
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: December 4, 2007
File No.: 5040-20
To: City Manager
From: Community Planning Manager
Subject: Strategy to End and Stop Homelessness

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council consider a supplemental request for up to \$50,000 as part of the 2008 Budget discussions to fund work necessary to prepare a strategy to end and stop homelessness as set out in the report of the Community Planning Manager dated October 31, 2007.

BACKGROUND:

On November 27, 2007, the Mayor hosted a workshop to end homelessness at the Rotary Centre for the Arts. This was funded out of Council contingency, as approved at Council's meeting of November 5th, 2007, and much of the work of organizing the workshop and doing the research was done with the help of a consultant. Staff and the Chair of the City's Housing Committee met with the consultant numerous times to plan the event. A sub-committee of the Housing Committee also helped plan the workshop.

Deliverables from the workshop were expected to include some short-term projects or initiatives identifiable by the end of the day; and the beginnings of a team or task force to define a long term strategy with the City's leadership. The workshop was well-attended and was by invitation, including significant representation by the business and development community. Those in attendance were very positive about the event, but many had steep learning curves regarding the homelessness issue as it affects Kelowna, particularly in terms of service delivery. At the end of the day, there were no specific projects or initiatives identified, but many people put their name forward to be involved in further work on a strategy to end or stop homelessness.

The Mayor has asked what it would take in terms of consultant resources to take on the work of ending and stopping homelessness to the point of developing a strategy. Much of the groundwork for this has been done through the Poverty and Homelessness Action Team, through their Community Plan on homelessness in Kelowna. The executive summary to this report is attached.

Staff time in 2008 is already fully committed to existing work programs. A consultant would be necessary to ensure the project is completed in a timely way. The consultant who organized the workshop estimates that this work would take about 4 months at approximately \$10,000 to \$12,000 per month. Factoring in out of pocket expenditures, total cost is projected to be \$50,000. The nature of the work is described below:

In terms of support, the Committee will need a consultant to:

- help the Committee lay out its work program (i.e., the stages to be followed to develop the Plan)
- undertake the supporting background research required by the Committee at each stage in the program
- work with the Committee Chair to plan the meetings/workshops and, if necessary, facilitate them
- provide advice to the Committee at each stage on various issues
- work with the Chair to engage and liaise with key groups in the community (e.g., service providers, BC Housing, etc.)
- write the final Plan and any supporting documents for the Committee (the Plan would be the Committee's; but the Committee would likely charge its consultant with the actual writing)
- in general, assist the Chair in keeping the momentum going, and keeping the group on track

This funding would need to be added to the 2008 budget requests, should Council wish to consider it.

INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO:

Director of Financial Services

Director of Public Works/Corporate Services

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:

An additional one time budget supplemental for \$50,000 is being requested as part of the 2008 budget considerations. If Council does not want to fund this as part of the Budget, then other sources of funding need to be identified.

Considerations that were not applicable to this report:

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS:

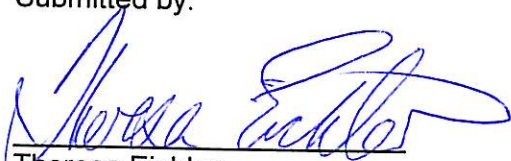
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

EXTERNAL AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

**ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION:
LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS:

Submitted by:



Theresa Eichler
Community Planning Manager

Approved for Inclusion:



John Vos

Cc: Director of Public Works / Corporate Services
Director of Financial Services