

# Town of Arnprior Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Council Chambers - 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior

- 1. Call to Order
  - a) Introduction of Members
  - b) Election of Chair and Vice Chair
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. Land Acknowledgement
- 4. Adoption of Agenda
- 5. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest
- 6. Adoption of Previous Minutes
- 7. Presentations / Delegations
  - a) Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk (Page 1-22)
  - b) Accessibility Projects with Parks and Recreation, Graeme Ivory, Director of Recreation (verbal update)
  - c) Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, Kaila Zamojski, Town Clerk (Page 23-43)
  - **d)** Age Friendly Community Planning, Robin Paquette, CAO (Page 44-51)
- 8. Matters Tabled / Deferred / Unfinished Business
- 9. Staff Reports (by Department)
- 10. New Business
  - a) Roundtable Discussion
- 11. Adjournment

The agenda is made available in the Clerk's Office at the Town Hall, 105 Elgin Street West, Arnprior and on the Town's <u>website</u>. Persons wishing to receive a print item on the agenda by email, fax, or picked up by hand may request a copy by contacting the Clerk's Office at 613-623-4231 ext. 1818. The Agenda and Agenda items will be prepared in an accessible format upon request.

Full Distribution: Council, CAO, Town Staff, Committee Members

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# Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

Kaila Zamojski Town Clerk March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024



### Background

- Council adopted its <u>2024-2027 Strategic Plan</u> in November 2023 to provide its priorities and to guide the municipality over the next three years.
- Key Priorities:
  - 1. Community Wellbeing
  - 2. Corporate Efficiencies & Financial Sustainability
  - 3. Economic Development
  - 4. Environment
  - 5. Growth & Asset Management



### **Mandate**

- The Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee will provide Council with sound advice and recommendations to Council related to the accessibility of Town programs, services and facilities for all users.
- They will also serve to promote and facilitate a barrier-free and age friendly community by assisting in the removal and prevention of barriers faced by persons with disabilities and the creation of programs and services that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors of all ages.



### Goals

The Advisory Committee's goals and objectives are to provide advice and make recommendations to Council on:

- Promoting and facilitating a barrier-free and age friendly Arnprior through active community engagement and through raising issues, concerns and opportunities for improvement.
- Developing and Implementing a Diversity and Inclusion Strategy in coordination with the Culture & Diversity Advisory Committee.
- Facilitating opportunities to educate and celebrate persons with disabilities and age friendly community members through identifying resources and public education.

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### Goals

The Advisory Committee's goals and objectives are to provide advice and make recommendations to Council on:

- Reviewing and developing new policies and procedures with an inclusionary lens to eliminate barriers to Town programs and services for persons with disabilities.
- Reviewing and monitoring the development, implementation and effectiveness of the Town's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan.
- Providing recommendations to Council and staff to improve accessibility at Town facilities through regular audits.



### Composition

- Each Advisory Committee is comprised of up to seven (7) members including:
  - Two (2) Members of Council
  - Five (5) Community Members
- As completed at the beginning of this meeting, each advisory committee must:
  - 1. Select a Chair from among its members. The Chair can be any member of the advisory committee.
  - 2. Select a Vice Chair who must be a Member of Council.



### Meeting Schedule

- Meetings are held monthly on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM in Council Chambers.
  - The Advisory Committee does not meet in the months of July, August, January, and February.
  - If the regular meeting date falls on a holiday, the meeting is shifted to the next business day.
- Annually, Council adopts a Calendar of Meetings that outlines the Council and Committee meetings for the upcoming year.
  - Provided electronically and in paper copy on desks



### **Meeting Dates**

Meeting dates for the 2024 calendar year are as follows:

- Wednesday, March 6th, 2024
- Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024
- Wednesday, May 1st, 2024
- Wednesday, June 5th, 2024
- Wednesday, September 4th, 2024
- Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024
- Wednesday, November 6th, 2024



### Role of the Chair

- Preside over committee meetings to ensure that everyone has a fair opportunity to share about items on the agenda.
- Provide guidance and leadership to the committee in the completion of its mandate.
- Ensure that conduct is respectful and the rules of procedure are followed in consultation with the Vice Chair and Recording Secretary (as needed).



### Role of the Vice Chair

- Preside over meetings in the absence of the Committee Chair.
- Provide support to the Chair (as needed).
- Provide reports back to Council on committee business, in conjunction with the second Member of Council.



### **Committee Members**

- Attend and actively participate in all advisory committee meetings.
  - Contribute time, knowledge, skill and expertise to fulfill the Committee's mandate, goals, objectives and responsibilities.
  - Contribute to the development of the committee's workplan, agendas and discussions during meetings/ outside of meetings.
- Attend Town of Arnprior and other community events and initiatives where appropriate and available.
- Conform to all Municipal policies and procedures, including the Council Code of Conduct (i.e. respectful conduct, conflict of interest, principle of committee solidarity, etc.).



### Terms of Reference

The full <u>Terms of Reference document</u> for all Advisory Committees is publicly available on the Town's website.

## Questions?



· where the rivers meet · Page 13

### Town of Arnprior Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

### Membership

- The membership of each committee shall be a set number as determined by Council in the attached Appendix for each Advisory Committee and confirmed at the time of its appointment.
- Each committee shall select a Chair and Vice Chair from its members at its first meeting. The Vice-Chair must be a Member of Council and they will preside over meetings in the absence of the Chair.
- Citizen Members shall be residents or taxpayers of the Town of Arnprior who have skills, assets, and expertise in the particular field of the Committee they wish to participate on. These assets are identified in the committee-specific Appendices.
- Citizen Members and representatives serve on Advisory Committees on a volunteer basis.
- Members must have access to a personal computer and have an email address to receive meeting invitations and agenda packages with large files.
- A Citizen Member who misses attending 3 meetings per annum without approval
  of the Committee may be subject to forfeiting their seat upon recommendation of
  the Committee, at the discretion of Council; and if such seat is declared vacant,
  the Town will advertise the vacant seat to be filled in accordance with the
  Procedure By-Law.

### Meeting Schedule and Location

Each Advisory Committee shall meet monthly between March and December of each year (except July, August and December). Meetings shall take place in Council Chambers and may be held in alternative formats in accordance with the Procedure By-Law.

### **Procedural Rules**

Unless otherwise stated in these Terms of Reference, all of the Committees shall adhere to the procedures stated in the Procedural By-law.

### Quorum

A quorum of this Committee shall constitute a majority of members. If no quorum is present fifteen (15) minutes after the time appointed for a meeting, the Chair of the meeting or the Recording Secretary may discharge the members present and may cancel or reschedule the meeting and notice for same shall be given in accordance with the Procedure By-Law.

### **Duties and Responsibilities**

### Chair

- Presides at all advisory committee meetings, and exercises authority and performs duties as required.
- Provides guidance and leadership to the committee in the completion of its mandate.
- Ensures that decorum is maintained at each meeting and that rules of procedure and conduct are observed.

### **All Members**

Committee Members are expected to:

- Attend and actively participate in all advisory committee meetings;
- Contribute time, knowledge, skill and expertise to fulfill the Committee mandate, goals and objectives and responsibilities;
- Contribute to the development of the committee's workplan, agendas and discussions during meetings and outside of meetings;
- Attend Town of Arnprior and other community events and initiatives where appropriate and available;
- Understand their role and expectations;
- Must conform to all Municipal policies and procedures, including the Council Code of Conduct,
- Communicate using inclusive and non-discriminatory language, respecting the spirit of the Ontario Human Rights Code;
- Respect all decisions made by the committee as a whole; and
- Be cognizant of any conflict of interest or perceived conflict in terms of issues that may serve to benefit them personally and shall disclose accordingly.

#### **Term**

Public members shall be appointed to the Committee for a period to coincide with the term of Council ending on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

### **Administrative Support Staff**

The Clerk's Office will book meetings, prepare and distribute agendas under the direction of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), and take minutes for all of the Committee meetings. The official copy of the minutes shall be filed in the Clerk's Office.

Community participation is key to the success of the Town's Advisory Committees. Additional Town staff and representatives from diverse groups will be invited to attend meetings as required to provide expertise.

### Reporting:

- Staff Reports:
  - Applicable Staff Reports, as determined by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), shall normally be submitted to the Committee for input as part of the consultation process with any alternate points of view being noted in the Report to Council.
- Committee Reports to Council:
  - Committee reports which rise to Council shall be prepared by a Staff Advisor who will either provide concurrence along with the CAO; or alternatively, indicate staff comments.
- Committee Updates:
  - Council members of the Committee shall provide an update of Advisory Committee Activities to Council on a bi-annual basis in May and November of each year.

### **Agenda Format:**

- 1. Call to Order
- 2. Roll Call
- 3. Land Acknowledgement
- 4. Adoption of Agenda
- 5. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest
- 6. Approval of Previous Minutes
- 7. Presentations/ Delegations
- 8. Matters/ Tabled/ Deferred/ Unfinished Business
- 9. Staff Reports (by Department)
- 10. New Business
- 11. Adjournment

### **Appendices**

- 1. **Appendix A** Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee
- 2. **Appendix B** Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee
- 3. **Appendix C** Environmental Advisory Committee

### Appendix A

### Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee

### **Background**

This document shall constitute the terms of reference for the Town of Arnprior Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee.

#### **Mandate**

The Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee will provide Council with sound advice and recommendations to Council related to the accessibility of Town programs, services and facilities for all users. They will also serve to promote and facilitate a barrier-free and age friendly community by assisting in the removal and prevention of barriers faced by persons with disabilities and the creation of programs and services that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors of all ages.

### **Goals and Objectives**

The Advisory Committee's goals and objectives are to provide advice and make recommendations to Council on:

- Promote and facilitate a barrier-free and age friendly Arnprior through active community engagement and through raising issues, concerns and opportunities for improvement;
- Developing and implementing a Diversity and Inclusion Strategy for the municipality to address inclusivity and diversity barriers faced by members of our community, in coordination with the Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee;
- Developing new policies and procedures related to accessibility and age friendly community planning;
- Reviewing existing Town policies and procedures with an inclusionary lens to eliminate barriers to Town programs and services for persons with disabilities;
- Acting as the Town's Accessibility Advisory Committee in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and its regulations;
- Review and monitor the development, implementation and effectiveness of the Town's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan;
- Provide recommendations to Council and staff to improve accessibility at Town facilities through regular audits;
- Fostering a greater understanding and awareness of accessibility and age friendly community planning within the community through community partnerships;
- Facilitating opportunities to educate and celebrate persons with disabilities and age friendly community members; and
- Identifying resources and community outreach activities.

### Membership

The Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee shall be comprised of the following membership:

- 2 Members of Council
- Up to 5 Community Members

### Qualifications

Members must be Town of Arnprior residents.

Community Members appointed to this committee shall represent a broad range of individuals, including persons with disabilities, caregivers and other community members who have expertise in accessibility and/or age friendly community planning.

There shall be a minimum equal number of members who have a disability as compared to members who do not have a disability (50%).

The following asset qualifications will be considered for appointing community members to the advisory committee:

- Knowledge, living or lived experience with accessibility and age friendly community planning matters.
- Commitment as a change-agent in the accessibility community.
- Experience working in teams and/or with community groups, boards or organizations.

### **Appendix B**

### Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee

### **Background**

This document shall constitute the terms of reference for the Town of Arnprior Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee.

#### **Mandate**

The Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee will provide sound advice and recommendations to Council related to cultural programs and activities and diversity, equity and inclusion across the Town of Arnprior and in the community. They will also advise the Town on actions that can be taken to build a more inclusive, respectful and safe community where everyone has equitable opportunities to thrive in our community.

### **Goals and Objectives**

The Advisory Committee's goals and objectives are to provide advice and make recommendations to Council on:

- Developing and implementing a Culture Plan for the municipality to inform the development of cultural programming and services for the diverse community that the Town serves;
- Developing and implementing a Diversity and Inclusion Strategy for the municipality to address barriers to equitable inclusion faced by members of our community, in coordination with the Accessibility and Age Friendly Advisory Committee:
- Developing new policies and procedures related to culture, equity, diversity and inclusion;
- Reviewing existing Town policies and procedures with an inclusionary lens to eliminate barriers to Town programs and services for the diverse populations of our community;
- Fostering a greater understanding and awareness of culture, diversity, equity, and inclusion matters within the community through community partnerships and advocacy;
- Facilitating opportunities to educate and celebrate the diverse social, cultural and traditional elements that make up Arnprior;
- Implementing anti-racism and anti-discrimination initiatives;
- Identifying resources and community outreach activities; and
- Serving as the Museum Board for the purposes of strategic planning, program oversight and community engagement with the Arnprior and District Museum.

### Membership

The Culture and Diversity Advisory Committee shall be comprised of the following membership:

- 2 Members of Council
- Up to 5 Community Members

### Qualifications

Members must be Town of Arnprior residents.

Community Members appointed to this Committee shall represent a broad range of equity seeking groups including, but not limited to:

- o Indigenous, Black, and People of Colour (IBPOC)
- Racialized people, people of diverse ethic or cultural origin, and marginalized community members;
- 2SLGBTQ+ community members;
- Newcomers and New Canadians;
- o Other groups as may be deemed appropriate by Council.

The following asset qualifications will be considered for appointing community members to the advisory committee:

- Knowledge of or living/lived experience with diversity, equity and inclusion matters.
- Commitment as a change-agent in diversity, equity and inclusion matters in the community.
- Experience working in teams, with community groups, boards or organizations.
- At least one member aged 25 or younger.

### Appendix C

### **Environmental Advisory Committee**

### **Background**

This document shall constitute the terms of reference for the Town of Arnprior Environmental Advisory Committee.

#### **Mandate**

The Environmental Advisory Committee provides advice and guidance to Town Council and staff with respect to environmental issues including sustainable practices, conservation, alternative energy solutions and environmental regulations.

### **Goals and Objectives**

The Advisory Committee's goals and objectives are to provide advice and make recommendations to Council on:

- Developing ways to further conserve and protect the natural environment, including improvements to existing and future Town programs, services, policies and planning.
- To request, where necessary, input from the public and community partners concerning areas of improvement and future protection of the natural environment.
- To ensure that the community engages in action-oriented strategies that are aligned with the principles of relevant Town and Regional strategies.
- Assist the Town in the preparation of a community energy plan, designed to improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and foster local sustainable energy solutions.
- The committee will work in alignment with other committees of Council.

### Membership

The Environmental Advisory Committee shall be comprised of the following membership:

- 2 Members of Council
- Up to 5 Community Members

### **Qualifications**

Members must be Town of Amprior residents.

Community Members appointed to this committee shall represent a broad range of individuals with various skill sets, knowledge and experience.

The following asset qualifications will be considered for appointing community members to the advisory committee:

- Expertise in environmental matters and those applicants who have skills, assets, and expertise in the particular field;
- Experience working in teams, with community groups, boards or organizations.
- Relationships with community organizations.

A cross-section of members with experience representing as many of the following fields is desirable:

- Urban forestry or horticulture
- Water Resources
- Environmental studies
- Community outreach and public education
- Government policies, procedures, or budgets
- Municipal Planning
- Active Transportation
- Greenhouse gas emission reduction initiatives



### Corporation of the Town of Arnprior 2023-2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan

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### **Background**

People with disabilities make up a significant part of our community. It has been projected that by 2036, twenty percent of all Canadians will have some form of disability. In response to these statistics, the Ontario Legislature adopted the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) in 2005 with the goal of making Ontario accessible for all people with disabilities by 2025.

To achieve this goal, the AODA was implemented and includes requirements that all organizations must meet, with deadlines specific to an organization's type and size.

The AODA is made up of five standards, including:

- 1. Customer Service Standard
- 2. Information and Communication Standard
- 3. Employment Standard
- 4. Transportation Standard
- 5. Design of Public Spaces Standard

Deadlines for compliance began as of January 1, 2010, and are the law. The Town of Arnprior is in compliance with all requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and its regulations.

### **Town of Arnprior's Commitment to Accessibility**

The Town of Arnprior is committed to eliminating barriers (where possible) and improving accessibility, for persons with disabilities, in a manner that respects dignity, independence, integration and equal opportunity. The Town recognizes the diverse needs of our residents and customers and will continue to make every effort to provide the same access and rights to municipal services as all other members of our community, for those persons with disabilities. For this reason, the Town is committed to modifying service delivery, programming, and other workplace processes, policies, and procedures to ensure equal access for all of our residents and customers.

To demonstrate recognition of the Town's commitment, the Town of Arnprior received the David C. Onley Award for Leadership in Accessibility in May 2017. This award recognizes Ontarians who go above and beyond to improve accessibility for people with disabilities. As a municipality, the Town of Arnprior was recognized for their efforts in creating and implementing an Accessibility Incentive Grant Program, which assists downtown businesses in becoming more accessible to all patrons. The Town continues this commitment in the 2022 Community Improvement Plan through the Accessibility Improvements Program is intended to assist businesses with the costs of improving the accessibility of their buildings in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

The Town of Arnprior also demonstrates its commitment to the highest level of consistent and professional customer services, through its corporate structure having a centralized Client Services Department.

This assists in being able to provide citizens, including those with disabilities, with a continued high standard of customer service, guided by the principles of dignity, independence, integration, and equal opportunity, as outlined in the legislation. The Town currently portrays these principles and provides professional customer service.

However, this shift in corporate structure allows for a centralized department where all "Client Services" are received, recorded, responded to, and tracked in a similar manner. In turn, this will enhance the Town's overall ability to consider the needs of its citizen, and provide a consistent level of customer service, town-wide.

This is the third release of the Multi-Year Accessibility plan demonstrating the Town's commitment to accessibility and spans for a renewed term. As the Act envisions an accessible Ontario by 2025, this plan spans a two-year timeframe from 2023 to 2025. The purpose of this plan is to provide a status update on the Town's progress in the field of accessibility and to highlight areas where the Town will endeavor to improve upon in coming years. Each section will provide an overview of the relevant requirements and the Town's compliance, as well as a reference to any related By-law, policy, or procedure that the Town has enacted. Appendix A, attached, includes the Accessibility Successes from the 2018-2023 Plan.

As in previous plans, the Arnprior Accessibility Advisory Committee, in 2022, completed an assessment of facilities to determine current level of accessibility; provided recommendations for improvement; and consulted on the development of the plan. In addition, staff sought feedback from people interested in accessibility and who have experience with disabilities and barriers. These items are noted in Appendix B (Further Goals).

### **Barriers**

The intent of the Plan is to prevent, identify and remove barriers. A barrier is anything that prevents a person with a disability from fully participating in all aspects of society because of a disability. The traditional definition of a barrier used in the context of accessibility has been expanded to include obstacles beyond physical boundaries. There are several other categories of barriers to consider, such as:

**Physical Barriers**: Features, buildings or spaces that restrict or impede physical access. For example, a doorway that is too narrow to accommodate entry by persons in a motorized scooter.

**Communication Barriers**: Obstacles with processing, transmitting or interpreting information. For example, print on a brochure that is too small to read or documents not available in alternate formats.

**Attitudinal Barriers**: Prejudgments or assumptions that directly or indirectly discriminate. For example, assuming that a person who has a speech impairment can't understand you.

**Technological Barriers**: Occurs when technology cannot or is not modified to support various assistive devices and/or software. For example, a website that does not provide for increased text size or contrast options.

**Systemic Barriers**: Barriers within an organization's policies, practices and procedures that do not consider accessibility. For example, listing a driver's license as an employment qualification for an office position may prohibit persons with visual impairments from applying.

### Summary of Progress on AODA and IASR Standards and Regulations

The following is a summary of the Town of Arnprior's progress in terms of complying with the AODA's various legislative standards.

### **Accessible Customer Service Regulation (ACSR)**

The Town of Arnprior is compliant with the Accessible Customer Service Regulation

### 1. Accessible Customer Service Policy

The Town developed and follows an Accessible Customer Service (ACSR) Policy AS-CP-04, adopted by By-law 6167-12 and also recently developed a Complaint Management and Resolution Policy AS-CO-14, adopted by By-law 6766-17.

### 2. Service Animals and Support Persons

The Town permits service animals and support persons to accompany persons with disabilities under the ACSR Policy, the Support Persons Procedure 2020-02-10, and Information on Service Animals.

### 3. Temporary Disruptions

The Town continues to provide the public with notice of planned service disruptions at Town facilities and of Town services. These notices are posted on the Town of Arnprior website, social media channels and through the Arnprior App (where warranted) and detail the reason for the disruption, how long the disruption will last and alternative ways for customers to access goods, services and facilities during the disruption.

### 4. Training

The Town continues to provide training to new hires, volunteers, and all other necessary personnel, as per the regulations. Annual training refreshers are also provided to all employees.

#### 5. Feedback Process

The Town has developed a feedback process in Policies AS-CO-04 and AS-CO-14 and continues to seek feedback on issues regarding accessibility. The feedback form can be found on the Town of Arnprior website. Feedback will be taken into account as part of the continuous improvement of the town's accessibility efforts. Individuals are also able to contact the Town of Arnprior with any feedback through the "Contact Us" form on the Town Website. If individuals are not able to utilize online services, the Town of Arnprior also receives and responds to feedback by phone, in person, and by regular mail.

#### 6. Documents

The Town provides requested documents in accessible formats, upon request. There is no charge for providing a document in an accessible format.

### Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) & Information and Communication Standards

The Town of Arnprior is compliant with the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation:

### 1. Policy Development

The Town has developed and implemented an Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) Policy AS-CP-07, adopted by By-law 6259-13.

### 2. Multi-Year Accessibility Plans & Annual Status Report

In accordance with Section 5.1 of Policy AS-CP-07 and Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Procedure 21-02-10, the Town of Arnprior will prepare a multi-year Accessibility Plan outlining a phased-in strategy to prevent and remove barriers and address any current and future requirements of the AODA. The Town of Arnprior is committed and will report annually on the progress and implementation of the plan, post the information on the Town's website and will provide it in accessible alternative formats upon request. The plan will be reviewed and updated at least once every five years.

Previous Plans and Annual Status Reports have been made available on the town's website. The Town's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, and has now been refreshed after five years. The Arnprior Accessibility Advisory Committee, seniors and organizations with experience in accessibility and barriers, were consulted, in the development of this plan, and an assessment of municipal facilities and legislation has taken place. Staff will continue to consult with the Accessibility Advisory Committee over the course of this plan, provide annual status reports, and put forward a new plan post-2025.

### 3. Procuring or Acquiring Goods, Services or Facilities

The Town has incorporated this requirement in the IASR Policy AS-CP-07 as well as the Procurement Policy FS-AD-01, adopted by By-law 6942-19.

### 4. Training

Training has been provided to necessary staff, volunteers and other third parties of the Town of Arnprior. This training will continue to be provided to all new employees, volunteers and third parties. Training has been broadened to include webinars on diversity and inclusion, unconscious bias and gender and sexual diversity, and multiple staff members participated in training sessions for working with clients who may have autism or dementia.

Annual training refreshers are also provided to all employees, and training records are maintained in accordance with the Town's Electronic Record Management System.

### 5. Self Service Kiosks

This section does not apply to the Town of Arnprior at this time. Any future self-service kiosks will be accessible, if installed.

#### 6. Website

Following the successful launch of an accessible website in 2014, the Town of Arnprior implemented a website refresh in June 2021 which continues to meet the WCAG 2.0 (Level AA) Standards.

This new website is intended to be more user-friendly with a new search feature and pop-up feature for urgent and emergency notifications.

Town staff also continue to update content and add newly accessible documents to the website as required. In February 2023, Council approved a Communications Strategy which aims to provide accessible, consistent and timely information within the organization and to the public.

### 7. Accessible Formats & Communications Supports

As noted previously, the Town of Arnprior provides information upon request in an accessible format and at no additional cost. Some staff members have been trained on how to create accessible documents and the Town has utilized new software to assist in the preparation of accessible PDF documents for the municipal website and will endeavor to train more staff members on the creation of accessible documents as appropriate. Various online forms and payment options are available on the Town's website and staff are reviewing other areas where online payments can be implemented.

It is important to note that the Town has also implemented an electronic records management system that includes the functionality of automatically creating Optical Character Recognized (OCR) documents. OCR documents are readable by the computer or other assistive software. Since March of 2020, the Town improved its accessibility and community participation in relation to Council's decision making process by live streaming Council Meetings.

### 8. Emergency Procedures, Plans, or Public Safety Information

The Town's public emergency information can and will be provided in an accessible format upon request. The Town will endeavor to create all new public safety information in accessible document formats.

### 9. Public Library

The Library Board shall provide accessible information and access to accessible materials upon request and where they exist. The public shall be made aware of the access to materials. Residents can contact the <u>Arnprior Public Library</u> for further information on the accessibility of their services.

### **Employment Standards**

The Town of Arnprior is currently compliant with the Employment Standards Regulations, IASR Policy AS-CP-07, adopted by By-law 6259-13 and the Employment Standards Procedures 2015-02-09 and continues to strive to remain an accessible employer:

#### 1. Recruitment

The Town of Arnprior has notified all necessary staff of the recruitment process, which will accommodate applicants with disabilities. All Job Postings indicate the following statement:

### 2. Selection

The Town of Arnprior is committed to maintaining an accessible selection process. Applicants selected to proceed to the interview phase in the selection process will be notified of the availability of accommodations upon request.

### 3. Notice to Successful Applicants

The Town of Arnprior has amended the standard offer letter for successful applicants to include a statement outlining the Town's policies to accommodate employees with disabilities. The Town also incorporates this notification requirement into the verbal job offer.

### 4. Informing Employees of Supports

The Town has enacted a Return to Work Policy HR-HS-6.08 adopted by By-law 5802-09, as well as an IASR Policy AS-CP-07 which outlines the procedures to support and accommodate employees with disabilities. In addition, the Town of Arnprior has enacted a Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Plan Policy FD-PP-02, adopted by By-law 6696-17. The overall goal of this prevention plan is to take a holistic approach across the focus areas of prevention, intervention and recovery, and return to work, when addressing symptoms of PTSD and helping to assist firefighters who may be suffering.

An Employee and Family Assistance Program (EFAP) is established which provides full-time employees, volunteer firefighters and Members of Council with access to coaching, counselling and other online tools to promote health and wellness. Staff have been notified of the above policies and procedures that are in place to accommodate employees with disabilities.

### 5. Accessible Formats and Communication Supports

The Town of Arnprior is committed to providing employees with disabilities with the necessary accessible formats and/or communication supports required to perform their job duties. Staff have been notified of the policies and procedures, including the IASR Policy and Accessible Customer Service Policy, that are in place to support employees with disabilities and provide job-accommodation where required.

### 6. Workplace Emergency Response Information

The Town has created a Workplace Emergency Response Procedure 2015-02-09 Section 5.0 to complement the IASR policy which outlines the steps that need to be taken if an employee requires assistance/ accommodation in an emergency due to a disability. Any employee who requires any emergency related assistance or other accommodation will be provided with this upon request. The IASR policy also outlines that the Town must inquire with new hires as to whether or not they require assistance.

### 7. Documented Individual Accommodation Plans

The Town of Arnprior is committed to documenting a process for developing individual accommodation plans, as well as providing these plans to employees as required. Section 4.0 of the Procedure for Documented Accommodation 2015-02-09 Plans complements the IASR Policy, outlining the steps that need to be taken to create/document an individual accommodation plan.

### 8. Return to Work Process

The Town of Arnprior currently has an Early Assistance and Reintegration Service (EARS) Program for employees administered by the Human Resources Officer. This is a program sponsored by the Town and is provided by Cowan Benefits Consulting. The process to assist employees with disabilities (and other employees) in returning to work is outlined in the Return to Work Policy as well as the IASR Policy.

### 9. Performance Management

The Town's Management is aware of the need to consider the accessibility needs of employees with disabilities in the performance management process as detailed in the IASR Policy and Section 6.0 of Performance Management Procedure 2015-02-09.

### 10. Career Development and Advancement

The Town takes into consideration individual accommodation plans for employees with disabilities when providing career development and advancement as detailed in the IASR Policy and Section 7.0 of the Career Development and Advance Procedure 2015-02-09.

### 11. Redeployment

The Town rarely redeploys employees. However, should the need arise, the Town will consider what accommodations workers will need in their new position.

### **Transportation Standards**

The Town of Arnprior does not currently provide conventional transportation services (bus, taxi-cab services, etc.). Therefore, this section of the IASR does not apply to the Town of Arnprior. However, Council, in 2018, did provide an in-kind contribution by acting as a program coordinator to secure a grant from the Ministry of Transportation Community Transportation Grant Program – Municipal Stream (CT Program) in partnership with Carefor Health & Community Services and Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Seniors At Home Program Inc. in for the purchase of a new wheelchair accessible vehicle to provide non-urgent transportation to seniors and adults with physical disabilities in order to improve access to health and community services.

### Design of Public Spaces Standards (Accessibility Standards for the Built Environment)

The Design of Public Spaces Standards addresses accessibility planning in a range of public spaces, including: trails/beach access routes; outdoor public eating areas; play spaces; accessible parking; exterior paths of travel including sidewalks; accessible pedestrian signals; service counters; fixed queuing lines; waiting areas and the emergency and preventative maintenance of accessible elements in public spaces. These standards only apply to new construction or the redevelopment of existing public spaces and buildings.

The Town of Arnprior has implemented a Recreation Master Plan as well as a Waterfront Master Plan as it seeks to redevelop the waterfront and other recreation facilities to better serve the needs of residents. The Town is also undertaking a review of the Recreation Master Plan in 2023 which will include community and stakeholder consultation.

Thus, the Town of Arnprior, with new construction, is currently compliant with the Design of Public Spaces Standard and will continue to keep this regulation at the forefront when designing, implementing, or re-developing spaces.

#### 1. Recreation Trails and Beach Access Routes

The Town is committed to creating accessible trails and beach access routes, on any new construction and major changes to existing features, as per the regulation.

### 2. Outdoor Public Eating Areas

The Town is committed to creating accessible public eating areas, whether they are new constructions or redevelopments of existing areas, as per the regulation. Accessible picnic tables have been purchased and placed in various parks across the Town

### 3. Outdoor Play Spaces

The Town is committed to creating accessible outdoor play spaces, whether they are new constructs or redevelopments of existing spaces. Any newly constructed or redeveloped outdoor play spaces, will take into consideration Accessibility Design of Public Spaces Standards. Since the last plan, accessible swings were installed in six different parks, and in April 2022 the Accessibility Advisory Committee consulted on proposed new accessibility features at outdoor play spaces at Legion Park and Caruso Park. Construction of both play spaces is planned for 2023.

#### 4. Exterior Paths of Travel

The Town is committed to creating accessible exterior paths of travel that are new or redeveloped, as per the regulation. The Town continues to illustrate its commitment to creating accessible exterior paths of travel during its road reconstruction projects. Since the last plan accessible curb ramps and tactile walking surface indicators (TWSI) have been installed at crosswalks on Daniel Street South at Edey Street, Alicia Street, Hugh Street, Craig Street, and portions of William Street.

A pedestrian crossover (PXO) was installed at the intersection of Madawaska and Harriet Street. In addition, the Accessibility Advisory Committee was consulted on the Outdoor Sidewalk Patio Café provisions to include regulations that would allow for the use of parking stalls for pedestrian by-pass platforms, allowing for a straight path of travel for persons with disabilities and service animals.

### 5. Parking

The Town is committed to creating accessible parking lots that are new or redeveloped, as per the regulation. In 2020, the Town improved the accessible parking spaces at Robert Simpson Park by creating new dedicated spaces by the washroom building and identifying additional accessible parking spaces during large community events. In 2021, the Nick Smith Centre Parking Lot Paving Project was completed with a total of 234 parking spaces, including 12 accessible spaces. Points of entry/ emergency exits are curbed or at grade level, improving accessibility at the Nick Smith Centre.

### 6. Service Counters, Queuing Guides and Waiting Areas Accessible

The Town is committed to creating accessible service counters, queuing guides, and waiting areas that are new or redeveloped.

### 7. Maintain the Accessible Parts of Public Spaces

The Town is committed to maintaining all accessible features of our public spaces. An accessible lift was installed to go from the first floor to the second floor of the Town Hall for service, with the area being equipped with accessible automated doors as well as an accessible washroom for members of the public. This allows for accessible access to all Council and Committee Meetings held at Town Hall.

### Conclusion

Creating communities where every person can participate fully is important for people, businesses, and community life. Accessibility not only helps people with disabilities, it benefits everyone. Creating communities where every person who lives or visits can participate fully, makes good sense for all of us.

The Town of Arnprior will continue its commitment to the removal of barriers and to the improvement of overall accessibility in the community. The Multi-Year Accessibility Plan will be updated again in 2025 as per the AODA and Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR).

### Let Us Know What You Think

Members of the public are encouraged to provide comments on the Town of Arnprior's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan Status Report, and any other accessibility related matter.

To provide feedback, please visit the Town's website or contact:

#### Clerk's Office

105 Elgin Street West Arnprior, ON K7S 0A8 Phone: (613) 623-4231

Email: clerks@arnprior.ca

### Appendix A: 2018-2023 Accessibility Successes

In the 2018-2023 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, the Town identified a number of additional goals above and beyond legislated AODA and IASR requirements. Over the five year term of the plan, Town staff have completed 47% of the total projects and another 31% have been scheduled in the Long-Range Capital Forecast. The remainder (22%) have been noted as ongoing projects. The scheduled and ongoing projects have been included in the 2023-2025 accessibility goals.

Goal	Current Status	Notes
Revitalize Town Facility signage to incorporate more pictures through the adoption of an Accessible Sign Guideline, through consultation with the Accessibility Advisory Committee	Completed	In January 2020, Council adopted By-Law No. 7026-20 (Signage and Wayfinding Policy) which outlines how accessible signage can be erected as lifecycle updates are made.

### **Town Hall Goals:**

Goal	Current Status	Notes
Emergency Evacuation Plan to be completed	Ongoing	This item has been incorporated into the 2023-2025 Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for review.
Contrasting colour on entry doors (First Floor Reception & Second Floor)	Completed	Contrasting strips were installed on the entry doors at Town Hall in 2019.
Outdoor centre road lines painted on streets to assist the visually impaired, where they are not painted.	Ongoing	Main roadways have painted centerlines and where centerlines are not painted, such roadways generally have a sidewalk on at least one side of the street. Where possible, the Town will endeavor to have a centerline painted or a sidewalk installed on all new and redeveloped streets.

## **Stanley Tourangeau Fire/Police Services Centre Goals:**

Goal	Current Status	Notes
Review / Update Emergency Evacuation Plan, to incorporate accessibility (as required)	Not Applicable	As per the Fire Prevention and Protection Act, this is not required for this building.
Lower OPP service counter	Not Completed	The OPP service counter has been closed to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic. Should the OPP decide to reopen the service counter in the future, this project would be completed, subject to budget constraints and the development of a cost sharing agreement with the OPP.
Make public washroom fully accessible, by installing an automatic door opener, emergency alarm/push bottom lock, etc.	Completed	The public washroom accessibility project was completed in 2019.

## **Arnprior Public Library and Archives Goals:**

Goal	Current Status	Notes
Installation of a sign coming from the parking lot of where the accessible push button for the front door is located.	Completed	Stickers have been installed in 2019/2020 on each side of the post which houses the accessible push button. Due to vandalism, these stickers have had to be replaced numerous times and they will continue to be monitored moving forward.
Review / Update Emergency Evacuation Plan, to incorporate accessibility (as required)	Ongoing	The plan will be updated as required.

Goal	<b>Current Status</b>	Notes
Community meeting rooms to have automatic door openers.	Completed	Magnetic door openers were installed in the community meeting rooms in 2020. These door openers can be opened and remain open in a fire safe manner. This was implemented in place of automatic door openers to reflect community needs (i.e. meeting rentals) and good fire safety practices.
Continue to add more accessible computer software to the Library's current software	Ongoing	The Arnprior Public Library is continuing to grow its accessible electronic offerings. Contact the Arnprior Public Library for more information on its accessible program and service offerings.

## **Nick Smith Centre Goals:**

Goal	Current Status	Notes
Review / Update Emergency Evacuation Plan, to incorporate accessibility (as required)	Completed	The plan was updated as part of the ICG Grant project in 2022.
Refresh contrasting colour strips on entrance doors.	Completed	These contrasting strips were replaced in 2019.
Make change rooms (pool and arena) fully accessible.	Scheduled	This project has been scheduled in the Long-Range Capital Forecast for completion in 2026/2027. Staff continue to look for grant opportunities to complete this project sooner.
Install automatic door to access Rink B	Completed	An automatic door opener was installed to access the Bert Hall Arena (Arena B) in 2019.

Goal	<b>Current Status</b>	Notes
Install automatic door to access the Community Hall	Completed	An automatic door opener was installed to access the Community Hall in 2019.
Install a higher writing platform (similar to Town Hall Second Floor Service Counter) at Customer Service Counter	Completed	A raised Customer Service Counter was installed in 2019.
Make all washrooms fully accessible	Scheduled	The Town has scheduled projects to create a new accessible washroom in the Community Hall and new accessible Arena A washrooms in the Long-Range Capital Forecast for completion in 2026/2027. Staff continue to look for grant opportunities to improve washroom accessibility across the Nick Smith Centre building.
Install handrail in the stands of Rink A	Ongoing	Staff continue to explore feasible options to increase accessibility. Additional renovations to the arenas will be completed in 2025 and enhancing accessibility will be considered as part of that project.
Make emergency exit outside Community Hall and Rink B accessible by grading the step outside the door.	Completed	The emergency exit was made accessible in 2021 in conjunction with the Nick Smith Centre Parking Lot paving project.

## **Robert Simpson Park Goals:**

Goal	Current Status	Notes
Move the accessible parking stalls to be behind the washroom stalls, and level the parking area prior to completion.	Completed	This project was completed in 2019 and additional accessible parking stalls were created in 2021 at the Robert Simpson Park, Marina and Nick Smith Centre locations.

Goal	Current Status	Notes
Install an accessible pathway into the water on the beach area.	Scheduled	Accessible pathways are one of the elements of the Waterfront Master Plan currently scheduled to be completed in 2025/2026 in the Long-Range Capital Forecast.  A safe, accessible pedestrian ramp is included alongside the existing roadway to the beach area.  Accessibility-related considerations have been incorporated into the Waterfront Master Plan including  • maximum slope of 6.25% • be a minimum of 3 metres wide to facilitate two way travel and anticipated pedestrian volume • provide 3mx 3m landings every 9 metres • provide a lookout approximately 6 metres x 6 metres at the top third of the ramp structure • handrails on both sides for accessibility • guardrails designed to Ontario Code Standards to prevent climbing • be constructed of steel with wood decking  The Town has also purchased accessibility pathway mats and floating beach chairs in 2022 with plans to introduce them into the beach in 2023.

Goal	Current Status	Notes
Install an accessible pathway to the Canteen, Gazebo, Splash Pad and Playground.	Scheduled	The Waterfront Master Plan includes the creation of additional hard surfaced pathways throughout the park connecting key park features such as the playground, splash pad, seating areas and beach. Existing pathways will also be upgraded to improve accessibility. These enhancements are scheduled for completion in 2025/2026.
Lower the service counter at the Robert Simpson Park Canteen building	Scheduled	The Waterfront Master Plan will improve accessibility through Robert Simpson Park. This project will be included within the scope of work which is currently scheduled to be completed in 2025/2026 as per the Long-Range Capital Forecast.
Make the washrooms fully accessible.	Scheduled	The Waterfront Master Plan includes provisions related to the upgrading of onsite washrooms to be completed in 2025/2026 as per the Long-Range Capital Forecast. Additional notation is provided to consider implementing multiple individual family style / gender neutral stalls rather than gender specific washrooms (as currently exist).
Install an accessible swing in the Playground	Ongoing	There are no swings currently installed at Robert Simpson Park. This item will remain in the Plan to be completed at a later date, if possible, based on available budget / grant opportunities. Additional accessible play features and playground equipment will be considered in the implementation of the Waterfront Master Plan.

## **Arnprior and District Museum Goals**

Goal	<b>Current Status</b>	Notes
Review / Update Emergency Evacuation Plan, to incorporate accessibility (as required)	Completed	The Plan was updated in 2019 to incorporate accessibility considerations.
Contrasting colour on the black railing ends, to identify the railing at night	Completed	Contrasting strips were installed on the railing in 2019 to increase night-time visibility for users.
Access to exhibits on all three (3) floors of the Museum	Ongoing	The Manager of Culture / Curator will continue to implement a virtual tour of the other exhibits, which are not accessible at this time.
Install an elevator in the museum to allow access to upper floors.	Scheduled	This item has been tentatively included in the Long Range Capital Forecast for completion in 2032 subject to grant availability.
Continue to install explanation (audio and/or braille) of exhibits.	Ongoing	The Manager of Culture / Curator will continue to create exhibits with accessible audio- visual elements (i.e. audio recording and/or braille).

## Appendix B: Further Goals Above & Beyond the AODA and IASR

The following are other areas that the Arnprior Accessibility Advisory Committee, in consultation with staff, have identified as areas that require improvement to help further remove barriers for individuals with disabilities. Some of these barriers will be removed within the timeframe of this Multi-Year Accessibility Plan, while others have been identified and are outlined as goals to be completed in the future beyond the term of this plan.

### **Overall Goals**

- Increase internal staff knowledge on providing accessible communication materials for public consumption.
- Continue to improve accessibility for future document additions to the Town website.
- Complete minor facility upgrades including improving contrast colour strips on doors and stairs across all Town sites where conditions necessitate replacement and installing accessible features (where appropriate).
- Utilize accessible design elements across all Town sites to ensure accessibility for individuals with dementia (i.e. high contrast, maximized natural light, avoid bold/proximate patterns).
- Install accessible wayfinding signage at Town sites (lifecycle replacements) in accordance with the Town's Signage and Wayfinding Policy (By-Law 7026-20).
- Continue to incorporate accessible features into new Town-funded road reconstruction projects (where possible).
- Review / Update Emergency Evacuation Plans for Town facilities to improve accessibility (as required).
- Seek out grants and alternative funding sources from upper levels of government and/or the private sector to enable scheduled projects to be completed sooner.
- Implement a Step Safe program, a public reporting process to identify sidewalk trip hazards requiring repair.
- Conduct a public awareness campaign targeting residents and business owners regarding the rules and regulations for service animals.
- Continue to engage with local businesses and business groups to educate and share information on the importance of accessibility and the programs offered to assist with accessibility upgrades (i.e. new Community Improvement Plan).
- Incorporate outdoor centre road lines painted on streets to assist the visually impaired where they are not painted and where deemed appropriate.

### **Town Hall Goals**

Emergency Evacuation Plan to be completed

### Stanley Tourangeau Fire and Police Services Centre Goals

 Install automatic door opener for meeting room to increase accessibility for volunteer firefighters, class visits and rental bookings.

#### **Nick Smith Centre Goals**

- Make change rooms (pool and arena) fully accessible.
- Make all washrooms fully accessible.
- Increase the accessibility of Arena A, including installing handrails in the stands and incorporating accessibility features into the planned renovations.

### Parks, Trails and Recreational Amenity Goals

- Complete the accessibility upgrades outlined in the Waterfront Master Plan with continued consultation with the Arnprior Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAAC) as the project moves forward.
  - Make the washrooms fully accessible.
  - Install an accessible pathway into the water on the beach area.
  - Install an accessible pathway to the Canteen, Gazebo, Splash Pad and Playground.
  - Lower the service counter at the Robert Simpson Park Canteen building.
- Design and install accessible features at new and redeveloped community parks, trails and recreational amenities across the Town, including play structures, picnic tables, rest benches, swing sets, pathways, and other accessible play elements.

### **Arnprior and District Museum Goals**

- Provide access to exhibits on all three (3) floors of the Museum and adopt practices to ensure that exhibits are available to people of all abilities (i.e. verbal descriptive elements and closed captioning).
- Install an elevator in the D. A. Gillies Building to allow full access to upper floors by individuals with mobility-related disabilities.
- Make the shared parking lot between the D. A. Gillies Building and the Arnprior Public Library Building more accessible by grading the parking lot surface.
- Continue to install explanation tools (audio and/or braille) for new exhibits.



# Age-Friendly Community Plan

Robin Paquette

CAO

March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024



## Background

- Council, with the assistance of a consultant, stakeholders and residents' input, created an Age-Friendly Community Plan in 2016.
- The Plan included 15 goals in the areas of:
  - Enhanced Facilities and Infrastructure
  - Seniors-focused Services and Supports
  - Positive Engagement and Active Lifestyles
- Each goal included strategies and indicated potential partners and deliverables for each, with 50 strategies proposed in total.



## **Greater Arnprior Senior Council**

- In order to ensure successful ongoing implementation, monitoring, revision and evaluation of goals and objectives, the Plan recommended a permanent entity be created, the Greater Arnprior Senior Council (GASC).
- The GASC was comprised of a mix of key community stakeholders involved in seniors services, as well as senior members of the community:
  - Town of Arnprior, Township of McNab/Braeside, Arnprior Regional Health, Arnprior-Braeside-McNab Seniors at Home Program, Arnprior Public Library, Renfrew Hospice, The Dementia Society, Arnprior Family Health Team.



## **Work Plan**

Work Plan - At a Glance

2016 2017 2018

- Communication #1: Education & Inform
- Establish GASC
- Advocate for the Grove Redevelopment
- Increase awareness of nonurgent transportation options
- Improve accessibility at Town Hall

- Communication #2: Educate, Inform, Involve, Collaborate
- Advocate for the Grove Redevelopment
  - Increase awareness and knowledge of existing senior's services
- Expand educational offerings for <u>Seniors</u>
- Promote improved accessibility of stores and business in <u>Town</u>
- Network and share resources with other senior's councils, agencies

- Communication #3: Educate, Inform, Involve, Collaborate
- Advocate for the Rural Senior's Village
- Senior's Expo/Senior Games
- Promote and educate on Age-Friendly Businesses



## **Work Plan**

### Work Plan - At a Glance

2019 2020 2021

<del>+</del>

- Communication #3: Education & Inform, Involve, Collaborate, Empower
- Senior's Expo
- Promote and educate on Age-Friendly Businesses
- Groundbreaking Grove Redevelopment
- Maintain and grow social, recreational and educational opportunities for <u>seniors</u>
- Explore new and innovative seniors housing options that allow for progressive care and aging in place

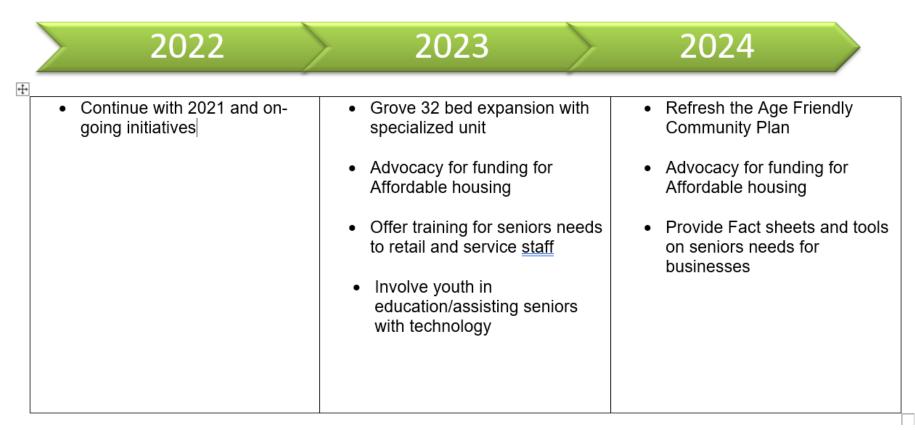
- Communication #3: Educate, Inform, Involve, Collaborate, Empower
- Increase involvement of the business community in addressing seniors <u>needs</u>
- Seniors Fair
- Explore new and innovative seniors housing options that allow for progressive care and aging in place
- Advocate to the County for funding for affordable housing

- Communication #3: Educate, Inform, Involve, Collaborate, Empower
- Substantial completion Grove Redevelopment
- Support and advocate for the renovations of the old <u>Grove</u> and plan for a sustainable Rural Seniors Village that meets the needs of the community



## **Work Plan**

### Work Plan - At a Glance





## **Moving Forward**

- GASC has lost several key citizen members, no meetings since May of 2023
- Included in the 2024 Capital Budget is the Age-Friendly Community Plan Update with the goal to revitalize the 2016 Plan and develop new goals and future targets for the next 10 year horizon.
- Staff are developing a Request for Proposals to engage a consultant to assist.
- This Committee will be key contributors.

## Questions?



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