
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 31, 2007
File No.: 5040-20
To: City Manager
From: Community Planning Manager
Subject: Mayor's Event to End Homelessness

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council authorize the use of funds for the Mayor's Workshop to End Homelessness to be held on November 27, 2007 from Council Contingency in the amount of up to \$11,075 as set out in the report of the Community Planning Manager dated October 31, 2007.

BACKGROUND:

The Mayor held an event on March 15, 2007 at the Coast Capri Hotel and invited many to hear a presentation from Richard L. Harris, Executive Director of Central City Concern (Portland, Oregon) on projects and actions towards housing the homeless by his organization in Portland. This was combined with a Chamber of Commerce luncheon and followed by a roundtable discussion facilitated by Phil Johnson. Following the event, there was an expectation and intention on the part of the Mayor to follow through with actions that demonstrate municipal leadership in solving homelessness. A coordinating role was envisioned.

The Mayor consulted with the Social Planning and Housing Committee and a sub-committee was struck to help determine next steps. Staff worked with the Mayor and sub-committee towards a follow-up event that would have a goal of determining a strategy to end homelessness in a parallel manner to the 10-year plans to end homelessness in other North American cities. The sub-committee was particularly concerned that this process not simply generate another long term plan that would not necessarily result in action, but that clear projects be identified. Projects are envisioned to create solutions that the committee can rally around in a similar manner to the Kelowna hospice building on Ethel St. By the same token it was also agreed that a longer term strategy should be identified, but that much work has already been done in Kelowna in the form of Community Plans on Homelessness and the programs and projects that have been funded through government partnerships.

A Mayor's one day workshop is now scheduled for the end of November with a list of invitees strategically compiled to target "movers and shakers" in the community who have the resources and leadership to identify both short term projects and a long term strategy for ending homelessness in our city. This event has necessitated hiring a consultant and booked facilities. Hence there are expenses attached. The consultant will prepare background materials, facilitate the workshop and provide a final report to Council. Council is asked to consider funding the event on behalf of the Mayor and the City from Council contingency. The budget for the event is below. If not all funds are used the remainder can be returned to Council's contingency fund:

Consultant (to prepare all materials, facilitate the workshop, produce workshop report)	up to	\$10,000
Facility Rental		\$75
Coffee (50 @ \$5)		\$250
Lunch (50 @ \$15)		\$750
TOTAL		\$11,075

INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO:

Director of Finance.

Director of Corporate Services and Interim Planning Director.

EXISTING POLICY:

Strategic Plan:

Goal #3 - To foster the social and physical well-being of residents and visitors.

Objective #1 - Promote health and wellness initiatives.

3.1.8 Work proactively with the community and other levels of government to address homelessness, mental health and drug abuse.

Objective #4 – Realize construction of housing forms and prices that meet the needs of Kelowna residents.

3.4.1 Work in partnership with housing organizations and finance institutions to monitor the range of housing options required in the City.

3.4.2 Identify ways to establish partnerships with builders, developers and other levels of government in an effort to use targeted City owned land, existing resources and legislative tools to influence the supply and diversity of housing and to increase the supply of affordable housing.

Official Community Plan:

8.1.3 Social Planning and Housing Committee. Collaborate with a Social Planning and Housing Committee, which shall report to Council on matters dealing with rental, special needs and affordable housing;

8.1.4 Partnerships for Affordable Housing. Encourage the development of partnerships among community groups, non-profit organizations, the business community, professionals and all levels of government to provide affordable and special needs housing;

8.1.9 Housing Forums. With the involvement of the Social Planning and Housing Committee and interested housing agencies, hold biannual public housing forums to educate and inform the community about housing needs and issues. A particular focus of these forums will be to counteract local negative reactions ("NIMBYism") to housing projects in the community;

FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:

\$11,075 is requested from Council contingency. There is no 2007 allocation from the budget for this event.

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:

The workshop requires the assistance of a consultant as staff is committed to other priorities.

Considerations that were not applicable to this report:

LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS:

LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

EXTERNAL AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION:

Submitted by:

T. Eichler

Approved for Inclusion:



David Shipclark, Director of Corporate Services

cc: Director of Finance
Director of Corporate Services