COUNCIL REPORT

Date: November 12, 2015
From: Jill Lawlor, Community Recreation Manager
Subject: Seniors’ Activity Centre Advisory Board 2015 Annual Report and 2016 Work Plan
File: 0115-20-SACA1

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report dated November 12, 2015 titled “Seniors’ Activity Centre Advisory Board 2015 Annual Report and 2016 Work Plan” be received for information.

1.0 Purpose
To bring forward an Annual Report on the achievements of the Seniors’ Activity Centre Advisory Board in 2015, and share the Board’s 2016 Work Plan highlights.

2.0 Legislation/Bylaw/Policy
There is no current applicable legislation.

3.0 Background
The Seniors’ Activity Centre Advisory Board volunteers developed the 2015 Work Plan with the staff and membership, and over the past year have worked to achieve the deliverables laid out in the plan.

3.1 Previous Decisions
No previous resolutions.

3.2 History
The Seniors’ Activity Centre (Centre) staff work collaboratively with the Centre’s Advisory Board (Board). The Board offers insights and represents the needs of the membership and makes recommendations to staff. The Board plays a key role in fundraising to meet the needs of the Centre.

   The Board is comprised of 12 voting members elected from the Centre’s membership. There are four reporting committees: Finance Committee, Program Committee, Cafe Committee and the Outreach Committee.
There are three support committees: Communications Committee, Friends of the Centre, and Flea Market Committee. Each committee includes a Board member, members of the Centre and a staff liaison.

The Centre operates with over 670 dedicated volunteers. The contribution and support from the community is significant, and it is in part what makes the Centre the attractive place for older adults across the community.

Over the past five years, the Seniors’ Activity Centre has steadily grown the membership, with the majority of members between the ages of 70 and 80 years. The Board and staff have worked together to ensure there are a broad range of programs that appeal to the active and adventurous members as well as programs that are supportive in nature for members who have suffered a loss. The Board and staff continue to expand new programs to attract and retain members creating a welcoming environment.

In 2012, the District was awarded the Age-friendly Community Status from the Province as a result of the hard work and dedication of many community groups, including a substantial contribution by the Board.

4.0 Analysis

4.1 Discussion

2015 Achievements:

- Presented at the National Conference on Seniors Centres in Indiana, USA together with staff.

- Executed the highest grossing flea market to date.

- Developed a new partnership with Collingwood Senior School and created “Lives Well Lived”, a biography on the members of the Seniors’ Activity Centre.

- Developed 5 new raised garden beds in partnership with a private donor and the Parks Department, which in turn expanded the current garden club activities.

- Designed and installed, in partnership with the District, a new front desk at the Centre that is accessible for members and volunteers.

- Designed and installed, in partnership with the District, structural stations to provide support and aesthetic improvement in the Cafe.

- Purchased and installed a commercial grade piano for the membership.
Expanded the coffee bar products available to appeal to the Boomer generation including offering a variety of coffees.

Implemented hair cuts and styling for vulnerable seniors.

Secured a $25,000 grant to expand intergenerational programs with Gleneagles Elementary School, TREES (Alternative School in Surrey), Pauline Johnson Elementary School, and Collingwood Senior School.

Secured a $14,000 grant to offer Creative Expression, a program to slow or delay the onset of dementia for those at risk or diagnosed with cognitive impairment.

Secured a $9,500 grant from Vancouver Coastal Health to continue to expand and offer specialized supportive programs for vulnerable seniors.

Launched the first Dance for Parkinsons program in Canada, which shows participants with Parkinsons how to move gracefully.

Funded the following projects:

- Summer Student Wages.
- Front Desk Renovation & Lighting (50/50 partnership with the District).
- Piano (50/50 partnership with the District).
- Café wood stations and gate (50/50 partnership with the District).
- New sound mixer for the Activity Room.
- New printers.
- New high definition projector.
- New computer hard drives.
- Expanded lighting at the front desk.
- Raised seats for toilets.
- New coffee machine.
- Additional massage tables.

2016 Work Plan:

- Coffee Bar revitalization to modernize and attract new members (50/50 funding with the District subject to 2016 budget approval).
- Capital purchase of accessible van (50/50 funding with the District subject to 2016 budget approval).
• Seniors’ Festival in partnership with North Shore Seniors’ organizations.

• Provide strategic transportation options with the resources available by utilizing existing available vehicles in different ways.

• Partnership with Langara College for a student intern placement at the Seniors’ Activity Centre.

• Explore new travel program that exceeds the current service delivery model.

4.2 Sustainability

The Board works with over 675 volunteers to serve the needs of over 3,800 members working in collaboration with staff. The Board provides support and direction to staff and lends their years of business experience to the Centre to maximize operational efficiencies.

Environmental sustainability is important to the membership. In partnership with the Cafe Committee, staff and volunteers diverted all food prep waste, with plans to expand to food waste in 2016. Staff and volunteers have reduced energy use in the facility with lighting and better energy management practices such as turning off lights and thermostats as they leave rooms and saved $8,300 in 2014.

The Centre is able to provide affordable programs through support from the District of West Vancouver, grants and the incredible effort of the Board who raise funds from the annual flea market and Building Connections Campaign to support operating and capital within the Centre.

4.3 Public Engagement and Outreach

Staff consult with the members of the Board and sub-committees at regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

4.4 Other Communication, Consultation, and Research

Staff conduct regular surveys and program evaluations to ensure the programs offered align with the desires of the community. In 2015, the Board Chair and Community Recreation Manager traveled to Indiana to attend the National (American) Conference on Seniors’ Centres with an opportunity to learn best practices from the United States.

5.0 Options

5.1 Recommended Option

It is recommended that Council receive this report for information.
6.0 Conclusion

This report is being provided to Council in order to share the achievements of the Seniors’ Activity Centre Advisory Board in 2015, and share the Board's 2016 Work Plan highlights.

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