council

Council members have a focused role. One council representative will sit on each advisory committee as the Advisory Committee Champion. In accordance with the role of advisory committees (i.e. to advise council through standing committee meetings), and to promote and enhance the committee’s advisory function, council representatives will be encouraged to attend meetings as observers, and to act as a liaison between the committee and council.

In cases where an item of committee business (as detailed in a given meeting agenda) would benefit from having more than one council representative attend, it will be the responsibility of the Chair and/or Lead Staff to inform council.

4.3 REPORTING

The Older Persons Advisory Committee shall report through the Community Services and Housing Standing Committee to City Council; however, depending on the issue, reports may be directed to another standing committee where appropriate.

Standardized Reporting Process:

- The advisory committee Lead Staff, Committee Chair and City Clerk will work to complete an *Advisory Committee Reporting Form* following each committee meeting.
- The Lead Staff, or a designate, will submit *Advisory Committee Reporting Form* contents, along with any other Committee updates, to its reporting standing committee as required. Following reporting to the standing committee, *Advisory Committee Reporting Forms* will be posted to the City of St. John’s website.

Notes:

- The use of additional reporting methods is the responsibility of the Lead Staff and/or City Clerk, who will seek assistance from the Office of Strategy and Engagement regarding communications. Additional reporting will depend on the nature of a given advisory issue.
- Council to be kept informed of committee activities through formal reporting and through the appointed Council Champion.
- Organizational representatives will be encouraged to report to (i.e. maintain open communication) with their respective organizations regarding committee work.
- An annual Advisory Committee Event will be held for all advisory committee members.

5. COMMITTEE RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

5.1 RECRUITMENT, VACANCIES, AND APPLICATIONS

Recruitment practices will be consistent for all advisory committees. When new members are required a “Notice of Vacancy” will be prepared by the City Clerk and distributed through City communication channels by the Office of Strategy and Engagement. Additional communications opportunities may be identified by relevant departments/committee members. This document will include general information regarding committee purpose, the terms of reference and a link to the Advisory Committee Application Form.

A vacancy on an advisory committee occurs when a member resigns, vacates a position or when their resignation is requested by the advisory committee Chair. Vacancies may occur at: the date of resignation; the date the member ceases to be qualified; the date the committee Chair declares the position vacant due to lack of attendance or incapacitation.

All applicants must complete an Advisory Committee Application Form which may be downloaded from the City website, or obtained by visiting/calling Access 311. Applications will be made available in large print format upon request and may be submitted electronically (built in submission), via mail, by phone, or in person to the attention of the City Clerk’s Office.

5.2 ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION

Eligibility

Appointments to City of St. John’s advisory committee’s will be made providing adherence with the following eligibility requirements:

1. Preference will be given to residents of St. John’s. Exceptions may be made by the selecting body.
2. Organizational representatives must be based in or serve/do business within the City of St. John’s.
3. Organizational representatives are not required to be residents of St. John’s.

Commitment to Equity and Inclusiveness

The City of St. John’s is strongly committed to equity and inclusiveness. In selecting advisory committee members the City will aim to design processes that are transparent, accessible, and free of discrimination and to seek to remove barriers for disadvantaged groups including: young people (ages 18-30), senior citizens, women, Aboriginal people, members of LGBTQ community, persons with disabilities, and members of visible minorities.

Selection Criteria

In addition to eligibility requirements, an applicant’s specific skills and experience will be important factors in committee selection. While all who meet the Eligibility Requirements outlined above are encouraged to apply, applicants with demonstrated participation in groups or initiatives with goals relevant to an advisory committee’s purpose will be preferred. Some other considerations pertaining to general selection criteria include: past professional and volunteer experience, ability to perform required tasks, and complementary skills, or competencies possessed. Those who are selected to serve on City advisory committees will be notified by email. A committee handbook and other relevant information will also be provided to successful applicants.

6 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The City of St. John’s recognizes that engagement between the City and its citizens is an essential component of an effective municipal government. The City views public engagement as a process – one that facilitates dialogue with the right people, using the right tools, at the right time on subject areas of mutual interest.

In accordance with the City of St. John’s [Engage! Policy](#), the role of the Inclusion and Accessibility Advisory Committee in the spectrum of engagement will fall within the realm of “consultation”. This means that City advisory committees will provide a forum for the public to provide specific feedback on relevant City matters; helping to inform decision making. As such City of St. John’s advisory committees will be based on the principles of commitment, accountability, clear and timely information, and inclusiveness.

Advisory committees are only one of the ways to engage with the City. Where applicable the City will consider the use of other tools to gather perspectives and input. For more information on public engagement in the City of St. John’s or to find out how to get involved or learn about what’s coming up, check out the engagement page on the City’s website. You can also check out the City’s [Engage! St. John’s](#) online engagement platform and connect with us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

7 OTHER GOVERNANCE

7.1 REVIEW OF TERMS

Taking into account recommendations from the Committee Chair and Council Champion, the City Clerk and Lead Staff will review Advisory Committee Terms of Reference documents every two years. The purpose of this review will be to ensure that the operations and function of each committee are still aligned with its defined purpose (i.e. the advisory committee remains relevant to City Plans). A review template will be used to maintain consistency. Through this review process amendments to advisory committees will be proposed and adjustments made to Terms of Reference as required.

7.2 MEETING AND SCHEDULES

Advisory Committees are to formally meet no less than three times and no more than six times on an annual basis. Meetings will typically take place before corresponding standing committee meetings. The exact frequency of advisory committee meetings will be determined by the Chair, Lead Staff, and City Clerk.

To meet the committee meeting quorum, 50% + 1 voting members must be present.

Unless otherwise specified (generally one week prior to a meeting) advisory committee meetings shall be held at City Hall and shall be closed to the public.

7.3 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND CONFIDENTIALITY

Conflicts of Interest

A conflict of interest refers to situations in which personal, occupational or financial considerations may affect or appear to affect the objectivity or fairness of decisions related to the committee activities. A conflict of interest may be real, potential or perceived in nature. Conflict of Interest may occur when a Committee member participates in discussion or decision-making about a matter which may financially benefit that Member or a member of his/her family, or someone with whom the Committee member has a close personal relationship, directly or indirectly, regardless of the size of the benefit.

In cases where the Committee agenda or Committee discussions present a conflict of interest for a member, that member is required to declare such conflict; to abstain from discussion; and remove himself/herself from the meeting room until the agenda item has been dealt with by the Committee.

Confidentiality:

All Committee members are required to refrain from the use or transmission of any confidential or privileged information while serving with the Older Persons Advisory Committee.

Staff Liaison Name:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Chair Name:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

City Clerk Name:

Signature: _____

Date: _____