



Motion Memorandum

SUBJECT: Community Development/Neighbourhood Capacity Building Strategy Update

TO: Environment, Infrastructure & Community Services Cttee.

FROM: Councillor Paul Sharman, Ward 5

Date to Committee: January 12, 2023

Date to Council: January 24, 2023

Motion for Council to Consider:

Direct the Director of Recreation, Community and Culture to report back by Q3 2023 on the development and advancement of the City's Community Development/Neighbourhood Capacity Building Strategy including the following elements:

- Vision, purpose, and goals to increase and build overall community capacity for the long-term-benefit of the city. This element should build on work, resourcing and funding that has been ongoing since 2013.
- Clarity of scope including definition of Community Development and Neighbourhood Capacity in relation to events, initiatives, activities etc
- A proposed organizational design and structure to support the strategy implementation to be integrated into the 2024 and future years Designing and Evolving the Organization (DEOO) process.
- Integration of the goals and outcomes of the strategy into various affected service business plans, business processes and budgets, including but not limited to: Recreation, Arts & Culture, Parks Design and Construction; Community Design and Development Review, By-law Enforcement and Licensing, Corporate Communications & Engagement, and Parks and Open Space - Maintenance. Such changes may also require amendments to various City master plans.
- Through strategy formulation an implementation plan will also be required including but not limited to such areas as:
 - Associated city policies/bylaws to facilitate the strategy implementation. For example, policies/bylaws to include

associated park rental and other fees, fee waivers and requirements for staff time chargebacks

- Review of risk management requirements for neighbourhood events and activities
- Integration and alignment of the strategy, with city volunteer management program
- Update on existing and proposed future city grants model and other available funding opportunities (e.g. corporate sponsorships) to support neighbourhood events. In developing options for future city grants, consideration to be given for both startup and ongoing annual events.

Direct the Executive Director of Environment, Infrastructure and Community Services to provide a brief update for the budget sessions in February 2023 on the requirement for any incremental 2023 one-time funding to support the preliminary work on strategy development (e.g. external consulting support, workshop speakers etc.)

Reason:

One of the key strategic pillars identified for the City of Burlington is ***An Engaging City-Community where members are engaged, empowered, welcomed and well-served by their city. Culture and community activities thrive, creating a positive sense of place, inclusivity and community.*** Key outcomes and goals include an engaged community where culture, civic activities, neighbourhood initiatives and recreational activities help to enhance and grow the sense of engagement, community, place and unity.

For many years, the City administered a Facility Fee Waiver Program and the Community Development fund to support local not for profit organizational development. Recognizing a great need for neighbourhood connections, Council and staff have since 2013 focused on the development and implementation of a number of specific neighbourhood programs in support of this priority including but not limited to:

- neighbourhood connectors,
- neighbourhood community matching fund,
- annual Council member funding to assist sponsor community events (\$5K towards initial startup).
- love my neighbourhood program,
- community hub program,
- neighbourhood outdoor rinks and
- approval of the Community Investment Policy.

With 2023 being the start of a new term of council, as outlined in the above motion, a broader strategy review and development is needed for long-term community development and neighbourhood capacity building. In addition to the overall strategy context, the proposed motion outlined also speaks to the specific and more immediate need to address how the City supports community members with the ongoing development and delivery of ‘neighbourhood events and activities’ including but not limited to city initiated fees, staff setup support and other due diligence support.

As part of reporting back in Q3 2023, staff have advised of the need for ongoing incremental multi-year budget support related to any enhanced strategy development and implementation. Specifically, the need exists through the 2024 and future years DEOO process for building a staff team with dedicated staff resources within each quadrant of the city responsible for executing the various strategic actions including:

- completing the ongoing community connection work;
- building trust with the community by building and
- strengthening relationships, especially with newcomers and marginalized populations.

As Burlington grows primarily through increased density, it is absolutely critical that all residents are afforded opportunities to feel engaged and connected particularly in the areas that directly impact quality of life and community health and well-being.

Outcome Sought:

With 2023 being the start of a new term of council, as outlined in the above motion, a broader strategy review and development is needed for long-term community and neighbourhood capacity building. Councilor Sharman is moving the motion along with support from Councilor Bentivegna, recognizing that community capacity building falls under his Deputy Mayor portfolio as it relates to recreation and culture. The motion will require 2/3 support as it is time sensitive and has been submitted following the agenda deadline.

Vision to Focus Alignment:

(check those that apply)

- ☐ Increase economic prosperity and community responsive city growth
- ☐ Improve integrated city mobility

- ☐ Support sustainable infrastructure and a resilient environment
- ☒ Building more citizen engagement, community health and culture
- ☐ Deliver customer centric services with a focus on efficiency and technology transformation

Motion Seconded by: Councillor Angelo Bentivegna, Ward 6
Share with Senior Staff ☒

Approved as per form by the City Clerk,

Reviewed by the City Manager - In accordance with the Code of Good Governance, Council-Staff Relations Policy and an assessment of the internal capacity within the City to complete the work based on a specific target date (quarter/year).

Comments:

City Clerk: Approved

City Manager: Approved