

Report to Council



Date: October 21, 2019
To: Council
From: City Manager
Subject: Community for All: Age-Friendly BC Recognition and Rick Hansen Foundation Grant
Department: Policy & Planning and Parks & Buildings Planning

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Sustainability Coordinator and Park and Landscape Planner dated October 21, 2019, with respect to the Age-Friendly BC Recognition and the Rick Hansen Foundation Grant.

Purpose:

To update Council on the Community for All Action Plan and to inform Council that Kelowna recently received Age-Friendly BC Recognition and a Rick Hansen Foundation Grant.

Background:

Through the work of the Community for All Action Plan within the Healthy City Strategy, Kelowna has achieved Age-Friendly BC Community Recognition from the BC Ministry of Health. The Province has acknowledged Kelowna's unique work of the Community for All Action Plan, noting that it targets not only seniors, but a combination of ages and abilities including children and those with diverse abilities for an inclusive community.

In 2019, there are ten communities being recognized by the Province as age-friendly for taking steps to ensure British Columbia seniors can live active, socially engaged and independent lives. The ten communities include: Cranbrook, Gibsons, Houston, Kelowna, Lake Cowichan, Nanaimo, Naramata, Okanagan Falls, Osoyoos and Rosland.

As an age-friendly community, Kelowna will be invited to join the national and global network of age-friendly communities. There are currently 57 officially recognized age-friendly communities in B.C.

Since the endorsement of the Community for All Action Plan in December 2016, the City of Kelowna and key community stakeholders have been actively implementing many of the 31 actions identified in the plan as well as other actions that have been initiated since the plan was endorsed. The vision of the Community for All Action Plan is:

"A city that is healthy, safe, active and inclusive for seniors, children and those with diverse abilities."

A summary on the progress of those actions is provided in Appendix A: 2019 Status of Community for All Actions. Of the original actions slated for implementation, 10 are complete, 12 are ongoing and 4 are in progress. Additionally, 3 actions have been postponed and 2 are not proceeding due to lack of resources (staffing and/or funding) and other unforeseen issues.

Furthering Council's priorities for increased inclusivity and diversity in the community, and in addition to the actions within the Community for All Action Plan, several initiatives have also been implemented in the City of Kelowna. A list of some of the highlights are also included in Appendix A to showcase the diversity and breadth of initiatives that are occurring. As an example, the Active Living & Culture team is working with the City of West Kelowna, District of Lake Country, and District of Peachland to undertake a Child Care Needs Assessment in the Central Okanagan. This is a grant opportunity from the BC Ministry of Children & Family Development and Union of BC Municipalities. The project will seek to identify regional child care needs and trends, create an inventory of childcare spaces, and identify locations and populations most in need.

Another example is the Parks and Building Planning Department actively undertaking accessibility improvements to City buildings and parks. In 2019, there will be additional improvements made to Ben Lee park to improve accessibility through parking improvements, signage and a renovation to the existing fountain at the north side of the park.

Additionally, on behalf of the City of Kelowna, the Parks and Buildings Department applied for and successfully received a Rick Hansen Foundation Grant. The nearly \$20,000 grant will be used for accessibility improvements to Ben Lee Park which is a widely used community amenity. The focus for the grant includes:

- Washroom and changeroom improvements for all three washrooms, including hardware and functionality improvements, as well as an automatic door opener for the all user washroom;
- Addition of two accessible picnic tables.

The improvements at Ben Lee Park will be complete by the end of September 2020 and will serve to enhance this community park as an inviting space for those with diverse abilities. The City of Kelowna gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Rick Hansen Foundation and the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction.

Conclusion:

The strength of the Community for All Action Plan includes the collaboration and partnerships with, and commitment from, City departments and key stakeholders. The City of Kelowna, Interior Health, Provincial government and numerous community stakeholders are working collectively together to develop and foster a culture of all ages and abilities. By advancing the Community for All actions, the City in partnership with various agencies, will promote a community where policies, services and structures related to the physical and social environment are designed to support and enable people of all ages and abilities to live in a secure environment, enjoy good health, and continue to participate fully in society.

Internal Circulation:

Parks and Buildings Planning

Communications

Existing Policy:

Community for All Action Plan (endorsed in December 2016)

2019-2022 Council Priorities

- Social & inclusive – inclusivity and diversity are increasing
- Vibrant neighbourhoods – accessible and multi-purpose amenities

External Agency/Public Comments:

Information in the report regarding the stakeholder led actions was received from Interior Health, Pathways Abilities Society, People in Motion, School District #23 and Seniors Outreach Society.

Submitted by:

M. Kam, Sustainability Coordinator
M. Steppuhn, Park and Landscape Planner

Approved for inclusion:



Danielle Noble-Brandt, Policy & Planning Department Manager