

DATE OF MEETING April 1, 2019

AUTHORED BY [JOHN HORN, SOCIAL PLANNER]

SUBJECT [AGE-FRIENDLY BC COMMUNITY RECOGNITION UPDATE]

OVERVIEW

Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the process for Nanaimo to be recognized as an Age-Friendly British Columbia (AFBC) community and the associated development of an age-friendly City plan.

Recommendation

That the report titled "Age-Friendly BC Community Recognition Update" dated 2019-APR-01 be received for information.

DISCUSSION

The Age-Friendly Community initiative started with the World Health Organization in 2006 and involved 33 cities of varying sizes throughout the world. *Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide* contains the lessons, strategies, and information learned through discussions in these cities. Building on this and Canadian age-friendly initiatives, the Province, through Age-Friendly BC (AFBC), has supported the development of age-friendly communities since 2007.

Council, at its Regular meeting of 2017-JUL-10, passed the following motion:

"That Council endorse the application to the Age-Friendly British Columbia recognition program in order to acknowledge the City of Nanaimo's efforts in improving accessibility and fostering social inclusion for older persons."

Based on guidelines issued by the Province (see Attachment A), the process for achieving AFBC recognition includes the following steps:

- 1) *Conduct an age-friendly assessment in consultation with older adults.*

This work has been done through the Seniors Connect project since it began in 2016. The Seniors Connect project and related activities are funded through the New Horizons for Seniors Program, which supports actions to reduce social isolation in those aged 55 and older. This funding supports the related City Builders project that involves the City implementing age-friendly actions by improving the City's physical infrastructure to be more inclusive of seniors' needs (e.g., bus shelters, crosswalks, park furniture). These actions are based on recommendations from the Seniors Connect project's community consultation.

- 2) *Establish an age-friendly community advisory committee that includes the active participation of older adults.*

This advisory committee was established under the leadership of the Seniors Connect project and is called the Nanaimo Seniors Task Force (NSTF).

- 3) *Develop and publicize an age-friendly city plan (AFC Plan).*

The NSTF, building on the recommendations of the Seniors Connect community engagement results, has been developing an AFC Plan in partnership with the City. The plan is based on eight key themes consistent with the World Health Organization's guidelines (see Attachment A). Food Security was added by the NSTF to reflect the importance of this domain to seniors in Nanaimo. A summary of the engagement and consultation activities that informed drafting the AFC Plan is included as Attachment B. The Nanaimo AFC Plan is now in the final stages of development.

Following the receipt of this report by Council, the Nanaimo Seniors Task Force and City Staff will continue working collaboratively to complete the AFC Plan. It is anticipated that this will be accomplished by end of April 2019, inclusive of a final public engagement session where stakeholders and others can review and comment on the draft plan. The final AFC Plan will be brought to Council for consideration, and, if endorsed, the City will submit the plan to the Province as part of an application for AFBC community recognition.]

SUMMARY POINTS

- [The City of Nanaimo is seeking Provincial approval for recognition as an Age-Friendly BC Community. The development of an Age-Friendly City Plan is part of this process.
- An age-friendly engagement process was undertaken by Nanaimo Seniors Connect, leading to information and recommendations to make Nanaimo more age-friendly. Under leadership of Seniors Connect, the Nanaimo Seniors Task Force was created to support the development and implementation of an age-friendly city plan.
- The Age-Friendly City Plan is in the final stages of development. Once the final draft is complete, the task force will provide the community and key stakeholders with an opportunity review the document. Following this final engagement, the plan will be brought forward for Council's consideration and endorsement.
- Pending Council endorsement, the completed Age-Friendly City Plan will be submitted as part of the City's application to the Province to achieve Age-Friendly BC recognition.]

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Becoming an Age-Friendly Community: Local Government Guide |
ATTACHMENT B: Summary of Engagement and Consultation Activities

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