

City of Edmonton Youth Council

2019 and 2020 Annual Reports and 2021 Work Plan

Recommendation

That the April 14, 2021, Office of the City Manager report CR_8082, be received for information.

Executive Summary

This report provides highlights and key accomplishments of the City of Edmonton Youth Council (CEYC) across two years; September 2019 to February 2020 and June 2020 to March 2021. The City of Edmonton Youth Council provides information and advice to City Council in relation to issues involving or affecting youth and educates and empowers youth to provide meaningful input and take action on local issues. The City of Edmonton Youth Council makes progress on their mandate through completing various strategic and collaborative projects on issues identified by youth. The City of Edmonton Youth Council saw an increase in the number of volunteer hours, retention rate, as well as increased their outreach during the 2019-2020 term.

Report

The City of Edmonton Youth Council is a Council Advisory Committee comprised of 20 appointed community members and approximately 50 youth at-large volunteers. The Youth Council provides opportunities for youth to volunteer and provide meaningful input to shape their city. It is supported by Administration and Councillors Knack and Walters are appointed to the Committee as City Council Advisors.

2019-2020 Highlights and Key Accomplishments

Through its network of over 70 volunteers, the City of Edmonton Youth Council completed various collaborative initiatives that focused on building community partnerships and increasing youth engagement. Key projects/examples included:

- Four events focused on diversity: Melanin Roots, Together We Grow, Rhythm & Rhyme, LGBTQ/diversity training
- Fundraising event: Ticket to Ride 3.0
- Minimum Wage Stance, 2019 Provincial Budget
- Input on Council reports: Consumption of Alcohol on Parkland, Parking Regulations, Opioid Crisis, 2020 Municipal Budget and Youth Opioid Strategies and Mental Health Survey

- 25 school visits since September 2019
- Three City Hall School visits since September 2019
- Collaboration and partnership with external organizations

Highlighted future initiatives planned for the remaining term (through August 2020), as included in Attachment 1 - 2019-2020 Strategic Plan:

- City of Edmonton Youth Council 25th Anniversary Event
- City of Edmonton Awards - adjudication of youth category
- Complete Streets Survey and Report, Youth Homelessness Information Report
- Extreme Weather Transit Policy for Vulnerable Peoples Memo to City Council
- Conversation Café events featuring youth
- Summer Show Off event which serves as an Open House and introduction to City of Edmonton Youth Council
- Future of Edmonton Essay Contest to provide youth input to the City Plan public engagement process
- Blog profiling municipal issues such as the Provincial Budget, Pride Month, Black History Month, and more in a way that is accessible to youth

2020-2021 Current Highlights and Accomplishments

In 2020-2021 the Youth Council was active with 83 volunteers.

The 2020/21 term was unique in CEYC's history for several reasons. With COVID-19, all committees to Council's work stopped in March 2020; the work therefore was paused until later that summer. All external communication stopped while internal reappointments continued. As COVID-19 continued into the new term, we transferred all communication and working relationships to online platforms. This included the Strategic Planning session, General Assembly, and subcommittee meetings. Additionally, we restructured CEYC's subcommittees. In prior years, subcommittees were topic-based (ie. urban planning, health & wellness, social equity and engagement & outreach). This year, they are action-based; the new subcommittees are Internal, Policy, and Projects. This system streamlined collaborative efforts between initiatives and is a result of lessons learned from the past few years.

The various collaborative initiatives continued to build community partnerships and increase youth engagement. Key projects/examples included:

- Addictions Don't Discriminate Project (with City of Edmonton and REACH Edmonton)
- Paths for People
- CEYC Member Demographic Survey

Highlighted future initiatives planned for the remaining term (through August 2021), as included in Attachment 2 - 2020-2021 Strategic Plan:

- Response to the Community Safety and Wellness Report

- Environmental Awareness Webinar Series
- COVID-19 Health and Wellness Series
- Food Waste Initiative
- Virtual School Visits
- Youth Volunteer Opportunities Database
- Voting Committee Member Termination Procedure Revamp
- Vaping among Edmonton Youth Memo and Public Awareness Campaign

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

Corporate Outcome(s): Edmontonians are connected to the city in which they live, work and play			
Outcome(s)	Measure(s)	Result(s)	Target(s)
City of Edmonton Youth Council advises City Council on policies that affect youth	# policy/plan/report reviews	2019/2020 - 1 Policies/plans 2019/2020 - 2 Council Reports	2 Policies/plans 4 Council Reports
	# of times speak or presents information to City Council	2019/2020 - 3 as of Feb 2020	4 2018-2019 >5 2019-2020
	# policy/plan/report reviews	2020/2021 - 1 Policies/plans 2020/2021 - 1 Council report	1 Policies/plan 1 Council report
	# of times speak or presents information to City Council	2020/2021 - 2 projected for 20/21	2 upcoming in the summer 20/21

Attachments

1. City of Edmonton Youth Council Strategic Plan, 2019-2020
2. City of Edmonton Youth Council Strategic Plan, 2020-2021
3. City of Edmonton Youth Council Membership Directory 2020-2021