



Member Motion

Section 5.4.4(b) of Procedure By-law

Meeting: Council

Meeting Date: June 25, 2019

Subject/Title: Age-Friendly Community

Submitted by: Councillor Chan

WHEREAS the age-Friendly Communities (AFC) is an evidence-based policy initiative released and promoted by the World Health Organization (WHO). To measure the age-friendliness in communities, WHO (2007) proposed eight indicators: outdoor spaces and building, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, community and information, community support and health services

WHEREAS there are currently 81 Age friendly communities in Ontario undertaking initiatives across eight domains. AFC has demonstrated benefits including: stimulated economy, improved quality of life, improved access and awareness of health and community services, improved accessibility, walkability, and safety, reduced isolation, improved inclusion and intergenerational connections

WHEREAS Richmond Hill's neighboring municipalities are age-friendly communities on the provincial recognition AFC list, such as City of Toronto, Markham, Vaughan, and Aurora. The emerging examples from nearby cities have shown that municipalities have a role to play in promoting AFC initiative in communities;

WHEREAS The AFC initiative is encouraged and recognized by the Ontario Government. For example, municipalities larger than 20,000 can receive funds for AFC projects if they partner with more than two NGOs for a project. Resources have been developing to guide and support new initiatives;

WHEREAS the population in Canada is aging, and the share of seniors aged 65 and over years of the population in Richmond Hill is 14.6% as shown in Census 2016, and the City's recreation and culture division has an Older Adult Strategy in place that guides the direction for recreation programs and services that we provide for the 55+ population.

WHEREAS Richmond Hill's Older Adult Strategy was developed in 2011, and recreation staff have attended the workshops on Age Friendly community initiatives conducted through the Region of York;

WHEREAS the Age Friendly community planning generally addresses the areas that include safe and accessible public buildings, roads, walkways and outdoor areas, public transportation, social activities and information;

WHEREAS the Ontario Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility supports the Age Friendly community to help seniors live their best lives by creating accessible and inclusive physical and social environments that support older adults in living independent, active and healthy lives, helping them to stay engaged in their communities;

WHEREAS it is deemed advisable to demonstrate Council's commitment to support seniors to live in a safe and accessible City that prides itself to deliver exceptional public service;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Staff be directed to look into the feasibility of developing the Age Friendly Community Strategy in Richmond Hill and report back in the first quarter of 2020 with steps to establish a Senior Advisory Committee that includes the active engagement of older adults

This Resolution be forwarded to the Ontario Minister for Seniors and Accessibility, York Regional Council, the City of Markham, the City of Vaughan, the Town of Aurora, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, local Members of Provincial Parliament and Members of Parliament.

Moved by: Councillor Chan