

TO: Committee of the Whole

MEETING: November 20, 2018

FROM: Hannah King
Superintendent, Recreation Program Services

SUBJECT: UBCM 2019 Age Friendly Communities Grant Application

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Board endorse the grant application to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for the Age Friendly Communities Grant (Stream 1) for the purposes of funding an active aging asset mapping project within the Northern Recreation Services area.

SUMMARY

RDN Board endorsement is required for the RDN's application for a UBCM's Age Friendly Communities Grant application. The grant provides \$25,000 to communities for the completion of age-friendly assessments, action plans and planning projects that when implemented will enhance the quality of life for people as they age. One requirement of the grant application is an indication that the community has passed a Board resolution to actively support, promote and work towards becoming an age-friendly community.

BACKGROUND

The UBCM Age Friendly Communities Grant was announced in September 2018. An application has been submitted but the application now requires the Board's endorsement.

If successful the UBCM grant proceeds would be combined with funds (\$9,500) budgeted within the Northern Recreation Services 2019 Preliminary Financial Plan for initiatives identified in the 2019 - 2029 Oceanside Recreation Services Master Plan. A needs assessment and GIS mapping project of identified recreation assets would be completed with community organizations serving the active aging population (50 years plus) to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges involved in the provision of recreation services for this age group. From this work strategic objectives will be identified. The project being proposed aligns with the service delivery and programming recommendations within the recently approved (May 2018) Oceanside Recreation Services Master Plan. The project will build on other key initiatives conducted over the past year in Oceanside by the RDN and in collaboration with community partners. These include a community recreation facilities fees review and a social inclusion and physical accessibility audit of recreation facilities. The collaborative approach being proposed as a part of the asset mapping project and the resulting data will align with no less than 5 of the 34 Oceanside Recreation Services Master Plan recommendations. Specifically, the project speaks to Recommendation #17 - that Recreation Services undertake a number of strategic planning initiatives within the next 2 to 5 years including the development of an older adults/age friendly strategy. Such a strategy will explore specific program and activity needs, demands, barriers to participation and ways to remove or lessen those barriers.

ALTERNATIVES

1. That the Board endorse the application to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) for the Age Friendly Communities Grant (Stream 1) for the purposes of funding an active aging asset mapping project within the Northern Recreation Services area.
2. That the Board not endorse the application submitted by the Recreation and Parks Department to UBCM for the Age Friendly Communities Grant (Stream 1) for the purposes of funding an active aging asset mapping project within the Northern Recreation Services area.
3. That the Board provide alternative direction.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If successful the Active Aging Assessment and Mapping Project would receive \$25,000 in grant funding. Funding would be used to retain a consulting firm through a public request for proposal process to oversee the project. Costs associated with the project would include; document review, community consultation, process planning and implementation strategy, drafting of final report, and secondary costs such as room rental fees, food and travel. Preliminary estimates show the total cost of the project to be \$34,500. Awarded funding would be combined with funds (\$9,500) budgeted in the 2019 Preliminary Financial Plan for initiatives identified in the 2019 - 2029 Oceanside Recreation Services Master Plan. If funding for these initiatives is not approved in the 2019 financial plan by the RDN Board and the UBCM grant application is successful, then the project would be scaled back to equal the amount of the grant and/or alternative funding sources would be sought.

The grant writing firm ACCESS Grant Services Inc., currently on contract with the RDN, assisted in the writing of the grant application. The cost of the work related to the preparation of the grant application is estimated to be \$2,500.

STRATEGIC PLAN IMPLICATIONS

The Board's endorsement of this grant application and the proposed project aligns with the RDN's current strategic priority to focus on service and organizational excellence. By making such a commitment the Board will be strengthening the statement within the Strategic Plan that the Region recognizes and plans for the impact of our aging population. The consultative nature of the asset mapping project will serve as an example of the commitment to develop and encourage meaningful relationships with community partners.

Focus On Service And Organizational Excellence - We Recognize And Plan For The Impact Of Our Aging Population



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November 8, 2018

Reviewed by:

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