



SENIOR COMMISSION AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: September 9, 2024

Subject: Age Friendly

Prepared by: Jaime Chew, Deputy Director

Initiated by: City Staff

Staff Recommendation

The staff recommends to receive the report.

Summary/Project Description:

Age Friendly Recertification Project

Fiscal Impact:

The Age Friendly recertification project will cost \$30K.

- Breakdown of funds to be used:
 - o \$30K General Fund
- Amount approved at mid-year by City Council on February 14, 2023

Background

At its regular meeting on June 28, 2011, the Senior Commission proposed that City Council consider applying, on behalf of Los Altos, to join the World Health Organization (WHO) Network of Age-Friendly Cities. City Council supported the efforts and directed the Senior Commission to draft the application for Council's review. Staff was directed to provide an estimate regarding the number of anticipated staff hours required during years 1 and 2 of the planning phase.

On September 27, 2011, City Council approved the Los Altos application to the WHO Network of Age-friendly Cities with an amendment that included the removal of the proposed Senior Commission recommendations from the application to allow the process to be more aspirational in nature.

On June 7, 2021, Anabel Pelham, PhD and Founding Director for the Center for Age-Friendly Excellence (CAFÉ), gave a presentation to the Senior Commission on Age-Friendly Community Sustainability Principles from Grantmakers in Aging. CAFÉ was created to capture all the knowledge, capacity, experience, expertise, and process to become an Age-Friendly City and is currently working with 21 cities. Dr. Pelham has works closely with the California AARP who assists with the process to create a 5-year Age-Friendly Action Plan, as required by the program. On December 6, 2021, the Senior Commission approved the recommendation to pursue Dr. Pelham and CAFÉ to assist the City of Los Altos to update its Age Friendly status and create an Action Plan for the WHO.



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On February 14, 2023, the Los Altos City Council approved the mid-year budget request of \$30K to fund the Age Friendly Recertification Project.

City staff met with CAFÉ on March 23, 2023, to discuss next steps. Dr. Pelham has recommended that the City of Los Altos conduct the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) survey first to gain statistical data. This will provide metrics to compliment and compare the information to be gathered in the focus groups. City staff has already initiated outreach to AARP to start the process.

The Recertification Subcommittee met with Dr. Pelham on April 18, 2023, to learn about the recertification process and discuss next steps. In addition, City staff met with AARP representatives to discuss the survey process.

City staff submitted the application to AARP to set up the survey. The City's PIO team is currently working on an outreach plan to inform the Los Altos community of this opportunity to provide feedback.

Staff met with an AARP representative on August 3, 2023, to discuss the survey process. Staff had a follow up meeting with the AARP research and development team on August 31, 2023, to finalize the set up of the online survey link. The research and development team recommended a minimum target of 300 respondents with an ultimate goal of 500.

Staff received the live survey link from the AARP research and development team, and worked with the Public Information Officer (PIO) team to create and release a press announcement which was published in early November 2023. Since then, ad hoc subcommittees have shared and presented information to various community groups which include: cultural exchange group, Los Altos Community Center lunch group, Grant Park Community Center lunch group, and Rotary.

The survey was open through January 29, 2024. A total of 316 completed surveys were received – 248 online and 68 hard copy. Survey data was distributed to the Senior Commission in the April 8, 2024, meeting packet.

All 3 focus groups have been completed – Task Force, Senior Commission, and the community group identified by the Senior Commission. A Town Hall meeting was held on Thursday, May 23 at 1pm at the Los Altos Community Center in the Sequoia Room. There were approximately 35 community members in attendance.

In mid-June, CAFÉ conducted interviews with staff representing the following departments or services: City Manager, Development Services, Fire, Library, Parks & Recreation, Police, and Public Works.



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Discussion/Analysis

CAFÉ, along with their graphic designer, is currently finalizing the draft action plan. The first draft of the action plan will be presented and reviewed by the Task Force in late September. The Senior Commission is anticipated to review the action plan at their October 7, 2024 meeting. City Council review and adoption is anticipated for November.

No discussion or analysis is required at this time. The staff recommendation is to receive the report.