



City of Sunnyvale

Agenda Item

16-0912

Agenda Date: 2/17/2017

2017 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

LCS 17-02

TITLE Potential Membership in the Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC)

BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Library and Community Services

Support Department(s): Public Works; Community Development

Sponsor(s):

City Manager

History:

1 year ago: N/A

2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What are the key elements of the study?

In order to assist cities to become more age-friendly and to facilitate mutual learning and support, the World Health Organization (WHO) established the Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC) in 2010. Cities in the network commit to continuously assess and improve their age-friendliness and to adapt their structures, policies, settings and services to be accessible to, and inclusive of, older people with different needs and capacities. An “age-friendly city” is defined as an inclusive and accessible community environment that optimizes opportunities for health, participation and security for all people, so that quality of life and dignity are ensured as people age.

Locally, Santa Clara County has launched an initiative, “Age Friendly Silicon Valley” with a goal of all 15 cities in the County becoming active members of the GNAFCC. To join the network, cities must:

1. Complete an online application form;
2. Attach a letter from the Mayor and municipal administration indicating their commitment to a cycle of continuous improvement in implementing best practices of age-friendly cities; and
3. Commence the network cycle of four steps as follows:
 - a. Establishment of mechanisms to involve older people throughout the Age-friendly Cities and Communities cycle.
 - b. Development of a baseline assessment of the age-friendliness of the city/community in 8 domains:
 - i. Outdoor spaces and buildings;
 - ii. Transportation;

- iii. Housing;
 - iv. Social participation;
 - v. Respect and social inclusion;
 - vi. Civic participation and employment;
 - vii. Communication and information; and
 - viii. Community support and health services.
- c. Development of a 3-year city-wide action plan based on the findings of this assessment. A minimum submission of one age-friendly practice per year is expected in order to maintain on-going membership in the network; and
 - d. Identification of indicators to monitor progress against this plan.

The County of Santa Clara has asked that the City of Sunnyvale join the Age Friendly Silicon Valley initiative and seek membership in the network by July, 2017. As of early October 2016, of the 15 cities in Santa Clara County, four cities (Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Morgan Hill and Saratoga) have already become members with an additional five cities (Cupertino, Los Gatos, Mountain View, San Jose and Santa Clara) currently studying the issue.

It is estimated that approximately 11% of the total population in Sunnyvale is 65 years and older. Over the next 20 years, that number is estimated to grow to approximately 34% according to the 2015 American Community Survey. As such, access to best practices and a shared information network would be of significant value to the City.

The proposed study issue would evaluate:

1. Benefits and considerations related to becoming a GNAFCC member;
2. Costs and strategies for conducting the baseline assessment of age-friendliness in the eight identified domains;
3. Identification of potential age-friendly practices that could be implemented in Sunnyvale over the following three years as required for membership; and
4. Status of County-wide participation in meeting the July 2017 timeline for membership and the City of Sunnyvale's ability to meet that deadline.

What precipitated this study?

A request to join the Age Friendly Silicon Valley Initiative led by the Santa Clara County Department of Aging and Adult Services.

Planned Completion Year: 2017

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to Conduct Study

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost): Moderate to High

Amount of funding above current budget required: \$0

Explanation of Cost:

Staff time in conducting and preparing the study issue. Study issue will require literature review, a self-assessment and review of "Age Friendly City" models established nationwide

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs. The potential workload and impact associated with becoming an active member of the GNAFCC may be significant.

Explanation of Cost: The WHO has created a checklist of essential features of Age-Friendly cities. This checklist provides indicators in each of the 8 domains and is intended to be used by cities with the involvement of older persons as full partners in the completion of the self-assessment. The complete checklist can be found at:
(http://www.who.int/ageing/publications/Age_friendly_cities_checklist.pdf?ua=1)

The potential cost for improvements would depend on the self-assessment and the City's interests in each of the 8 domains.

Based on review of different "Age Friendly City" models established nationwide, costs could include infrastructure improvements to enhance accessibility; new programs and/or services to enhance health and wellness of older adults; training resources to enhance staff awareness of age related issues and concerns; coordination of services with community partners; and implementation and enforcement of policies in support of an "Age Friendly City" designation.

EXPECTED PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS

Council-approved work plan: No

Council Study Session: No

Reviewed by Boards/Commissions: Parks and Recreation Commission

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Position: Support

Explanation: Study issue process will provide staff with details to make an informed recommendation as to whether the City should pursue the "Age Friendly" designation. "Age Friendly City" is a nationwide initiative and over 40 cities throughout the US have received the designation. The County of Santa Clara is seeking to become the first county in the country with active membership from each city in its jurisdiction. However, the potential workload associated with becoming an active member of the GNAFCC may be significant. Consequently, it is recommended that a study issue of the impact of membership be conducted in order to appropriately respond to the County's request within the context of existing policy and operational priorities underway.

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