

Date: January 18, 2016

File No.: 6500-20-Aging at Home

To: Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee
For Meeting of February 15, 2016

From: Sonja Zupanec, Island Planner

Copy: Ann Kjerulf, Regional Planning Manager

Re: Aging at Home – part of the Lasqueti Island OCP Review

Preliminary Report

The Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) has identified the Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw Review as a top priority on the work program. In December 2015 the LTC applied for and was successful in receiving a grant from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) to undertake a comprehensive community consultation process to assess the needs of seniors living at home on Lasqueti Island.

The purpose of this report is to provide some background on the subject matter, and to introduce a process and recommend a scope of work. A draft project charter that establishes the objectives, scope, and timeline of the project has been prepared and is attached to this report.

Project Objectives

The objectives of the project are to:

- Complete a community consultation process for Lasqueti Island focusing on all aging at home needs for seniors. This will include a report with recommendations.
- Consider recommendations to address in the OCP and LUB: transportation and mobility; accessibility of indoor/outdoor public, institutional and commercial infrastructure; the availability of adequate, accessible, transitional housing; senior health services; and social inclusion and civic engagement of seniors.
- Make recommendations on how to improve the experience of seniors living on Lasqueti and specifically address aging at home issues.
- Identify partnerships with relevant agencies and community groups to collaborate on fulfilling the needs for Lasqueti seniors aging at home.

Project Background

The UBCM 'Seniors Housing and support Initiative' grant of \$9,465 has been approved and the project must be completed by December 31, 2016. The selected consultant will be tasked with ensuring the project objectives and deliverables are met based on the criteria set out in the UBCM application (Attachment 1). Staff will act in the position of project manager to ensure project timelines, deliverables and objectives are met.

On Lasqueti Island, ensuring an accessible built environment and enabling the ability for people to age in place or have at home care may be the most important and attainable goals within the Local Trust Committee's authority. The goal of this project is to understand the degree to which Lasqueti Island can become a more supportive and inclusive community for aging seniors.

Relevant Policy and Land Use Considerations

Trust Council Strategic Plan

This project supports the 2014-2018 Islands Trust Council Strategic Plan: *"Goal C – to sustain island character and communities: 5.3 Use land use planning tools to address challenges of an aging population."*

Islands Trust Policy Statement

This project is consistent with the Islands Trust Policy Statement *Part V: Sustainable Communities, with specific relevance to Directive Policy 5.8.6:*

5.8.6 Local trust committees and island municipalities shall, in their official community plans and regulatory bylaws, address their community's current and projected housing requirements and the long-term needs for educational, institutional, community and health-related facilities and services, as well as the cultural and recreational facilities and services.

Official Community Plan

Currently only one objective in the OCP directly addresses senior or aging in place:

3.1 Residential Land Use Policies

Objective 4 To support the establishment of affordable housing, special needs housing and provide the opportunity for Island seniors to remain in the community.

Land Use Bylaw

The following definitions in the Lasqueti Island Land Use Bylaw are relevant to the discussion of seniors and aging in place:

"assisted living housing" means residences for seniors and/or people with special medical needs where rooms and/or meals and/or personal care are provided.

"public service" means a use, building or structure providing for community functions and services and includes public schools, firehalls, community halls, parking areas, public boat launching ramp, telephone facilities, outpatient clinics and seniors facilities but not including nursing homes.

The 'Institutional 1 (IN1) zone of the LUB was specifically created to accommodate six senior/assisted living units; a nursing station; health centre and employee accommodation. No other regulations in the LUB specifically pertain to seniors or aging in place.

Analysis

The publication, "[Planning for the Future: Age-friendly and Disability-friendly Official Community Plans](#)," offers guidelines for local governments in British Columbia to improve accessibility in their communities when updating Official Community Plans:

Age-friendly Guidelines

Guideline #1: *Include a commitment to accessibility and inclusion in the overall vision or mission section of the OCP.*

Lasqueti OCP doesn't currently have such a commitment in its Broad community Goals or Statement of Principles.

Guideline #2: *Actively invite the participation of people with disabilities and older people in the development or revision of the OCP as well as in all other local government public participation processes. Include disability and senior-serving organizations, individuals, family members and other related groups and individuals.*

Outreach can be targeted to senior-serving organizations, individuals, family members and other related groups and individuals. Consider how to plan and organize accessible public events. It may also be helpful to organize a range of meetings at different times of day to allow as many people as possible to attend.

Guideline #3: *Include goal statements in the OCP on key topics that have been shown to positively influence the quality of life of people with disabilities and older people, and to contribute to the development of healthy communities for everyone.*

Including policies that relate to the well being of people throughout the OCP foster a sense of community and influence the health and accessibility of new developments. UBCM has resources to inform such a process, for example a publication "AgeFriendly Rural and Remote Communities: A Guide."

Guideline #4: *Complete an age-friendly and disability-friendly assessment of your community to discover what already works around accessibility and inclusion and what needs improvement.*

This is an area of research that would benefit from the LTC initiating a survey or audit of people's experience with the accessibility of Lasqueti Island. It is recommended to focus on one or two areas such as assessing the built environment and the location of services. Any recommendations from such a process should be incorporated in the OCP and/or the LUB.

Guideline #5: *In the OCP commit to having a local government committee that can continue to provide feedback and direction to elected officials and staff on aging and disability issues.*

On Lasqueti Island it would be helpful if such a committee had representation from different community and other government agencies such as Island Health, Powell River Regional District, and perhaps Ministry of Transportation.

Project Scope and Timeline

Please see the attached draft Project Charter for the Project Scope and Timeline.

Resources and Roles

Please see the attached Project Charter for more detail on roles and in-kind resources.

Communications and Community Consultation

The aging at home assessment of Lasqueti Island will involve volunteer surveys or questionnaires offered in both paper and on-line. All communications materials will use large text to enable a wide range of people to participate. Questionnaires will be handed out at key community gathering places and service areas around the island.

Subject to available budget, the engagement process will be advertised in the local newspaper.

As the project may involve an OCP amendment, the LTC is required by the *Local Government Act* to consider opportunities for consultation with persons, organizations and authorities it considers will be affected. The LTC will be asked to consider consultation options upon recommendations by staff as the project unfolds.

Project Charter

The attached Project Charter establishes the objectives, scope, and timeline of the project.

Next Steps

Next steps include:

1. Choosing a qualified professional to act as the lead consultant on this project.
2. Consultant will design an aging-at-home online survey and paper questionnaires
3. Consultant will be tasked with distributing the survey at strategic community locations and through key community groups
4. Consultant will prepare a final report and recommendations for LTC consideration in the OCP/LUB review project.

Summary of Planning Recommendations

The goal of this project is to understand the degree to which changes to land use planning policies and regulations can result in Lasqueti Island in becoming a more supportive and inclusive community for aging seniors.

The objectives of the project are proposed to include:

- Complete a community consultation process for Lasqueti Island focusing on all aging at home needs for seniors. This will include a report with recommendations.
- Consider recommendations to address in the OCP and LUB: transportation and mobility; accessibility of indoor/outdoor public, institutional and commercial infrastructure; the availability of adequate, accessible, transitional housing; senior health services; and social inclusion and civic engagement of seniors.
- Make recommendations on how to improve the experience of seniors living on Lasqueti and specifically address aging at home issues.
- Identify partnerships with relevant agencies and community groups to collaborate on fulfilling the needs for Lasqueti seniors aging at home.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee add "Aging at Home Project" to the project list; and
2. THAT the Lasqueti Island Local Trust Committee endorses the project charter for the "Aging at Home Project".

Prepared and Submitted by:

Sonja Zupanec, Island Planner

January 18, 2016

Name, Title

Date

Concurred in by:

Name, Title

Date

Attachments:

1. UBCM Application
2. Draft Project Charter