
TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

DATE: 2016 January 22

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 15500 01

SUBJECT: DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

PURPOSE: To propose a process to develop a dementia-friendly action plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council approve the process to develop a dementia-friendly community action plan, as described in Section 3.0 of this report.
2. **THAT** a copy of this report be forwarded to the Voices of Burnaby Seniors Planning Table.

REPORT**1.0 BACKGROUND**

At its meeting of 2015 November 9, Council authorized staff to submit an application to the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) 2016 Age-Friendly Community Planning and Project Grants Program to develop a Dementia-Friendly Community Action Plan. At the time, staff indicated they would prepare a further report to the Social Planning Committee outlining a proposed process to develop the plan if the City were successful in receiving the grant. In 2015 December, the City was advised that it received a grant of \$20,000 to develop the plan. Accordingly, this report provides information on a general process for advancement of the action plan work.

2.0 DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY ACTION PLAN DESCRIPTION

As our population ages, the number of people affected by dementia will continue to grow. Research indicates that dementia affects about 1.6 percent of the general population and of those people, about 60 percent live in the community. In this regard, the development of a community-based dementia-friendly action plan is identified as an important initiative to reduce the stigma of dementia and assist those living with dementia and their caregivers to remain connected to the community.

Dementia-friendly initiatives can include:

- **dementia education and training** that would assist frontline staff (recreation, library, police and fire department staff) and community members in understanding how to provide appropriate assistance and feel more confident in responding to a person with dementia;

- **social and recreational programming** that is inclusive of people with dementia and their caregivers; this type of programming helps those with dementia remain connected to the community and prevents social isolation; and
- **age-friendly improvements to the built environment** that are supportive of people with dementia and other cognitive impairments. For example, built environment improvements could include ensuring that new signage is clear and simple and entrances to new buildings are clearly distinguishable.

3.0 CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSED PROCESS

To develop a process to create a dementia-friendly community action plan, Planning staff coordinated a meeting of staff from Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services, Citizen Support Services, Burnaby Public Library and staff from Fraser Health and the Alzheimer Society of BC. The purpose of the meeting was to learn about dementia-friendly work in other communities and to gauge the interest of participants in taking part in a process to develop a dementia-friendly community action plan in Burnaby. Participants were also asked to identify other stakeholders they thought should be included or consulted in the process. In addition, Planning staff consulted with the Voices of Burnaby Seniors Planning Table (VOBS) who have identified dementia as a health concern of Burnaby seniors. Both the staff group and VOBS indicated a high level of support for the initiative and willingness to participate in the process.

4.0 PROPOSED PROCESS TO DEVELOP A DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

It is proposed that the process to develop a dementia-friendly community action plan be undertaken through a varied group of interested community and staff departmental representatives including those consulted above. The group would oversee development of the plan including consultation with relevant agencies.

The process to develop the plan is proposed to involve three main steps:

1. **Community research on dementia in Burnaby** – To inform the activities of the community action plan, it is proposed that the group would participate in conducting research on dementia in Burnaby. This research could include focus groups with people with dementia and their caregivers to understand their experiences living with dementia in Burnaby. Focus groups could also be conducted with frontline staff at public venues (e.g. libraries, community centres) and first responders to understand their experience in providing services to people with dementia.
2. **Dementia awareness** – Early in the process to develop the community action plan, it is proposed that a dementia awareness workshop, or series of workshops, be held in the community. The purpose of the workshop(s) would be to create awareness of dementia, dispel misinformation, address stigma, and generate interest in the development of the community action plan. Members of the Social Planning Committee, Burnaby Council and other interested groups would be invited to participate in a workshop.

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3. **Development and implementation of the action plan** – Through this work with the community, an action plan to create a more dementia-friendly community would be developed. The plan would include evaluation of action plan activities, a plan for sustainability, and development of an implementation approach for the plan.

5.0 RESOURCES

Planning staff will coordinate the process to develop the Dementia-Friendly Community Action Plan. To assist with the coordination of meetings, facilitation of consultation activities, and plan development, it is proposed that a portion of the UBCM grant be used to retain supporting resources to assist staff. Grant funds would also be used to fund communication materials and meeting and community event supplies. As required by the UBCM Age-Friendly grant program, all activities funded through the grant will need to be completed in the 2016 calendar year.

6.0 CONCLUSION

At its meeting of 2015 November 9, Council authorized staff to submit an application to the Union of BC Municipalities 2016 Age-Friendly Community Planning and Projects Grants Program to develop a dementia-friendly community action plan. In 2015 December, the City was advised that it received a grant of \$20,000. As described in Section 3.0, this report presents a proposed process for developing the plan including the participation of key stakeholders.

The focus on the plan development will be on coordination of meetings of interested participants and key research on dementia in Burnaby including facilitation of focus groups and other consultation activities to gather input and prepare a focused plan. Grant funds would also be used to fund communication materials and meeting and community event supplies.

It is recommended that Council approve the process described in Section 3.0 of this report to develop a dementia-friendly community action plan.

It is further recommended that a copy of this report be forwarded to the Voices of Burnaby Seniors Planning Table.


Lou Pelletier, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MM:sa

cc: City Manager
Deputy City Managers
Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
Chief Librarian
OIC – Burnaby RCMP
Fire Chief