



The Corporation of the Town of Fort Smith

Policy GV302

Powers and Duties of the Community Services Advisory Board

1. Statement of Policy

The Town of Fort Smith wishes to establish powers and duties of the Community Services Advisory Board.

2. Purpose of Policy

Establish the terms of reference, roles, responsibilities and expectations of the Community Services Advisory Board.

3. Definitions

- a. *Advisory Board* – group of individuals appointed to a board by Council to provide advice and make recommendations regarding the programs and services provided within a specific portion of the overall Town mandate;
- b. *Committee Meetings* – the regularly scheduled meeting(s) of Committee of the Whole and the Standing Committees in accordance with the Council Procedures Bylaw.
- c. *Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB)* – Community Service Advisory Board for the Town of Fort Smith composed of appointed individuals to provide advice and recommendations to the Community Services Standing Committee and Council regarding the services delivered in the areas of recreation facilities, programs and services.
- d. *Community Services Standing Committee* – a standing committee appointed by Council to handle issues related to services provided under the Community Services departments of the Town.
- e. *Council* – Mayor and Town Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Town of Fort Smith.

- f. *Council Meeting* – the regularly scheduled meeting(s) of Council in accordance with the Council Procedures Bylaw.
- g. *Council Representative* -- A member of Council appointed to the Advisory Board to act as a Council liaison and fill the role of Council Representative outlined below.
- h. *Culture* – For the purpose of the board, culture shall be understood to include literacy, language, arts, culture, heritage and related fields.
- i. *Director of Community Services* – employee of the Town that is responsible for leading and coordinating the Community Services departments.
- j. *Fort Smith* – the Municipal Corporation of the Town of Fort Smith.
- k. *SAO* - Senior Administrative Officer of the Municipal Corporation of the Town of Fort Smith
- l. *Town* – the Municipal Corporation of the Town of Fort Smith
- m. *Town of Fort Smith* – the Municipal Corporation of the Town of Fort Smith

4. Terms of Reference

The Council of the Town of Fort Smith appreciates the value of Advisory Boards. In many instances, within the mandated services, provided by the Town of Fort Smith, the advice and recommendations of the Advisory Boards increases the level of expertise and consideration given to particular services.

In each case, Advisory Boards are composed of individuals with a passion and willingness to share their talents and skills to assist the Council and staff of the Town to deliver services of the highest quality and efficiency.

All Advisory Boards will have a Council representative to act as the liaison between the advisory board and Council. In addition, there will be a staff person assigned to each advisory board to fulfil the role outlined below.

5. Role of the Council Representative

Council values the advice, insight and recommendations that our Advisory Boards offer to assist in the provision of services in the most effective and efficient manner while still addressing the needs and concerns of the community.

In an effort to ensure that there is effective two-way communication, Council has deemed that a Council representative should serve with each of the Advisory Boards to perform the following functions:

- Provide insight to the Advisory Board on the policies, bylaws and other governing regulations that might impact their recommendations;
- Provide information on Council’s vision, goals, long-term strategies and general direction to ensure that recommendations from the boards will be in accordance with these;
- Provide information relative to available funding, timelines and priorities of Council;
- Act as the voice of the Advisory Board at Committee of the Whole and Council meetings to ensure that the actions and recommendations of the Advisory Board are being provided to Council at the appropriate time to ensure Council awareness, adoption and support;
- To provide Council with an understanding of the rationale for recommendations from Advisory Boards when necessary.
- Council representative will report back to Council through one of the following methods:
 1. Minutes as information items.
 2. The budget process.
 3. Attendance by the Chair, or other Board representative in his/her absence, at Regular Council Meetings to make recommendations on behalf of the Committee to Town Council.
 4. The Town Council Representative’s report during the “Councillor Reports” item at Regular Council Meetings.

6. Role of Staff Support

The Town of Fort Smith appreciates the time that community members commit to our Advisory Boards and feels it is important to ensure that a member of staff take responsibility for the implementation of the recommendations provided and approved by Council.

To ensure that this occurs, a staff support person assigned to an advisory board is responsible for:

- Providing information on current programs, staffing availability, reasonable time frames, etc.
- Listening and understanding recommendations and offering suggestions, information and other relevant information as applicable;
- Accepting responsibility for implementation of recommendations following appropriate approvals.

7. Powers and Duties of the Advisory Board

The Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB) will follow the latest version of the Advisory Board Bylaw in matters of board composition, terms of office, conduct of meetings, budget and finance related matters.

The Recreation Advisory Board (RAB) shall act as an advisory body to Council and its Community Services Standing Committee and liaise with the Senior Administrative Officer or designate regularly.

The CSAB shall advise Council with regards to matters affecting recreation facilities, programs and services as they pertain to the Town of Fort Smith, as well as matters related to culture as previously defined. Specifically, the Board and its working groups shall have the following powers and duties:

- Actively promoting recreation, culture, and healthy, active living in the community;
- Be consulted and make recommendations on all matters of policy affecting recreation facilities, programs and services;
- Be consulted and make recommendations on all matters of policy directly related to the development, maintenance and use of cultural facilities and services;
- Provide advice on the implementation of the Community Services Master Plan;
- Provide input and make recommendations regarding the development of a broad range of cultural programs and services that will provide opportunities for all segments of the population;
- Provide input about the strategic planning on the development of a broad range of recreation facilities, programs, events, initiatives and services for the Town of Fort Smith;
- Provide input about development of a broad range of recreation programs and services that will provide opportunities for all segments of the population;
- Provide assistance to staff identifying people in the community who would actively support and assist with recreation programs and services in the community;
- Encourage community engagement to actively support, assist, and participate in cultural programs, services and events.
- Liaise and provide advice on the development of partnerships and collaborations with other stakeholders in the town and territory.

Lynn Napier, Mayor

Keith Morrison, SAO