

REPORT

Climate Action, Planning and Development Parks and Recreation

To: Mayor Johnstone and Members of Council
Date: November 27, 2023

From: Jackie Teed, Director, Climate Action,
Planning and Development
File: 13.2630.08

Dean Gibson, Director,
Parks and Recreation
Item #: 2023-764

Subject: **Proposed Next Steps related to Council Direction of October 16, 2023 regarding “The Right Person, The Right Time, The Right Place”**

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT Council endorse the proposed next steps as contained in this report to Council.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is twofold: (1) to provide an update to Council on its direction of October 16, 2023 in response to the document entitled “The Right Person, The Right Time, The Right Place;” and (2) to propose next steps based on consultation with the Century House Association Time for Change Group.

BACKGROUND

Previous Council Direction

At the October 16, 2023 Regular Meeting, Council provided the following direction:

1. That Council direct staff to reach out to the Century House Association to share information related aging in place in New Westminster and to inform the latter of engagement opportunities related to policy, planning and development processes.

2. That Council direct staff to consult with the Century House Association on senior government advocacy with a focus on New Westminster and to report back on specific initiatives and potential financial and staff work program implications.

DISCUSSION

On October 30, 2023, Community Planning and Parks and Recreation staff met with representatives of the Century House Association Time for Change Group. The meeting agenda items were as follows:

- Introductions
- Review of Previous Council Direction – June 12, 2023 Motion and October 16, 2023 Direction
- Review of “The Right Person, The Right Time, The Right Place” Document
- Review of Municipal Recommendations
- Review of Senior Government Advocacy Actions
- Proposed Next Steps and Report to Council on November 27, 2023

ANALYSIS

Meeting with the Century House Association Time for Change Group

Based on the meeting of October 30, 2023, there was support for focusing on aging in place with residential care settings being a last resort. Regarding this focus, the following two questions emerged:

1. How to facilitate aging in place in New Westminster?
2. How to enhance general care and systems change for older adults and seniors?

Regarding the first area, there was support for City staff and the Century House Association Time for Change Group working more collaboratively, with the former sharing information about City policy and planning initiatives and engagement opportunities, and the latter encouraging engagement by older adults and seniors. This would be an important step in helping to ensure that City policies and planning initiatives are more representative of and responsive to the needs of older adults and seniors. There was also support for City staff sharing information about funding and grant opportunities with the Group, which could also be a vehicle for further collaboration. Additionally, there was support for a new *Age-Friendly Community Strategy*, which Community Planning has in its work program for early-2025, with Seniors Week in June 2024 being seen as a strategic launch option and a further opportunity for collaboration.

Regarding the second area, there was support for focusing efforts on New Westminster, with City staff assisting the Group with its advocacy efforts related to document dissemination, including preparing a letter of support. There was also support for finding a meaningful role for the Group’s Seniors Have Voices, which advocates on community issues of importance or interest to older adults and seniors. This advocacy was also seen as a further opportunity for collaboration between City staff and the Group.

Follow-up from the Century House Association Time for Change Group

On November 3, 2023, Community Planning and Parks and Recreation staff shared possible next steps with the Century House Association Time for Change Group. On November 7, 2023, the Group, by way of an e-mail, noted that it is in the process of developing its vision and goals and provided a response to the proposed next steps which highlighted the following objectives:

- to continue existing collaboration with the City, including related to Connect and Prepare and Seniors Integrated Supports;
- to expand collaboration and planning, including related to Seniors Week;
- to become more informed of City initiatives which impact healthy aging;
- to jointly advocate on City initiatives which facilitate healthy aging; and,
- to share information on topics impacting healthy aging, including a Seniors Have Voices event.

PROPOSED NEXT STEPS

1. That Community Planning and Parks and Recreation staff develop a collaborative working relationship with the Century House Association Time for Change Group. This could include but not be limited to the following:

- attending meetings of the Time for Change Group;¹
- developing mutually beneficial contacts and relationships;
- engaging in discussions and learning about issues, needs and gaps of relevance to older adults and seniors;
- providing articles and resources about or facilitating aging in place;
- sharing information about Planning and Parks and Recreation initiatives and engagement opportunities, with particular focus on those which facilitate aging in place.

Regarding the fourth bullet, the Community Planning Team provided a Seniors Lens (Attachment 1), which consists of a number of questions and is intended to assist older adults and seniors in reviewing City plans, policies and development proposals.

2. That Community Planning staff share information about potential funding opportunities which may benefit older adults and seniors, particularly related to community connecting and belonging, which is a 2023-2026 Council strategic priority. Examples include the Neighbourhood Small Grant Program and the New Horizons for Seniors Grant Program.
3. That Community Planning and Parks and Recreation staff assist the Century House Association in circulating the *Right Person, The Right Time, The Right*

¹ Community Planning staff could attend up to four meetings per year and Parks and Recreation staff could attend up to six meetings per year.

Place document to the local MP and the two local MLAs. Assistance could include an accompanying letter and other advocacy support with a focus on New Westminster. Of note, the Century House Association Seniors Have Voices, which advocates on behalf of issues of importance to older adults and seniors could play a role in advocating on behalf of the document.

4. That Community Planning and Parks and Recreation staff, in collaboration with the Time for Change Group, focus the next Seniors Week in June 2024 on age-friendly communities and aging in place, which could act as the launch of an update to the *City of New Westminster Age-Friendly Community Strategy*, which is part of the Community Planning work program commencing in early-2025. Given that it is a work program item, Community Planning staff would play a key support role in staging of Seniors Week.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed next steps can be accommodated within existing work programs of both Community Planning and Parks and Recreation, thus there are no financial implications associated with this report.

OPTIONS

The two options presented for Council's consideration are:

1. That Council endorse the proposed next steps as contained in this report to Council.
2. That Council provide staff with other direction.

Staff recommends option 1.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Seniors Lens

APPROVALS

This report was prepared by:
John Stark, Manager of Community Planning

This report was reviewed by:
Corrinne Garrett, Manager, Recreation Facilities and Programs

This report was approved by:
Dean Gibson, Director, Parks and Recreation
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Lisa Spitale, Chief Administrative Officer