

## LATE DISTRIBUTION FOR COUNCIL - JANUARY 30, 2007



CITY OF VANCOUVER

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Report Date: January 26, 2007  
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Meeting Date: January 30, 2007

TO: Vancouver City Council

FROM: Director of Social Planning in consultation with the Director of Planning

SUBJECT: Report Back on Seniors Centre in South Vancouver

### RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council endorse in principle the process outlined in this report.

### GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS

Should Council approve the outlined process, Council needs to be aware of the expectations of the community, and how these may be met, given other demands and expectations on the City's capital and other funding processes.

### CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

This workplan is a good start in defining the process and responsibilities for the community in achieving development of a seniors centre in South Vancouver. The most significant obstacles to overcome are the provision of capital funding and a business plan to ensure operating costs are covered.

The City can consider only a small capital contribution request in the context of 2009 - 2011 Capital Plan.

## COUNCIL POLICY

The provision of a seniors' centre is included as a direction in both the Victoria-Fraserview/Killarney (VFK) and Sunset Community Visions (adopted by Council in 2002).

## PURPOSE

This information report responds to Council's request on January 18, 2007, for a report back on proposed roles and responsibilities for City staff and for community groups in South Vancouver, in the development of plans for a seniors' centre in the area.

## BACKGROUND

South East Vancouver is a large geographic area with a considerable population of seniors, including seniors from diverse cultural backgrounds. The need for a seniors' centre and the enhancement of seniors' services has been discussed on several occasions over the past years. Recent planning work on East Fraser Lands and discussions on the implementation of the Victoria/Fraserview/Killarney CityPlan vision, have reactivated this discussion.

## DISCUSSION

### Proposed Roles & Responsibilities for planning a Senior Centre

Social Planning and City Plans staff have reviewed available staff resources and Social Planning has had preliminary communication with representatives from both the Killarney Community Centre Association and South Vancouver Neighbourhood House, regarding the work required to advance planning for a Seniors Centre in South Vancouver. Staff believe that the following proposed roles for the community are generally in accord with these discussions, but note that any community group interested in the proposal should have an opportunity to review the proposed community roles and contribute to the workplan.

### Key community responsibilities in the development of a plan:

- 1) *Community Stakeholder Representative Group:*  
The community establishes a representative task group to act as the focal point for the development of a plan for a seniors' centre. Functions of this task group would include information gathering, discussion, feedback to and from all constituents in the community, and development of plan for a seniors' centre.
- 2) *Schedule and Timeframe:*  
Between February and mid-March the community stakeholder representative group engages in facilitated discussions of the key elements of a plan, and identifies areas

requiring further consensus-building or feedback from constituents in the community. In late March, that work is described in the annual mail-out by the VFK CityPlan Committee in preparation for the annual Community Meeting in the first week of April. Feedback on the areas requiring further exploration is sought at the Community Meeting. The task group may need to identify additional ways of seeking feedback from non-English speaking seniors in the area. It is very important to the long-term success and effectiveness of the proposed seniors' centre that there be a strong community consensus about the vision and the operation of this centre, including an understanding of all the practical requirements.

From April to the end of June, the Community Stakeholder Representative Group finalizes the plan.

3) *Plan Development:*

The community comes to general consensus on a plan which includes:

- A vision for the centre;
- Community needs the centre will address, and associated programs and services;
- Options for location/siting;
- Governance;
- Capital budget requirements & sources;
- Operating budget requirements and sources.

**Roles for City staff in the development of a plan:**

1) *Information gathering and sharing:*

Social Planning staff will provide the Community Stakeholder Representative Group with background information to facilitate the development of a plan for seniors' centre. This could include information on the development history, governance models, capital and operating costs of other Vancouver seniors' centres, and potential funding sources of seniors' centres. In addition, City staff would provide information based on previous discussions of a seniors' centre in South Vancouver, including information about site selection, facility design, governance, and a general vision.

CityPlan staff will assist with communication to the broader community through the VFK mail-out and the annual community meeting at the beginning of April. Emphasis will be placed on engaging seniors of all cultural backgrounds to ensure the scoping of enhanced seniors services meets the needs of the broader community.

2) *Meeting Facilitation:*

City staff will offer meeting facilitation for the Community Stakeholder Representative Group, and assistance at the annual Community Meeting.

3) *Budget:*

Community Visions Implementation staff in CityPlans and Social Planning staff will support this process. CityPlan staff estimate that approximately 10% of one staff position, (3-4 hours per week average) between now and April 1 can be allocated, and up to 20% of one position, (7-8 hours per week average) from April 1 through to the end of June. Social Planning is able to contribute 10 to 15 hours per week of an Auxiliary Social Planner through the East Fraser Lands rezoning process from February 1 through to the end of June 30.

### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff understand that at present neither the Federal nor Provincial government has a capital infrastructure program for seniors' facilities. The City may have to consider such matters as land purchase, directing contributions from development projects, and possibly capital funding. The community partner is responsible for developing a sound business plan, lobbying senior governments and fundraising for capital and ongoing operating expenses.

### SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The demand for seniors' facilities is expected to increase city-wide as the population ages. Southeast Vancouver is inadequately served with respect to seniors' facilities and services and a new seniors' centre could play an important role in addressing this issue by engaging seniors of all cultural backgrounds, reducing isolation and supporting people in healthy aging.

### CONCLUSION

Staff advise that:

- There is merit in exploring the expansion of seniors' services and possible creation of a new centre or centres in Southeast Vancouver;
- The delivery of a new seniors' facility would likely require a funding commitment from Council, either from City sources or contributions from development projects, or both;
- In order to provide further guidance, staff from Social Planning and CityPlans are able to contribute to supporting a community process to explore options and develop a plan, including potential funding sources, governance models and site/building selection.

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