

NO: R138

COUNCIL DATE: July 24, 2023

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **July 20, 2023**

FROM: **General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture** FILE: **0550-20**

SUBJECT: **BC Healthy Communities – Age-Friendly Communities 2023 Grant**

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks, Recreation & Culture Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information; and
2. Authorize staff to submit an application for a BC Healthy Communities – Age-Friendly Communities 2023 Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to develop an updated Age Friendly Action Plan, as generally described in this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to seek Council authorization to submit an application for a BC Healthy Communities Grant in the amount of \$25,000 (the “Grant”) to develop an updated Age Friendly Action Plan that will support the roll out of the updated Age Friendly Strategy for Seniors that is anticipated to be complete in fall 2023. The application deadline for the grant is July 28, 2023. A Council resolution is a requirement of the Program grant application.

BACKGROUND

The Age-friendly Communities Grant Program is delivered by BC Healthy Communities (“BCHC”) in partnership with the BC Ministry of Health (“MoH”) and funded by the MoH. In an age-friendly community, older adults are supported to age-in-place, living active, socially engaged, independent lives. In addition to the grant program, BCHC offer tools and resources to support age-friendly planning and projects.

DISCUSSION

City of Surrey – Age Friendly Strategy for Seniors – ‘Action Plan’

The City adopted the Age Friendly Strategy (the “strategy”) for Seniors in 2014. The strategy was an outcome of a consultation process that included key elements of an age-friendly city which were developed by the World Health Organization (“WHO”). In 2016 Surrey was officially

recognized by the WHO as an Age Friendly City. This recognition is a result the City's commitment to the features of an Age Friendly Community and demonstrates the strong commitment to Surrey's aging population.

In spring 2023 staff began public consultation to update the strategy to reflect current and future trends. The updated strategy will help staff to understand how the COVID-19 pandemic impacted seniors and how this experience has changed how the City engages and works with the community. The updates to the strategy are anticipated to be complete in fall 2023. Following the completion of the strategy, staff plan to develop a comprehensive Action Plan that supports the outcomes of the strategy.

Funding

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$25,000. The Grant will cover 100% of the cost of the project.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council authorize the submission of application for a BC Healthy Communities – Age-Friendly Communities 2023 Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to develop a comprehensive Action Plan that supports the outcomes of the updated Age Friendly Strategy for Seniors. The Project will strengthen Surrey as an age-friendly city and support healthy, safe, and equitable aging, allowing older adults to age-in-place.

Laurie Cavan
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