

NO: R126

COUNCIL DATE: July 27, 2020

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **July 23, 2020**

FROM: **General Manager, Engineering
General Manager, Investment &
Intergovernmental Relations
General Manager, Parks, Recreation & Culture**

FILE: **0290-01**

SUBJECT: **Union of BC Municipalities 2020 Community Excellence Awards**

RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report for information;
2. Authorize staff to submit applications to the Union of BC Municipalities (“UBCM”) Community Excellence Awards for
 - a. Surrey Makes PPE;
 - b. Innovative Sustainable Service Delivery Framework; and
 - c. West Village Energy Centre and Park.
3. Instruct the City Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to the UBCM Awards Program in support of the City’s applications.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain a Council resolution supporting the submission of three projects for 2020 UBCM Community Excellence Awards, which is a requirement for submission.

BACKGROUND

The UBCM Community Excellence Awards are an annual event, recognizing and celebrating excellence in local government projects or programs which can serve as “best practices” for other local governments.

For 2020, awards will be given in four categories:

1. The Excellence in Governance category recognizes governance processes and policies that are outcomes-based and consensus oriented; that encourage citizen participation in civic decision-making; are inclusive, open and transparent; and exemplify best practices in accountability, effectiveness, and long-term thinking.

2. The Excellence in Service Delivery category recognizes the actual production and provision of goods and services to the community.
3. The Excellence in Asset Management category recognizes effective management of existing and new infrastructure in order to maximize benefits, reduce risk and provide satisfactory levels of service to community users in a sustainable manner.
4. The Excellence in Sustainability category recognizes projects or programs that meeting current needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

In addition, the UBCM has advised that applicants are encouraged to include any COVID-19 pandemic response actions and/or activities in their applications.

The City has been successful in the annual UBCM awards program in the past, winning several Community Excellence awards. Since 2011, the City has been successful in receiving the following awards:

- 2011 “Overall Excellence” award for local governments across BC;
- 2011 “Best Practice, Website” award for the surrey.ca website re-design;
- 2012 “Best Practice, General” award for the Safe and Active Schools Program;
- 2012 “Excellence in Partnerships” award for the Kensington Prairie Community Centre;
- 2013 “Best Practice, Social Media” award;
- 2014 “Best Practice, Operations” award for the Erosion and Sediment Control Permit On-line Reporting tool;
- 2015 “Excellence in Action” award for the Street Light Copper Replacement program; •
- 2015 “Best Practice, Community Connections” award for the MySurrey App; and
- 2016 “Excellence in Leadership and Innovation” award for the BioPod Initiative.

The criteria for awarding a project in each of the four categories include the degree to which the project or program demonstrates organizational leadership, innovation, partnerships, public engagement and financial best practices, and the degree to which the outcomes of the project or program are transferable to other UBCM members. Award applications are required to be accompanied by a Council resolution indicating support for submitting each project for a UBCM award.

Awards will be announced and presented at the 2020 UBCM virtual convention in September 2020.

DISCUSSION

Following inter-departmental discussion on the status of various City initiatives that could be considered for an award and a review of the UBCM awards categories and criteria, staff have developed applications and supporting material for three recent initiatives that are a good fit for the UBCM Community Excellence awards. Each of these projects meets the requirements of the awards program and are complete or at a stage where outcomes have been demonstrated.

These applications are:

- a. Surrey Makes PPE in the Excellence in Service Delivery category;
- b. Sustainable Service Delivery in the Excellence in Asset Management category;
- c. West Village Energy Centre and Park in the Excellence in Sustainability category.

Surrey Makes PPE

Surrey Makes PPE is an initiative that supports the retooling of local manufacturers to produce personal protective equipment (“PPE”) and sell to government and health authority buyers. This program helps Surrey’s economy reduce business failure, create jobs and attract investment during the COVID-19 crisis and beyond. Since its launch in April 2020, the initiative has grown to include 28 manufacturers capable of producing all currently in-demand personal protective equipment except medical gloves and boots. Ten new companies have recently established in Surrey in order to be part of the Surrey Makes PPE program. To date participating companies’ sales have topped \$4.6 Million while supplying Canadian communities with over 400,000 units of personal protective equipment.

Sustainable Service Delivery

The City has built the *Sustainable Service Delivery* framework that goes beyond the traditional approach of asset management to ensure that current community water, sewer, drainage and transportation infrastructure servicing needs are delivered (in a socially, economically and environmentally responsible manner) and do not compromise the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Communities build and maintain infrastructure to provide services. These services support our quality of life, protect our health and safety, and promote social, economic and environmental well-being.

Using the framework, sound asset management and state of good repair practices will be implemented by considering community priorities, informed by an understanding of the trade-offs between the available financial resources and the desired level of services and measured using key performance indicators (UPIs).

West Village Energy Centre and Park

The *West Village Energy Centre and Park* is a sustainability initiative that allows for community engagement opportunities and created a vibrant shared space for the growing West Village neighbourhood. The state-of-the art energy centre for Surrey’s district energy system, Surrey City Energy, plays an integral part in improving energy efficiency, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and providing competitive energy prices for Surrey residents and businesses in Surrey’s growing City Centre

Staff consider that these three projects are strong candidates for an award, and that they meet the intent of the UBCM Awards program.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

The projects submitted for UBCM 2020 Community Excellence Awards support the objectives of the City’s Sustainability Charter 2.0. In particular, this work relates to Sustainability Charter 2.0 themes of Infrastructure, Built Environment & Neighbourhoods, Public Safety, Economic Prosperity and Livelihoods. Specifically, these projects support the following Desired Outcomes (“DO”) and Strategic Directions (“SD”):

- All Infrastructure - SD1: Proactively manage community assets to maintain them over the long-term in a state of good repair;
- Buildings and Sites - DO13: Buildings are healthy and energy and resource efficient;
- Buildings and Sites - SD13: Continue to support low carbon district energy networks;
- Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Do7: Residents, businesses and institutions are empowered and prepared to respond effectively during times of emergency; and

- Innovation – Do16: Surrey’s businesses are active participants in the community and create economic value in a way that generates value for society.

CONCLUSION

The projects selected for submission for a 2020 UBCM Community Excellence Award meet the criteria of the awards program, and each is an exemplary project worthy of an award in the relevant category.

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JA/YY/cc