

Priorities Committee Meeting_Mar09_2021

STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND UPDATE**Community Standards Bylaw Public Engagement****Report Purpose**

To provide the Committee with an overview of four public engagement options, as part of the development of the Community Standards Bylaw.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Governance Requirement

Goal 1 - Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents

Goal 7 - Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication

Goal 8 - Foster an environment for safe communities

Report

Council has directed administration to prepare a draft Community Services Bylaw. Administration has prepared four public engagement options for Priority Committee's consideration, as part of the bylaw creation process.

As directed by Council, the proposed Community Standards Bylaw will include the following topics:

1. Wood burning appliances (limits on use and release of smoke)
2. Parking RVs on property (front yard, side yard, back yard)
3. Front/side yard appearance
4. Building appearance and maintenance
5. Fence maintenance
6. Unsightly properties and nuisance
7. Graffiti (requirement to remove)
8. Grass cutting
9. Weed and pest control
10. Fence maintenance
11. Clearing a parking space designated for the exclusive use of disabled persons
12. Sidewalk clearing
13. Gutter cleaning and maintenance
14. Charity bins and collection sites
15. Idling
16. Noise control
17. Symbols of hate
18. Outdoor storage of construction materials and construction debris
19. Parking on property

Public engagement options:

Option 1 Legislative and Legal Services will prepare the Community Standards Bylaw with minimal public engagement.

No public engagement will take place aside from specific SCOOP mixed topic survey questions regarding this bylaw. The bylaw will be based on other municipalities' bylaws, and bylaw-drafting best practices.

Estimated timeline for draft bylaw presentation to Council: September 1, 2021

Estimated staffing cost: Existing staff time

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Director(s): Cheryl Oxford, Communications

Mavis Nathoo, Legislative and Legal Services

Associate Commissioner: Darrell Reid, Chief Commissioner

Lead Department: Communications

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Estimated advertising costs: \$5000 to advertise basic information about changes and where to find information about bylaw.

Option 2 Corporate Communications will undertake a public engagement process on all 19 topics.

This option will require significant, unbudgeted public engagement and communication resources. A variety of public engagement techniques could be used such as surveys, digital face-to-face meetings and town halls, focus groups. It will be necessary to go through a procurement process to choose a suitable consultant. This is similar to the approach used for the Responsible Dog Ownership Bylaw.

Estimated timeline for draft bylaw presentation to Council: June 2022

Estimated staffing cost: Existing staff time as well as costs to contract a public engagement consultant to implement the public engagement (\$50,000 - \$75,000). Note: the consultant costs are not included in 2021 budget resources.

Estimated advertising costs: \$5,000 - \$10,000 advertise all 19 public engagement processes

Option 3 Corporate Communications will undertake a public engagement process on five topics that have the possibility to be controversial (based on administration's experience with these topics). These topics include building maintenance standards, fence maintenance standards, yard appearance and maintenance, wood burning appliances, and parking RVs on residential property.

This option will require a fair amount of public engagement and communication resources. A variety of public engagement techniques could be used such as surveys, digital face-to-face meetings, focus groups, etc. It may be necessary to go through a procurement process to choose a suitable consultant.

Estimated timeline for draft bylaw presentation to Council: June 2022

Estimated staffing cost: Existing staff time as well as costs to possibly contract a public engagement consultant to implement the public engagement (\$25,000 - \$30,000).

Note: consultant costs are not included in 2021 budget resources.

Estimated advertising costs: \$5,000 to advertise the public engagement processes.

Option 4 Council could choose to hold an advertised non-statutory public hearing and hear from members of the public using a process similar to statutory public hearings. This option could be combined with any of the above three options.

Estimated timeline for draft bylaw presentation to Council: September 1, 2021

Estimated staffing cost: Existing staff time

Estimated advertising costs: \$5000 to advertise the hearing

The Priorities Committee may wish to recommend to Council any of options 2 through 4 in this report, including setting a time and date for a non-statutory public hearing and requesting approval of any budget allocations required for options 2 or 3. No motion is required for option 1.

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Council and Committee History

September 29, 2020	THAT Administration prepares, for Council's consideration by the end of Q2, 2021, a Community Standards Bylaw, including the matters set out in Option 3, with the additions of items 4, 5, 6, 8, 14, 16, 20 from Option 2 and item 24 from Option 1, in enclosure 4 to the September 29, 2020, Legislative and Legal Services Report.
November 26, 2019	THAT, by the end of the third quarter of 2020, Administration provides a report on: general issues that are addressed via a municipal community standards bylaw; and the feasibility and considerations related to addressing issues such as noise, parking, and unsightly premises in such a bylaw.

Other Impacts

Policy: The Public Engagement Policy will be followed if Council chooses option 2 or 3.

Legislative/Legal: Section 7 of the Municipal Government Act grants jurisdiction to pass bylaws for municipal purposes.

Interdepartmental: Corporate Communications will work with departments that may be affected by bylaw changes in order to investigate potential issues and prepare for the public engagement processes. Departments include Enforcement Services, Planning and Development Services, Transportation and Agriculture Services, Utilities, Transit, and Recreation, Parks and Culture. Legislative and Legal Services will prepare the draft bylaw based upon input received.

Master Plan/Framework: N/A

Communication Plan

Regardless of the option chosen, there will be a significant communication effort required to inform County citizens and affected stakeholders (e.g. County staff, developers, etc.) about the new bylaw with which they must comply.

Options 2 and 3 will also require a significant amount of communication resources to inform citizens about the opportunities to provide input into public engagement processes.

Enclosure

1	Community Standards Bylaw Public Engagement options
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