

**TOWN OF OKOTOKS
UNADOPTED MINUTES
FOR THE UNITED WAY/OKOTOKS PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2025
IN THE VIKING RENTALS CENTRE – PROVINCIAL ROOM**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PRESENT** Michael Cook, Chair
Councillor Hallmark
Claire Baek
Ankur Gupta
Michael King
Meg Meints
Dick Nichols
Valeria Rusnak
Jakki Smolcic

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
ABSENT** Carl Thiele

**STAFF
PRESENT** Community & Social Development Team Leader Sian
Anderson
Community Wellness Specialist Magan Braun
Community & Social Development Administrator
Bethany Pizani

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Michael Cook called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and provided a traditional land acknowledgement.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOTION: By A. Gupta that the agenda for the February 11, 2025 United Way/Okotoks Partnership Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

3.1 United Way/Okotoks Partnership Committee - January 14, 2025

MOTION: By V. Rusnak that the minutes of the United Way/Okotoks Partnership Committee Meeting held January 14, 2025 be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

4. BUSINESS

4.1 Community Investment

Funding Application Open: Monday, March 3, 2025

Funding Application Deadline: Friday, March 28, 2025

Presentation Date: Thursday, April 24, 2025 - Town of Okotoks Council Chamber - #5 Elizabeth Street.

4.2 Review 2025 Funding Focus

The funding focus will be kept as "Building a stronger community together".

4.3 Review Funding Application

Community Wellness Specialist Magan Braun reviewed the funding application with the Committee.

4.4 Overview of Funding Process and Reports

Community Wellness Specialist Magan Braun provided an overview of the funding and reporting process with the Committee.

4.5 Identify Community Investment Sub-Committee Members

Councillor Hallmark, Valeria Rusnak, Jakki Smolcic, Meg Meints, Dick Nichols volunteered to be part of the Community Investment Sub-Committee.

Community & Social Development Administrator Bethany Pizani will extend invitations to current and former Committee Members to invite them to join the Sub-Committee.

4.6 Funding Extension Request

Community Wellness Specialist Magan Braun provided an overview to Committee Members on the funding extension request to the 2024 United Way/Okotoks Partnership funding for Foothills Country Hospice for their Community Bereavement Boxes program.

MOTION: By Councillor Hallmark that Foothills Country Hospice - Community Bereavement Boxes be granted an extension in funding to April 30, 2025 with the final report due by May 31, 2025.

Carried Unanimously

4.7 Campaign Discussion and Planning

4.7.1 Talent Show

Councillor Hallmark provided the Committee with an update on the upcoming talent show fundraiser.

4.7.2 Fundraising Ideas

Valeria Rusnak provided an update on the planning for the May 15, 2025 speaker series focused on destigmatizing rejection, mental wellness, and resilience.

The Committee discussed strategies for engaging local businesses in the payroll campaign.

4.8 Annual Calendar

The Committee reviewed the United Way/Okotoks Partnership annual calendar and discussed dates of future Committee meetings.

4.9 Round Table Discussion None

MOTION: By V. Rusnak that business items 4.1 to 4.9 be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

4.10 Administrative Invoice(s)

MOTION: By D. Nichols that the invoice(s) for Administrative expenses totaling \$88.18 be paid.

Carried Unanimously

4.11 Campaign Invoice(s) None

5. REPORTS

5.1 Staff Liaison Report

Community Wellness Specialist Magan Braun provided updates on the pop-up café initiative at the Okotoks Recreation Centre, Sobeys, and Safeway; the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP); and the Age-Friendly Speaker Series. She provided an overview of the social needs assessment, including recent workshops that engaged students, community members, agencies, and administration in design labs. She shared the launch of a monthly Making Connections lunch-and-learn series in partnership with Storify and the ongoing transit survey.

5.2 Treasurer Report

United Way/Okotoks Partnership Treasurer Valeria Rusnak reported on current account balances.

5.3 Youth Report

Claire Beak shared that youth are seeking volunteer opportunities to fulfill school hours.

5.4 Council Report

Councillor Hallmark provided updates on the annual deer count, the recent Council meeting, and the Arts and Culture Grant Pilot, which allocated \$30,000 last year to support organizations in creating external downtown events. He discussed the importance of public participation in the Town's transit survey, highlighting its role in shaping future transit planning and improvements.

MOTION: By V. Rusnak that items 5.1 to 5.4 be received as information.

Carried Unanimously

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

7. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the United Way/Okotoks Partnership Committee will be held March 11, 2025.

8. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: By J. Smolic that the February 11, 2025 United Way/Okotoks Partnership Committee Meeting adjourn at 6:51 p.m.

Carried Unanimously