



STAFF REPORT

TO: Committee

MEETING DATE: March 7, 2017

FROM: Director of Planning

FILE NO: 5040-10-08-04

SUBJECT: Old RCMP site

RECOMMENDATION(S)

THAT staff's report regarding Old RCMP site be received;

AND THAT Council endorse efforts by Habitat for Humanity Sunshine Coast, the Sunshine Coast Affordable Housing Society and Town staff to work with the federal government with the goal of creating affordable housing options on the old RCMP site at 749 School Road.

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to update Council on ongoing efforts to secure the old RCMP site for affordable housing.

DISCUSSION

On December 1, 2015 Council resolved the following:

THAT staff explore, and report back, on options for the Town to collaborate with the Federal and Provincial Governments and possibly the Squamish Nation to create an affordable rental housing complex for the community in the old RCMP building on the corner of O'Shea Road and School Road.

Following earlier interest from Council in securing the old RCMP site for a community use, staff has been in contact with the federal government who still owns the site. The site has been in the process of divestment. Through recent contact it has become clear that the federal government is suggesting that the two parties that have expressed interest to date (Town of Gibsons and Habitat for Humanity Sunshine Coast) work together on a proposal for the site.

Staff has met with representatives of Habitat for Humanity Sunshine Coast and explored possible uses for the site. The Sunshine Coast Affordable Housing Society was also invited as a Town advisor on affordable housing options. Through the meeting there was a general agreement that the parties would continue to work together on preparing a single application under the Surplus Real Property for Homelessness Initiative from the Government of Canada. Initial discussions have focussed on rental housing and / or housing with support services for people / families transitioning back into the regular housing market.

COMMUNICATION

Once more details become available regarding the application, communication to neighbours and the community at large needs to be prepared as well.

PLAN/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Strategic Plan Implications

The Strategic Plan explicitly supports "*Collaborating on affordable housing initiatives.*"

Financial Plan Implications

At this stage the Town's involvement will be limited to staff time to facilitate discussions and support the drafting of a proposal, including reporting back to Council once more details become available.

Other Policy or Plan Implications

A key objective in Section 9 of the Official Community Plan is to support the development of affordable housing. Policy 9.4.6 calls for "*support initiatives which help provide affordable housing in the community*" and this policy specifically includes a reference to work with "*(..) Provincial and Federal Government to address affordable housing regionally*".

RECOMMENDATIONS / ALTERNATIVES

Staff recommendations are listed on page 1.

Alternatively, Council can opt to withdraw its interest in the site.

Respectfully Submitted,



André Boël, RPP
Director of Planning

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S COMMENTS:

I have reviewed the report and support the recommendation(s).



Emanuel Machado
Chief Administrative Officer