



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: February 2, 2023

From: Noreen Leek, Parks & Recreation Director

Subject: Introduction of Age-Friendly City Initiative

Community Goal/Result

Community Building

Purpose

To ensure vibrant, sustainable, supportive, and inclusive communities for all generations.

Recommendation

Authorize staff to proceed with the Center for Age Friendly Excellence's (CAFÉ) assistance to apply for the Age Friendly Communities (AFC) certification under the AARP/WHO Network of Age Friendly Communities.

Background

The global network of Age Friendly Cities offers opportunities to address the aging population in a positive and inclusive way. The program provides resources to help communities support individuals to live comfortably in their homes and communities, and also encourages older residents to take an active role in having their voices heard.

The concept of global Age Friendly Cities was developed in 2005 by the World Health Organization (WHO) to help cities consider and implement policies and services to support older adults as they age to live healthy and vibrant lives. According to WHO, population aging and urbanization are two global trends that comprise major forces shaping the 21st century.

WHO also recognize that older people often require supportive and enabling living environments to compensate for physical and social changes associated with aging. Thus, in order to retain a vibrant and enriching population of older adults, cities must provide the structures and services to support their well-being and productivity. Making cities more age-friendly is a necessary and logical response to promote the well-being and contributions of older residents and to keep cities thriving.

WHO has identified eight (8) key domains for establishing an age-friendly community. They include:

1. Housing
2. Transportation
3. Social participation
4. Respect and social inclusion
5. Civic participation and employment
6. Communication and information
7. Community support and health services
8. Outdoor spaces and buildings

Many cities are experiencing rapid increases to their aging population, particularly the proportion of people aged 65 and older. In fact, 10,000 United States adults turn 65 daily, and this will continue through 2030. In 2018, San Mateo County's Board of Supervisors committed to joining WHO's age-friendly, global network and established the San Mateo County Age Friendly Initiative. The County also then partnered with the Center for Age Friendly Excellence (CAFÉ), to help achieve this designation over the coming years. CAFÉ has already collaborated with and designated eleven (11) communities in San Mateo County including: Belmont, Burlingame, Colma, Daly City, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Millbrae, Pacifica, Redwood City, San Carlos, and San Mateo. The cities of South San Francisco and East Palo Alto have also initiated their process.

To be designated as an "Age Friendly City" through the World Health Organization, Brisbane must demonstrate that it is committed to providing places for older adults to be engaged, as well as social opportunities and services that ensure older adults can thrive and be an active part of the community.

Discussion

Over the next several months, Brisbane would work closely with CAFÉ, who will provide technical assistance, consultation, applied research access, community organizing synergy, coordination of the assessment process, and will also help write the official application to be submitted to WHO for Brisbane to receive the global Age Friendly Cities designation.

The process begins with identifying a task force with various stakeholders to oversee the process, which will include City Councilmembers, City, staff, and other community leaders and residents. The next steps will then be to conduct a series of focus groups to assess the baseline "age-friendliness" of the City using the key domains mentioned above. Focus group and survey results will then be reviewed and indicators will be identified so that progress can be monitored against an action plan. The task force would then recommend potential projects and services for future implementation to address unmet needs.

This will lead up to the completion of the Age Friendly City application, which includes a letter of intent signed by the City Council. Communities that actively demonstrate a commitment to foster the full participation of older people in community life and that promote healthy and active aging are invited to become members of the network and receive formal designations as an Age Friendly City. It should be noted that the expected duration of the task force is for the initial five-month planning stage (at a minimum). Once the planning stage is over, the task force would continue to meet monthly to assist with and guide implementation of inaugural Brisbane Age Friendly community projects.

If the City of Brisbane applies to AARP to participate in the WHO global network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities, and the application is approved, the City is making a five-year commitment to assess the age-friendliness of Brisbane, and to create a plan to make the City more livable for people of all ages.

Fiscal Impact

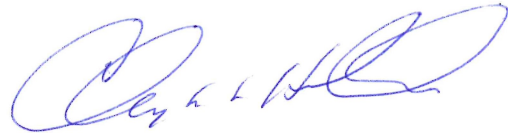
There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the acceptance of this report. If related projects are identified in the future that require additional resources, these would be brought to the City Council for consideration.

Attachments

n/a



Noreen Leek, Parks & Recreation Director



Clay Holstine, City Manager