

Building Strong Neighbourhoods

An update on Kelowna's Neighbourhood Associations

July 24, 2023



Background Strong Neighbourhoods

- ▶ Since 2015, the Strong Neighbourhoods program has offered a variety of programs to support residents with building community where they live.
- ▶ Each of the programs offered focuses on inspiring leaders, empowering neighbours and fostering neighbourliness.
- ▶ Neighbour connections contribute towards a culture of care, increase sense of belonging and inclusion, enhance safety, and ultimately lead to a more inclusive and livable city.

Strong Neighbourhood Programs

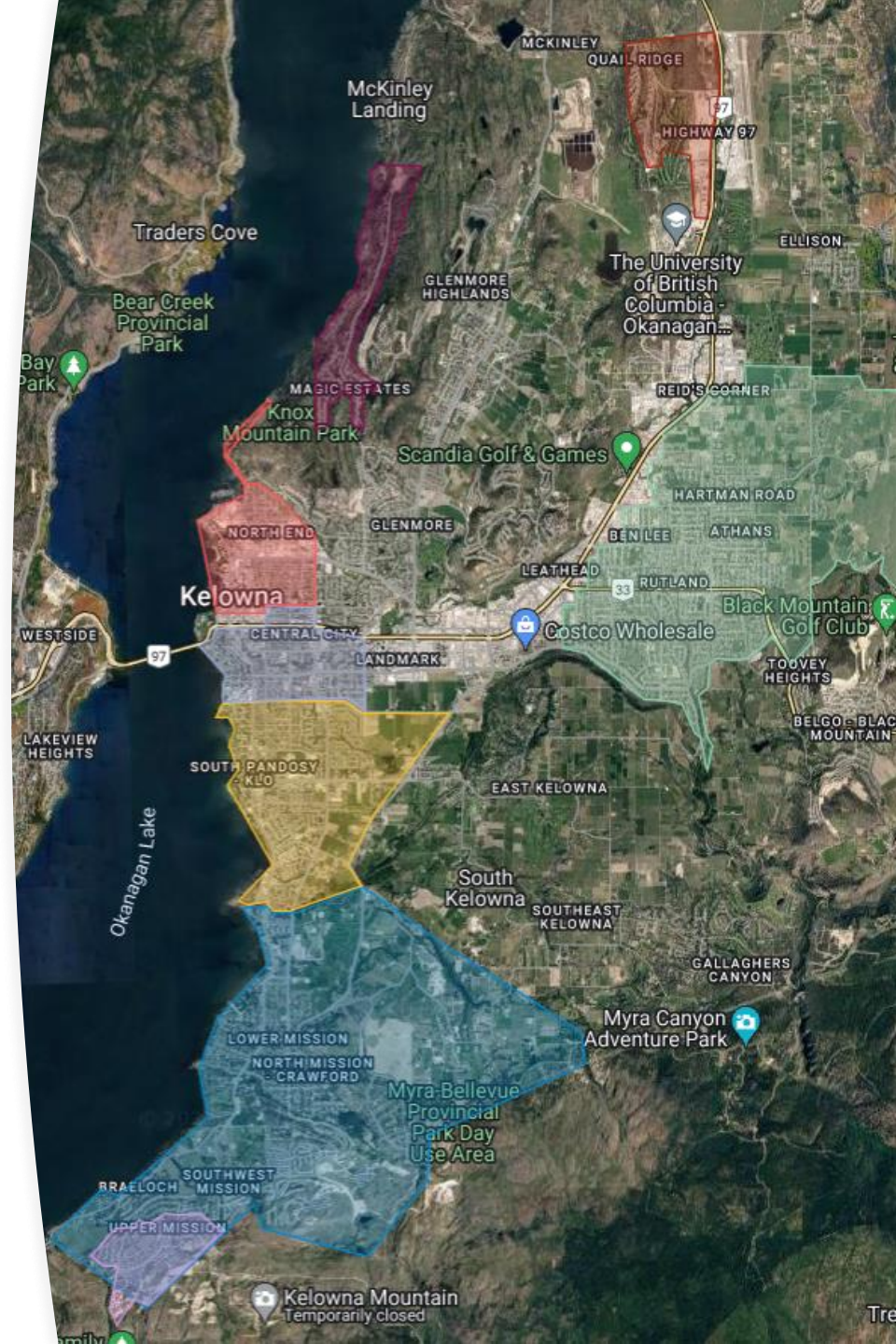
- ▶ Strong Neighbourhood Grants
- ▶ Neighbourhood Events
- ▶ Block Connectors
- ▶ Good Neighbour Toolkit
- ▶ Kind Neighbour Kudos
- ▶ Neighbour Day
- ▶ Park & Play



Background

Neighbourhood Associations in Kelowna

- ▶ Neighbourhood associations are non-profit organizations that advocate for the shared interests and goals of residents within the neighbourhood
- ▶ Policy 305 was created over 20 years ago to set guidelines for communication and cooperation between the City and Neighbourhood Associations



Background

Neighbourhood Associations in Kelowna



Active Neighbourhood Associations	Membership	Population within boundary
Clifton Highlands Community Association	~40 paying members Mailing List: ~160 subscribers	Population: 1,831 Households: 652
Kelowna Downtown Knox Mtn. Neighbourhood Association	"low membership"	Population: 7,328 Households: 3,823
Kelowna Lands and Orchards (KLO) Neighbourhood Association	~50 paying members Mailing List: ~400 subscribers:	Population: 15,692 Households: 7,735
Kelowna South-Central Association of Neighbourhoods (KSAN)	~65 paying members	Population: 13,372 Households: 6,987
Kettle Valley Neighbourhood Association*	*Not a registered society No paying membership Mailing List: ~600 subscribers	Population: 3,466 Households: 1,071
Okanagan Mission Resident's Association	~40 paying members Mailing List: ~200 subscribers	Population: 21,568 Households: 7,332
Quail Ridge Residents Association	~461 paying members	Population: 1,160 Households: 495
Rutland Residents Association	~30-40 paying members	Population: 32,480 Households: 12,547

Engagement

Learning more about each organization

- ▶ Strong Neighbourhoods met with the board of directors for 12 organizations/groups
- ▶ Focus was to gain a better understanding of the organization's history, structure, mandate, capacity and current engagement with residents



Engagement Questions

Forming a Neighbourhood Association	Building Capacity	Maintaining Momentum	Executing Events and Initiatives
<p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Creating a non-profit organization -Determining NA boundaries -Identifying goals, visions, strategic plan -Board recruitment 	<p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Obtaining funding -Recruiting board members -Gaining members -Networks/connections with other NA organizations 	<p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Membership involvement and further recruitment -Volunteer involvement -Revisiting and updating strategic plan 	<p>Examples</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Outdoor Event -Neighbourhood Event

What we heard

Engagement results

- **Some key themes emerged from the sessions:**
 - Role ambiguity
 - Difficulty recruiting members
 - Limited capacity
 - lack of funding to support start-up and ongoing operational costs
 - lack of community space to hold meetings
 - costs associated with organizing events and running organization
- **“Neighbourhoods United” meeting – Jan 2023**
 - 8 associations/groups convened to discuss common goals/challenges
 - Request made to Mayor & Council
 - Review and revise Policy 305, specifically section CII
 - Operational funding
 - Meeting space
 - Communication support



kelowna.ca/neighbourhoods



Pilot Program Proposal

- ▶ Affiliation Agreement outlining the commitment of the Neighbourhood Association to build strong neighbourhoods
- ▶ Grant funding to support Neighbourhood Association operations
- ▶ On-going collaboration and capacity building
- ▶ Evaluation and performance measures

Recommendation to rescind Policy #305

Guidelines for Communications & Cooperation Between the City and Residents Associations

Policy is dated and redundant

- As the city continues to grow, the policy is no longer accurate or relevant
- The role of associations has evolved to encompass a broader focus on community development
- Rescinding the policy does not limit the City's ability to support or engage with NA's
- City's communication tools and engagement processes are more robust and effective. Many of these did not exist when the policy was created
 - The City has a variety of effective tools and resources reach residents directly
 - The policy does not reflect current technology and media used to engage and communicate with residents
- There has been substantial growth and change in the City over that time period which Policy 305 does not reflect
- The Pilot Program will set a broader framework for interactions between the City and Neighbourhood Associations

Next steps

- ▶ Develop pilot program details
- ▶ Submit 2024 provisional budget request
- ▶ Implement and evaluate pilot from 2024-2027





Questions?