

## **BYLAW 28-24 – GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL AMENDMENT**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of Bylaw 28-24 is to amend Governance Committees of Council Bylaw 04-24 by appointing youth members to the Okotoks Public Library Board and The United Way/Okotoks Partnership Committee.

### **Readings**

The Bylaw is ready for three readings.

### **Report, Analysis and Financial Implications**

At the July 15, 2024 Regular Council meeting, the following motion was made:

That a report regarding youth committee member appointments to the Okotoks Public Library Board and United Way/Okotoks Partnership Committee be brought back to the August 19, 2024 Council Meeting, with feedback from the affected committees and draft amendments to Governance Committees of Council Bylaw 04-24 if required.

The Okotoks Public Library Board met on July 25, 2024. The item "Youth Member Appointment" was added to the agenda, and the following consensus was reached:

- It is feasible and beneficial to have youth members appointed to the board as they bring energy and commitment with a fresh perspective;
- They do lack experience and a big-picture view (perspective); and
- With the additional legal responsibilities if they are not the age of majority, it is preferred to have one youth member appointed as a tenth non-voting member on a one-year trial. After the trial, the voting privileges may be re-evaluated with the potential of appointing voting privileges to the youth member.

The United Way/Okotoks Partnership Committee submitted their responses to Administration separately as the Committee did not have an upcoming meeting. The following consensus was reached:

- It is feasible and beneficial to have youth members appointed to the committee as they provide perspectives to the situation that adults may not think of and often take their roles very seriously with a passion for making a difference;
- With the addition of youth members, the committee would truly represent the entire cross section of the population, bringing added depth to discussions;
- Of the input from five (5) members, two (2) think youth members shall have voting privileges, two (2) do not think voting privileges should be given, while one (1) member is impartial;
- The potential downfall being that some youth have unwavering confidence on matters of which they have little to no experience, such as fundraising, budgeting, marketing, advertising, and do not always have control over their time. These issues can be mitigated, however, by carefully selecting the youth members; and

- Concern was expressed regarding the possible difficulty of filling a youth member vacancy if there were no youth interested in the role.

The council report from the July 15, 2024 Regular Council Meeting was shared with Foothills County Council. The following consensus was reached:

- The County generally supports the appointment of youth committee members, highlighting the opportunities for experience and the possibility of attracting the younger generation to libraries in a world of social media and internet access – they could be our future Councillors and politicians.
- The majority of Foothills County Council does not feel that the youth committee members should have voting rights. It was suggested that a non-board position could be called a “Youth delegate/ambassador/committee.” This would still provide the opportunity for youth involvement and the learning experience.
- Youth representatives would be more likely to participate if they could earn school credits or work experience for their involvement.

Administration advises the feedback presented by the Okotoks Public Library Board and The United Way/Okotoks Partnership Committee be taken into consideration and one (1) youth member be appointed to the Okotoks Public Library Board as a non-voting member and two (2) youth members be appointed as voting members to the United Way/Okotoks Partnership Committee. Administration recommends the following amendments be made to the Governance Committees of Council Bylaw 04-24:

- Addition to Schedule 4 - Okotoks Public Library Board (OPLB), subsection “Membership”: One (1) Youth Member (non-voting).
- Addition to Schedule 5 - United Way/Okotoks Partnership Committee (UWOPC), subsection “Membership – Citizen Members”: No more than two (2) Citizen Members may be Youth Members.

**Strategic Plan Goals**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Responsibly Managed Growth
<input type="checkbox"/>	Strong Local Economy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Organizational Excellence

<input type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrated Environmental Leadership
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enhanced Culture & Community Health

**Community Engagement Strategy**

n/a

**Alternatives for Consideration**

n/a

**CAO Comments**

The proposed amendments to membership reflect the direction arising from GPC and Council and feedback from those impacted by the decision. Council may want to consider a review of this process one year from now to determine if the changes should be maintained moving forward.

**Attachment(s)**

1. Draft Bylaw 28-24 Governance Committees of Council Amendment
2. Bylaw 04-24 Governance Committees of Council - Redlined Version

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