



Corporate Report

NO: R057

COUNCIL DATE: March 24, 2003

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor &
Council** DATE: **March 19,
2003**

FROM: **General Manager, Planning
& Development** FILE: **0250-20
OPCA**

SUBJECT: **Ocean Park Area Liveability Study**

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Instruct the City Clerk to forward a copy of this report to the Ocean Park Community Association.

INTENT

The Ocean Park Community Association ("OPCA") has submitted, to the City, the final report on the Ocean Park Area Liveability Study ("OPALS") that was undertaken by the Association during 2001 and 2002. This report provides information to Council regarding that study.

BACKGROUND

Ms. Shirley Stonier, Coordinator of the OPALS, appeared as a delegation on behalf of the OPCA at the Council-in-Committee Meeting on November 4, 2002 and presented the results of the OPALS. The study was undertaken as an initiative of the OPCA and Council, in response to a request from the OPCA, had approved a grant of \$500 toward the costs that the OPCA would incur in undertaking the study and related survey. Ms. Stonier advised Council, at that time, that the OPCA would provide to the City a copy of the results of the study in due course. The final report on the results of the study and related survey has now been received by the City and is available for review by City Council in the Councillor's Library.

DISCUSSION

Ocean Park Area Liveability Study

The OPCA initiated the OPALS in July 2001. The OPALS was undertaken by a Committee of the OPCA and included links to the Ocean Park Business Association and the Crescent Beach Residents Association. Based on the information received from the OPCA, the study was initiated to:

- Identify the characteristics (both existing and desired) that would make living in Ocean Park pleasurable, safe, comfortable and responsive;
- Assist the City of Surrey Council and staff in understanding the community issues that might need to be addressed; and
- Enable the OPCA to develop long-term objectives for its Community Building Initiatives Program.

The OPALS project involved a survey of the area residents to elicit community response on the livability of the Ocean Park area. A survey questionnaire was designed by the Ocean Park Community Steering Committee and distributed to all Ocean Park households (a total of 5,200 area residents and businesses). Responses were received from approximately 10% of the survey questionnaire recipients (519 respondents).

The survey respondents were asked a series of questions on a number of items and issues related to Ocean Park. The survey results included that 93% of the respondents rated the livability of Ocean Park as good. The following is a list of the general items/issues that the survey also covered:

- Matters related to community liveability;
- Matters related to green space and trees;
- Availability locally of goods and services;
- Expansion of and theme for the village centre;
- Vehicle parking considerations;
- Traffic calming;
- Transit services;
- Safety, vandalism, graffiti and crime;
- Sidewalks;
- Fire and police services;
- Open spaces;
- Dog control;
- Residential development considerations;

- Secondary suites;
- Services for youth;
- Services for families; and
- Services for seniors.

The results related to questions regarding each of these areas are contained in the final report.

Implementation:

The OPCA plans to initiate several Task Forces to undertake an in-depth analysis of each of the matters/issues identified through the OPALS to facilitate the development of concrete proposals for the further enhancement of quality of community life in Ocean Park. The OPCA has requested City assistance in the following areas to facilitate the works of the Task Forces:

1. The provision of professional advice and expertise by City staff on matters related to the identified issues;
2. Access to City research materials and resources; and
3. Favourable consideration of grant applications arising from Task Force initiatives.

City staff will provide assistance to OPCA, within the limits of available resources and in balance with other responsibilities. City research materials, maps and other public information pertaining to the Ocean Park Community will be provided to the OPCA, once specific requests have been received and in accordance with normal procedures. Grant applications to the City by OPCA must be approved by Council and would be assessed by City staff, based on the established City Grant Policy and considered by the Finance Committee of Council prior to being forwarded to City Council.

CONCLUSION

A Committee of Ocean Park Community Association undertook the Ocean Park Liveability Study. The OPALS is now complete and the results in the form of a final report have been submitted to the City. OPCA plans to initiate several Task Forces to undertake an in-depth analyses of the issues identified through the OPALS, to identify and develop concrete proposals for furthering a high quality of community life in Ocean Park. The OPCA has requested access to City staff for professional advice and expertise on the issues identified through the OPALS, access to City information in relation to on-going OPCA initiatives in follow-up to the OPALS to further enhance the liveability of Ocean Park and favourable consideration of grant applications by the City. City staff will continue to provide advice and support to OPCA to the extent possible within available resources and City information will be provided to OPCA upon request, subject to normal limitations. Grant applications from OPCA will be evaluated based on the City Grant Policy and be forwarded to Council for consideration through the Finance Committee.

Murray Dinwoodie
General Manager
Planning and Development

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