



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Planning Committee
 From: Terry Crowe
 Manager, Policy Planning
 Re: Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee
 2006 Annual Report and 2007 Work Program

to Planning - Jan. 14, 2007
 Date: December 18, 2006
 File: 01-0100-20-5ADVI-01

Staff Recommendation

That, as per the Manager, Policy Planning report dated December 18, 2006, entitled "Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee 2006 Annual Report and 2007 Work Program", the Richmond Seniors' Advisory Committee's 2007 Work Program (**Attachment 2**) be approved.

Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning

Att. 3

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>yes</i>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO <i>(ACTING)</i>	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

The Richmond Seniors' Advisory Committee (RSAC) was formed in 1991 to address the concerns of seniors and to plan for the future needs of this growing segment of the community. The Committee meets on a monthly basis to consider and evaluate issues referred to it by City Council, City staff and members of the community. It also initiates studies on matters deemed to be of concern to seniors and submits information, options and recommendations to City Council.

This report presents the Richmond Seniors' Advisory Committee (RSAC) 2006 Annual Report and proposed 2007 Work Program and Budget.

Findings Of Fact

1. RSAC 2006 Activities

The highlights of the RSAC's activities for the year 2006 are listed in **Attachment 1**.

2. RSAC 2007 Work Program and Budget

- The RSAC proposed 2007 Work Program is presented in **Attachment 2**.
- The RSAC 2007 Budget request is presented in **Attachment 3**.

Analysis

The RSAC continues to address the concerns of Richmond seniors, advise Council regarding these concerns, and plan for the future needs of this growing segment of the community.

The RSAC has formed partnerships with community service agencies, has participated on other City committees, and has consulted with the community in striving to improve the quality of life for Richmond seniors. Continued collaborations and partnerships are planned for 2007.

Financial Impact

The RSAC receives an annual operating grant of \$2,000 as part of the 2007 base budget.

Conclusion

Staff recommend support for the RSAC's proposed 2007 Work Program and proposed operating budget.



Lesley Sherlock
Social Planner (4220)

LS:cas

Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee 2006 Annual Report to City Council

The January, 2006 Senior's Advisory Committee to the City convened with one new member appointed. This brought our membership to nearly a full complement with 14 members.

Members voted to approve the funding of our own website and our own domain. It is hoped that this will create awareness for isolated seniors.

A new format was approved for our sub-committees with one new committee, 'Law/Legislation', added. The following sub-committees make up much of our agenda as representatives from RSAC either chair that particular meeting or attend other committees and report back to members at each monthly meeting.

HOUSING - our housing sub-committee worked diligently throughout the year, attending meetings, hearings, open houses and council committee meetings dealing with housing for seniors and the disabled.

HEALTH – this subcommittee is always active with any issues regarding the health of seniors. Members assisted the 'Safe Communities Alliance' and the 'Richmond Falls Prevention Network' on co-sponsoring their annual 'Falls Prevention Fair' in June. The Chair attends the Community Health Advisory Committee (CHAC) and reports back on health issues concerning seniors.

The Chair of Health also heads the ***PUBLICITY*** sub-committee and provides the general public with pertinent information regarding seniors with a monthly column in the 'Richmond Review'.

INTERCULTURAL/MULTICULTURAL ISSUES - this busy sub-committee was still extremely active attending the meetings of the National Cross Cultural Roundtable on Security in different parts of the country and representing RSAC on the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee. The Chair of RSAC serves on the RCMP Inter-Cultural Advisory committee.

TRANSPORTATION - TransLink, Canada Line and Handy Dart transportation issues were high on the agenda with members of our Transportation sub-committee attending numerous meetings and open houses as RSAC representatives.

SAFETY/ ISOLATED SENIORS - Both of these committees are chaired by the same member. The successful Falls Prevention Fair in June drew many seniors who had not before attended.

INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES - Volunteers from RSAC work on behalf of youth at Richmond Youth Services, attending Friday Night Dinner & Movie and serving on the advisory board for intergenerational activities.

RICHMOND COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RCSAC) - Our Seniors are represented by one of our members serving on the RCSAC, attending their meetings and reporting back to the committee after each meeting.

LAW/ LEGISLATION - This is a new committee formed at the start of 2006. The member heading this committee is familiar with many aspects of the law and keeps members informed of past, current and ongoing legislation.

MINORU CENTRE LIASON - The committee benefits from the attendance at our meetings of the City's Seniors' Co-ordinator at Minoru Activity Centre who keeps us informed of the many happenings at the activity centre and information on seniors' benefits, programs etc.

Richmond Seniors' Advisory Committee benefits from the attendance of City's Council Representative and their attending staff person at each meeting, both keeping us informed and updated on all aspects of council's decisions which affect seniors. Also appreciated is the attendance of a Richmond Addiction Services staff member, who keeps the committee informed of addiction problems within the seniors community.

Members attended the following forums, workshops, community meetings, open houses etc. during the year:

- Cross Cultural Round Table on Security
- Premier's Council on Aging and Seniors' Issues
- Safe Community Alliance Meetings
- Falls Prevention Regional Task Force Group
- Falls Prevention Network
- Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee
- Older Adults Service Plan (Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services)
- TransLink Open Houses
- Guardianship Law Reform
- Aging, Ageism and Abuse Conference
- Canadian Conference on Elder Law
- Rosewood Manor Extension Open House
- Continuing Health Services Integration Council
- Falls Prevention Regional Task Force Group
- Falls Prevention Network
- Stakeholder Consultation Meetings (Affordable Housing)
- Generations against Violence Project Support
- Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee
- RCMP Multicultural Advisory Committee
- New Legislation on Personal Planning and Guardianship/Representation Agreement
- City Centre Area Plan Update

The following guest speakers attended our meetings in 2006:

- Carole Gillam, Director of Community Care/Seniors Services
- Melanie Tremblay - Richmond Youth Services Agency
- Rudy Lawrence - Council of Senior Citizens' Organization of BC
- Vince Miele - Richmond Committee on Disability
- Serge Haber - Jewish Seniors' Alliance
- Suzanne Carter-Huffman - Senior Planner/Urban Design, City of Richmond
- Susan Match – re: Richmond Seniors Affected by Alcohol and Drugs

The members wish to thank Councillor Dang for his support and invaluable information throughout the year.

Our committee hopes to continue to play a dominant role in the advocacy of seniors issues. As our numbers grow so do our concerns regarding many major issues such as housing, transportation and health of our senior population.

It is our hope that Council and staff will be even more diligent in referring to our committee issues that arise concerning seniors.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Olive Bassett
Chair, RSAC

Appendix A – Sub-Committee Reports

Intercultural / Multicultural Issues

Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC)

RSAC was represented at the RIAC monthly meetings and its sub-committees, where necessary/appropriate.

The RIAC 2006 Work Program included two issues referred to it by City Council and the preparation of a Newcomer's Guide which should be ready in 2007.

Cross-cultural Roundtable on Security

This fifteen member committee has met in Montreal, Ottawa and Vancouver. The Roundtable is also organizing regional symposia across the Country to consult the community. The symposium in Montreal was held in October. There are two more, each to be held in Calgary and Vancouver in November. In addition, some of the members are organizing outreach programs in their own communities.

Premier's Council on Aging and Seniors Issues

The Council had a very busy year. A total of eight meetings were held, including one each in Victoria and Cranbrook. There were many presentations made to the Council on a variety of issues by specialists and experts. In addition, there were over two hundred written submissions from individuals and organizations. The report and recommendations of the Council are to be submitted to the Premier by the end of November 2006. That concludes the mandate of this Council.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mohinder Grewal*

Youth Sub-Committee Report

The RSAC continues to support Richmond Youth Services in their efforts. Three representatives of the Seniors Advisory Committee serve on the Generations Against Violence Advisory Committee. In addition, one of our members assists regularly at RYSA's "Dinner and a Movie" on Friday evenings.

*Respectfully submitted,
Angela Gauld*

I attend the Richmond Youth Centre's Dinner Club regularly, and I enjoy myself there. In September, I was interviewed by the Richmond Review, and the article was published in their October 21 issue.

The article pretty much covers my work and feelings regarding the Youth Centre, except I want to add that I wish that there would be more participants, both from youth and seniors.

Furthermore, I would like to mention that Angela Gauld, Chair of the Intergenerational Committee of the RSAC, is also a regular participant in the Youth Centre's Dinner Club. Together, we also attend the Centre's "Generation Against Violence" Project, in which Richmond's RCMP also participates.

Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee

In January, the RCSAC hosted a joint meeting with Richmond's MLA's. All three of our MLAs attended—Linda Reid, Olga Illich and John Yap. It was primarily information sharing. Themes that arose from RCSAC members clustered around affordable housing and day care.

The Poverty Response Committee announced that its Richmond Shares website is up and running.

RCSAC included a Calendar of Events on their website, encouraging members to post special events so that duplication of dates would be less likely.

A presentation was made by the Family Practice Network, describing a new way of delivering primary health care. The Four Pillars were identified as: Access; Interdisciplinary teams; Information Systems and Promotion of Healthy Living.

The RCSAC presented its up-dated Charter and Work Plan for 2006 to Planning Committee. Suggestions were made with regard to the inclusion and clarification of its advocacy role in the Charter and the addition to the Work Plan of "a large social vision model and gaps in social services for the City" (Communication from Terry Crowe to Michael McCoy, April 4, 2006). These changes will be brought forward to the Annual General Meeting.

A second meeting with our MLAs scheduled for May had to be cancelled. It has been rescheduled for December.

The Substance Abuse Task Force that includes RCSAC representatives recommended to Council the transfer of Task Force activities to the Richmond Integrated Addictions Strategy Committee (RIASC).

The City of Richmond held open houses "for the purpose of setting the direction for the City's proposed Affordable Housing Strategy. The RCSAC has been identified as a stakeholder, and Lesley suggested sending one or two representatives" (RCSAC Minutes, April 19, 2006). Aileen Cormack of the Seniors Advisory Committee along with Janice Barr of Richmond Society for Community Living will participate.

Brian Wardley stepped down as Co-Chair and Belinda Boyd of Richmond Health Services agreed to serve the remainder of her two year term as Co-Chair.

The Co-Chairs, Michael McCoy and Belinda Boyd made a presentation to the Planning Committee of City Council conveying concern at the "mass resignation" from the Child Care Development Board, and the manner in which they were handled. As a result of these discussions, City Staff were requested to draft a procedure for conducting exit interviews" (RCSAC Minutes, October 18, 2006).

A Call for Nominations to form the Executive Committee has been made for the following positions (to be voted upon at the AGM that has been tentatively set for November):

Co-Chair
Treasurer
Member-At-Large (x2)

*Respectfully submitted,
Gail Thompson*

Transportation Committee Report

As it has been for the past few years, two issues dominate the transportation issues for the Richmond Seniors Advisory Council: the Canada Line Project and the HandyDart service.

The concerns with Canada Line are primarily centered on safety and accessibility. It is felt that the barrier free entry, non-staffed stations and automated trains and the resulting lack of full time supervision leaves riders and particularly seniors vulnerable. The issue of not all Richmond stations having down escalators was also of some concern. The fact that all stations will have elevators has relieved some of that concern.

HandyDart service suffers from a number of problems. Bookings must be done days in advance. Punctuality is sometimes a problem and is particularly so when the return home pickup fails to appear at the appointed time. Medical patients get priority and while this is recognized as necessary, it frequently means that service to other users is delayed or unavailable. Also, it is often difficult to schedule trips between different zones or in evenings. While the HandyDart system is appreciated, it needs some improvements.

The RSAC has made these concerns known to the appropriate agencies.

*Respectfully submitted,
Daryl Whiting
Doug Symons*

Health Committee Report

This has been a busy and productive year with regards to service to Richmond's seniors from Richmond Health Services. The Assisted Living Residence located on Moncton Street is well underway and should be completed by mid-2007. Owing to the need for more Assisted Living Units, Richmond Health Services have secured over 25 units at Courtyard Gardens for their clients. This summer Rosewood Manor opened a new wing to accommodate 30 residents with dementia. As a member of Rosewood Foundation we hosted our annual garden party which fund-raised over \$200,000 for additional comforts for the residents. There will be further

construction of Assisted Living Units in 2007/08. Richmond Health Services are initiating a pilot project to visit seniors in their homes to discuss their medications with suggestions for continued well being.

On October 18, 2006 the RHS/CHAC (Community Health Advisory Committee) hosted a forum, "The End of Life Journey", at Richmond City Hall. There were a number of very knowledgeable speakers, including Laura Watts, a member of RSAC. This forum was well attended, in fact, standing room only. As a member of CHAC, we have now completed a Patient's handbook with information on what to expect when you enter Hospital, and also a brochure on patient/client relations. The book "Healthy Together" is now in it's 6th printing. During the year, two Primary Care Centres have been established, one in East Richmond and the other in City Center. By the end of 2006/07 there will be a further Centre at No. 2 Road and Blundell. The five Vancouver Coastal Health Community Advisory Committees held a joint meeting to discuss and give input on the Premiers "Conversation on Health". RSAC – Health Committee members are also involved with various sub-committees in other related health organizations located in the GVRD dealing with Seniors health issues.

*Respectfully submitted,
Aileen Cormack*

Safety Sub-Committee

It has been a busy and very fulfilling year. As a representative for the RSAC I sit on both the Regional Seniors Falls & Injury Prevention Community Task Force (under the direction of the VCHA) and the Richmond Falls Prevention Network (Richmond Safe Communities Alliance).

Much of the first part of the year, with the Richmond Network, was dedicated to the planning and preparation for the Falls Prevention Fair, which was held June 10, 2006 at Richmond City Hall. The feedback received from those who attended was very positive for the most part. There were a few glitches as far as interpreting and refreshments were concerned, but overall the event was deemed to be excellent.

The Regional group has been primarily concerned with establishing Terms of Reference, Policies & Procedures and Work Plans. We are now entering into a phase of determining what the various communities within the VCHA are doing with regard to falls prevention and sharing ideas and experiences. One from Richmond that has been highly regarded is the "Potential Outdoor Hazard Reporting" system that we have established with the City's Works Yard. Other communities are looking to implement such a plan into their systems. The regional group will address the issue of up escalators only in some of the Canada Line stations in Richmond and will be determining if such is to be the case in Vancouver as well.

*Respectfully submitted,
Carol D. Smith*

Isolated Seniors Sub-Committee

This is proving a difficult issue to address as there is very little data available as to the true extent of the problem within our City. Meetings have been held with Carole Gillam, Director of Community Health, VCHA for Richmond, and Jon Con. Carole Gillam addressed a meeting of the RSAC and stated that she had hired a person to do some research for her department and that the number one priority for this person was to research the possibility of isolated seniors in our community and to make some recommendations if it was found that, indeed, we had a percentage of seniors who are isolated in Richmond. Ms. Gillam will be asked to advise the RSAC of progress that has been made.

A member of The Independent Seniors Services Society, had asked that I meet with them and discuss the issue of Isolated Seniors, as they are aware of several and they are concerned as to how best to address this problem. I will be meeting with them in the New Year. It is also my feeling that many agencies are involved in trying to determine the extent of the isolated seniors problems in Richmond, but coordination is needed. It is hoped that this could be achieved with Ms. Gillam's department acting as the umbrella group that would undertake this task by coordinating the various groups.

Other

Premier's Council on Aging and Seniors Issue. Had the privilege of attending two sessions of the "Premier's Council on Aging & Seniors Issues" and had an opportunity to present a written report to the committee. The two meetings I attended addressed the following:

- "Adapting the Health Care System"
- "Home Support"

I was sorry that I had not been able to attend the session on "Affordable Housing".

Aging, Ageism and Abuse – Moving Awareness to Action – 16th Annual John K. Friesen Conference. Attended a two-day conference at SFU. As can be imagined, a conference of this duration covered many topics and generated a great deal of discussion. The topics covered were as follows:

- Abuse and Neglect in Later Life
- Abuse Prevention Throughout the Housing and Care Continuum
- Moving the Issues Forward (Parts 1 & 2)
- Guardianship Law Reform

At the conclusion of the conference it was agreed that a letter be sent to Premier Campbell with copies to Ministers, Public Trustee and other appropriate people, expressing concerns of members at this conference with regard to Bill 32 and with recommendations. This is but a snapshot of the activities undertaken during 2006.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol D. Smith

Housing Sub-Committee

In 2006 our Housing Sub-committee was largely focused on affordable housing for seniors. Our concerns were heightened by planned redevelopments in the city that would displace many seniors of modest means, and the potential impact on the city's stock of affordable housing for seniors as older three-story buildings are demolished to accommodate redevelopment. We participated in the City of Richmond review of their Affordable Housing Strategy together with other community stakeholders. A group of committee members visited Tsawwassen and Delta Abbeyfield Houses to learn more about this approach. We have followed the proposed redevelopment at 6351/6391/6491 Minoru Blvd. with a view to ensuring the 21 apartment units of seniors affordable housing is eventually approved by all levels of government involved.

*Respectfully submitted,
Bill Sorenson*

RICHMOND SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2007 Work Program

Possible tasks for 2007

Identification of current Seniors Issues

- Increase in senior population & services required
- Meetings with MLAs
- Affordable Housing Issues
- Invite guests speaking to issues

Health Education/Health Care Issues/Guardianship

- Check on Home Care and other services for seniors
- Monitor changes
- Assess the impact of changes on seniors
- Community awareness & education

Multicultural & Intercultural Involvement

- Assisting with anticipated workshops
- Participation in inter-cultural activities & events
- Liaising with Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee and Cross-Cultural Roundtable on Security

Isolation a Problem for Many Elderly Citizens

- Knowledge Network contact
- Continue to work with agencies addressing issue, e.g., Chimo, Volunteer Richmond, Richmond Addiction Services
- Determine any actions that address the problem

Transportation

- Monitoring and advising re: RAV, Handy-dart, other transportation issues

Seniors Supportive Housing

- Non-profit and Private
- Monitor Registration Practices

Seniors Week/Wellness Fair

- Ongoing support

Walkable Community (Slips, Trips & Falls)

- Continue supporting City strategy in development maintenance and repair of sidewalks for pedestrian safety
- Liaise with other agencies addressing this issue

Senior/Youth Interaction

- Expand on previous actions
- Work with Richmond Youth Agency – Intergenerational Program (Violence against Seniors Project)

Law/Legislation

- Monitor changes in law and legislation pertaining to Seniors
- Review Human Rights legislation with respect to Seniors

Minoru Activity Centre (Seniors)

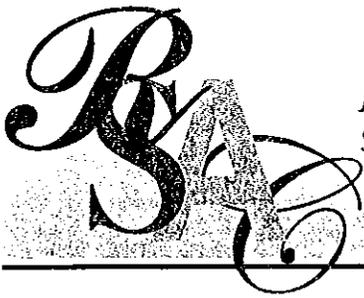
- Maintain our contact with Centre's Administration
- Work together on common issues (see attached, prepared by Minoru Seniors Centre)

Premier's Council on Aging

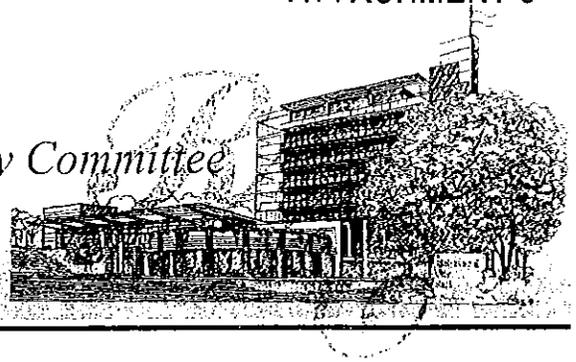
- Review report

Submitted by:

Olive Bassett
Chair, Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee
November 2006



Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee
Serving Richmond since 1991



December 14, 2006

Mayor and Council
Richmond City Hall
6911 No. 3 Road
Richmond, BC V6Y 2C1

Dear Mayor and Council:

Re: Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee 2007 Proposed Budget

On behalf of Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee, I wish to propose the following 2007 budget for approval.

Meeting Expenses (10 – 11 in 2007)	\$1,000.00
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Expected Events during 2007

Seniors Week	
Wellness Fair	
Mini Workshops	
Senior/Youth Projects	
Conferences concerning Seniors issues	<u>\$1,000.00</u>

Total	\$2,000.00
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Respectfully submitted,

Olive Bassett, Chair
Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee