

TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO

Staff Report

For the Meeting of January 15, 2019

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Dannielle Mauk, Community Services Director

SUBJECT: Update on application to the AARP and World Health Organization's (WHO) Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities

RECOMMENDATION

The Parks and Recreation Commission receive and file report on Town of San Anselmo's application to AARP to participate in the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities.

BACKGROUND

The Marin Commission on Aging acts as an advocacy group for the interests and needs of the county's older population, and serves as an advisory council to the County Board of Supervisors. The 23-member commission is comprised by representatives from cities and unincorporated areas of the county. Suellen Lamorte is the Town's representative. She requested that the Mayor and Town Council support the submission of an application by the Town of San Anselmo to be designated by WHO as an age-friendly community.

DISCUSSION

The AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities is an affiliate of the World Health Organization's Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Program. In 2006, an international effort was launched to help communities prepare for rapid population aging and the parallel trend of urbanization. The program has participating communities in more than 20 nations. As of July 2018, five Marin cities have official WHO Age-Friendly status: Corte Madera, Fairfax, Novato, San Rafael and Sausalito.

The WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities is focused on helping communities create urban environments that allow older adults to remain active and healthy participants in society. WHO and AARP define an age-friendly community as inclusive and respectful to residents of every age and ability. It's a community that promotes active aging, good health and quality of life by looking at adequate outdoor spaces and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, open communication and information, and community and health services.

ANALYSIS

The application will be submitted to AARP for approval. As an affiliate of the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities, AARP, will work with the Town of San Anselmo to streamline the designation process. The application requires the Town to submit a letter from the Mayor ensuring our community's elected leadership has made the commitment to actively work toward making our Town a great place for people of all ages to live and our commitment to the Network cycle of continual improvement. Staff is preparing our application that would be submitted along with the letter from the Mayor that the Council approved in November 2018.

To join the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Towns, towns must take the following steps:

Step 1: Enrolling

- Submit a letter from the Mayor
- Complete the application form

Step 2: Information Gathering and Planning

- Build a Team
- Conduct a Community Survey
- Create an Action Plan

Step 3: Take Action

- Implement Action Plan

Step 4: Evaluate the Work and Progress

- Asses Your Age-Friendly Community Program

The Town Council approved the application to the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Towns . Dannielle Mauk, Community Services Director will be the staff representative, and work alongside Suellen Lamorte, the representative for the Marin Commission on Aging to prepare and complete the application. AARP will assist staff and help facilitate the Town's application and enrollment in the program, as well as, guide us through the network's implementation and assessment process. A citizen's volunteer committee will be formed to work on the planning and implementation phases of the application.

If the Town of San Anselmo's application to AARP to participate in the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities is approved, the Town is making a five-year commitment to assess the age friendliness of our Town and to create a plan to make San Anselmo more livable for people of all ages.

CONCLUSION

Marin County is already among the oldest counties in California in median age, and older residents will increase another 35% by 2030. San Anselmo's older adult's population will increase by over 40% over the next 12 years. The Town currently celebrates the contributions of older adults and at the same time we recognize that more needs to be done to support them. Our Town has housing options for older adults, opportunities for transportation and programs through the Recreation Department and the Library that provide social inclusion and participation. The application to AARP to participate in the WHO Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities is a natural next step to create a more sustainable, integrated effort throughout San Anselmo.

RECOMMENDATION

In conclusion, Town staff recommends that the Parks and Recreation Commission receive and file the staff report.

Respectfully submitted,

Dannielle Mauk
Community Services Director