

Priorities Committee Meeting_Jan30_2018

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE

Community Hall Sustainability Strategy Update

Report Purpose

To provide the Priorities Committee with an update on the progress of the Community Hall Sustainability Strategy.

Council History

November 22, 2016 – Council approved the 2017 budget recommendations to implement the community hall sustainability strategy and to develop a support program for the community hall associations.

May 17, 2016 – Council requested an update on the public consultation and community hall condition assessments completed in Q1 of 2016.

July 14, 2015 – Council directed administration to bring forward a report on the utilization, functional obsolescence and overall physical condition of community halls and senior centres after a public consultation has been completed with the community and licensed hall operators.

Strategic Plan Priority Areas

Economy: Community Halls support the communities in which they reside including rural agriculture business, farmers markets and small business.

Governance: n/a

Social: The community associations provide a place for connectedness and collaboration for residents. The community hall network supports program delivery for community development.

Culture: Community halls support our history and the rural lifestyle. They are places where our residents gather for support and to participate in social and cultural pursuits.

Environment: Community hall associations provide a place for training and collaboration on issues relating to our environment.

Other Impacts

Policy: n/a

Legislative/Legal: n/a

Interdepartmental: The community hall associations are supported by Facility Services, Family and Community Services, Information and Technology Services, Recreation Parks and Culture, Transportation and Agriculture Services and other departments throughout the year. The community halls provide a venue for the delivery of services including the Strathcona County Public Library, Family and Community Services and various community based programs.

Summary

With Council's 2017 budget approval, the service level to support the community halls was increased to address the community hall associations' concerns identified in the Calder Bateman "What We Heard" report. The cross-departmental committee was formed, the Community Halls Strategy Committee (CHSC), and has been working with the community associations since May 2017.

Through 2017, administration has increased the level of support for building maintenance, wireless internet services, online communication tools and the development of the central point of contact.

The County is still developing ways to support the variety of needs within the different community associations.

The building maintenance program has been effective but has identified that some halls are reaching their functional obsolescence. Several of the community halls are in need of kitchen upgrades to comply with current building and fire codes. Two senior Associations have asked for help in developing building expansion plans that are required to support their growing memberships and program requirements.

Family and Community Services (FCS) will continue developing programs for citizens to build connections and inclusion with the community halls. They have been assisting with board development and keeping open communication through regular meetings with community hall boards. FCS and the Information Volunteer Centre are building volunteer development, learning events and networking.

Transportation and Agriculture Services will continue the service of parking lot maintenance and snow removal and providing the main point of contact for the halls through the Contact Office.

Recreation, Parks & Culture will continue their service levels to the halls of maintaining the playgrounds, park spaces and outdoor amenities.

The CHSC will be hosting another event in the spring to recognize the work the community hall association boards do each year and to discuss areas of success or where improvements may be required.

Communication Plan

The work of the CHSC is shared with the various stakeholders through meetings with association boards or through direct contact through the contact offices.

Enclosure

- 1 Community Hall Sustainability Strategy Update Presentation