

REPORT TO COUNCIL



Date: October 28, 2011
File: 0615-20 Women's and Community Advisory Committee
To: City Manager
From: Corine (Cory) Gain, Staff Liaison
Subject: Women's and Community Advisory Committee Term End Report
 Report Prepared by: Committee Chair, Micki Smith

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives, for information the report from the Women's and Community Advisory Committee dated October 27, 2011 with respect to the Committee's Final Report for the 2008-2011 Council Term;

AND THAT the Women's and Community Advisory Committee recommends that Council directs staff to consider:

Communication

- a) Creation and maintenance of a more easily accessible link to the "Community Information Search" homepage on the Kelowna Community Resources homepage (<http://kelowna.cioc.ca>) to assist residents in accessing information about programs and services available in our community;
- b) Implementation of available technology solutions to translate information available on the City of Kelowna website to increase the accessibility of information to the community;
- c) Creation and maintenance of a more easily accessible link to the "Volunteer Opportunities Search" homepage on the Kelowna Community Resources homepage (<http://kelowna.cioc.ca/volunteer>) to assist residents in customizing volunteer profiles and in accessing information about volunteer opportunities available in our community;

Community

- d) Incorporation of diversity training into corporate employee training;
- e) Making information regarding the availability of assistance in languages other than English available to the public;
- f) Writing a letter to Tourism Kelowna to request that they review and expand the welcoming and inclusive content of their information centers from a newcomer's perspective;

- g) Undertaking a review and expansion of welcoming and inclusive content of their information centers from a newcomer's perspective at the Kelowna International Airport;
- h) Writing a letter to Kelowna Transit Services to request that Community Transit Training be expanded to include newcomers and recent immigrants;
- i) Writing a letter to the RCMP to request that costs and timelines for volunteer criminal record checks and fingerprinting be reviewed with the goal of decreasing the costs to volunteers and increasing consistency of process and cost between jurisdictions;
- j) Reviewing the criteria for eligibility for Social Development Grants to ensure that organizations that support and encourage women in leadership will have opportunities to apply for grants;
- k) Undertaking a Communication Plan to increase community awareness of the eligibility criteria for Social Development Grants;
- l) Amending the Terms of Reference of the Women's and Community Advisory Committee if required to accommodate the appointment or alternatively, to create a Community Wellness Committee;
- m) Liaising with Interior Health Authority staff to investigate the possibility of conducting a Mental Health Audit within the City of Kelowna;

Wellness

- n) Reviewing City of Kelowna policy and pay scales to ensure that all City of Kelowna employees are paid a 'Living Wage';
- o) Incorporating consideration of selection criteria based on the 'Living Wage' in purchasing decisions;
- p) Providing information regarding the City's Living Wage Policy with business license information to demonstrate leadership and encourage adoption of the 'Living Wage' throughout the community.

AND THAT the Women's and Community Advisory Committee recommends Council support partnership development by:

- q) Inviting the Interior Health Authority to appoint a representative to sit on the Women's and Community Advisory Committee or other another committee that may be formed in the future to address community health and wellness, in an advisory capacity as a non-voting member.

AND THAT the Women's and Community Advisory Committee recommends Council considers using the slogan, "Our minimum wage is a living wage".

AND THAT the Women's and Community Advisory Committee recommends the following be referred to the Housing Committee for consideration:

- a) Support for construction of a larger facility 24/7 to house women and children in need, including consideration of involving non-profit organizations and the conduct of a

feasibility study to determine where a facility to house women and children in need would be suitable;

- b) Increased support for co-op housing; and
- c) Legalization of secondary suites.

AND THAT the Women's and Community Advisory Committee recommends that Council advocates to provincial and federal levels of government to provide adequate funding for post secondary education and continued studies as well.

Purpose:

Further to Council Resolution 888/11/09/12 that directs the Women's and Community Advisory Committee to review the information contained in the Women - Voices for Action! Forum Report and work with staff to establish a priority and implementation plan for Council's consideration. The committee has integrated this information into their final report of the 2008-2011 Council Term. This report includes prioritization of the recommendations of the Committee from the 2009 and 2011 community forums and recommendations for implementation for Council's consideration. The recommendations have been presented in priority order.

Background:

The purpose of the Women's and Community Advisory Committee is to identify areas where the city can further its objectives of being a safer, healthier and more equitable community, particularly encouraging women's viewpoints on a range of issues that may impact quality of life in these areas.

To achieve this objective, the Women's and Community Advisory Committee held 9 meetings in 2009, 8 meetings in 2010 and 9 meetings in 2011. The Committee organized two Community forums gathering vital information to further the City of Kelowna's objectives of being a safer, healthier, more equitable community for everyone.

At its regular meetings, the Committee received presentations related to sexual exploitation, sexual assault, social determinants of health, creating child friendly cities, the integration of planning and health and an Official Community Plan Update.

Through the two forums and the various presentations, the committee compiled many suggestions and viewpoints, which it then formulated into recommendations for Council.

The committee believes that the Women's and Community Advisory Committee is beneficial as an Advisory Committee to Council and recommends that the Committee continue its role and activities.

Council received and acted upon a number of recommendations over the past three years. Those recommendations are also included at the end of this summary report.

The Committee recommends that Council continue to make Kelowna a "City Fit for Children". With this over-arching goal in mind, Council will, when making its decisions, continue to provide strong leadership and growth to the benefit of all its citizens, no matter age or life status. Priority items, identified for consideration, fall within three main categories: Communication, Community, and Wellness.

Communication

Communication is key to ensuring that all members of the community are informed and involved. Communication creates environments that encourage individuals to actively participate in the community. Recommendations a) through c) developed at the April 2011 forum are essential for promoting inclusion and access to resources.

Community

An inclusive community encompasses active participation of everyone. Recommendations d) through k) and q) encourage and promote a sense of belonging for all members of our community. We believe these recommendations will promote Kelowna as a welcoming community and encourage involvement.

Wellness

The wellness of a community is dependent upon its citizens experiencing a sense of physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual health. The committee believes that that a 'Living Wage', built environments, food security and connecting the arts to health are key to promoting wellness in our community. Recommendations l) and m) address community wellness and n) through p) are made with regard to the Living Wage.

The Committee would like to recognize that many initiatives and work plans are already supporting recommendations to Council on the following issues. The Committee encourages Council to continue their support for these activities:

- Development of infrastructure such as bike lanes, improved bus service, playgrounds, childcare facilities, longhouses, etc;
- Inclusion of diversity considerations in city planning;
- Increasing access to public washrooms and phones;
- Expansion of transit routes and services;
- Increasing availability of transportation options;
- Increasing community-hub services;
- Expansion of outreach services;
- Creation of a city fit for children;
- Community gardens and kitchens
- Community training for work/learning
- Activities of the University of British Columbia and Okanagan College that make them good resources for the community;
- Self-esteem workshops in schools and workplaces;
- Training that promotes successful involvement by women in municipal governance e.g. Standing Committee on Increasing Women's Participation in Municipal Government, Federation of Canadian Municipalities;
- Activities that connect the arts to health;
- Inclusion of an advocate for multiculturalism on the Women's and Community Advisory Committee;
- Volunteerism as a means of promoting a sense of belonging and developing leadership skills and as a contributor to the quality of our lives; and
- Actively including youth in community activities.

The Committee extends its sincere appreciation to all City Councillors and city staff members who helped to make the committee's meetings productive and efforts successful. The Committee appreciates the input provided by members of our community to promote a more fair and equitable community.

Internal Circulation: Following Council direction.

Financial/Budgetary Considerations: To be determined upon Council direction.

Personnel Implications: To be determined upon Council direction.

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Legal/Statutory Authority:

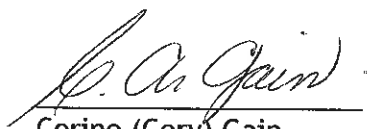
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:

Existing Policy:

External Agency/Public Comments:

Communications Comments:

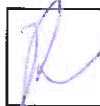
Alternate Recommendation:



Corine (Cory) Gain

On behalf of the Women's and Community Advisory Committee

Approved for inclusion:



R. Mattiussi, City Manager