



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Planning Committee
From: Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning
Re: **Richmond Seniors' Advisory Committee 2005 Annual Report and 2006 Work Program**

To Planning - Jan. 17, 2006
Date: December 19, 2005
File: 01-0100-20-SADVI-01.

Staff Recommendation

That, as per the Manager, Policy Planning report dated December 19, 2005, the Richmond Seniors' Advisory Committee's 2006 Work Program be approved.

Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning

Att. 3

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>dw</i>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>AD</i>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

This report presents the Richmond Seniors' Advisory Committee (RSAC) 2005 Annual Report and proposed 2006 Work Program and Budget.

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.

Findings Of Fact

1. RSAC 2005 Activities

The highlights of the RSAC's activities for the year 2005 are listed in **Attachment 1**.

2. RSAC 2006 Work Program and Budget

- The RSAC proposed 2006 Work Program is presented in **Attachment 2**.
- The RSAC 2006 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 2006.

Financial Impact

The RSAC receives an annual operating grant of \$2,000 as part of the 2006 base budget.

Conclusion

Staff recommend support for the RSAC's proposed 2006 Work Program and proposed operating budget.



Lesley Sherlock
Social Planner
(4220)

LS:cas

Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee 2005 Annual Report

In 2005, RSAC membership rose to fourteen members and we are gradually becoming a more multi-cultural group endeavoring to address the concerns of a city whose seniors are now from many new areas. Our participation with the Inter-Cultural Advisory Committee continues with representation at their meetings by one of our very active members who has been appointed to serve on the National 'Cross Cultural Roundtable on Security' (see attached sub-committee report).

Our committee continues to work diligently on behalf of seniors housing in Richmond. We recently requested of Council a specific Seniors Housing Policy addressing all types of housing likely to be required by seniors in the future. We felt our efforts were rewarded when City Council re-designated the property at 5411 Moncton Street to permit development of a seniors' assisted living residence (sub-committee report attached).

The health sub-committee continues with the 'Health Education' of seniors regarding wellness and services available to seniors within the community. Members attended meetings regarding: 'Slips, Trips and Falls', 'Isolated Seniors', 'Safety' and 'Publicity', with one member doing a monthly column directed at seniors' information in the Richmond Review newspaper (report attached).

The Wellness Fair and the Wellness Coordinator position at Minoru Activity Centre continues to be supported by the advisory committee.

Two members of Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee and two members of the Richmond Community Health Committee with a staff member each from Urban Planning/City Hall and Richmond Health Services/Vancouver Coastal Health jointly met to plan an informational forum for the general public on the topic, "What is Happening to the Family Doctor"? This forum was held in Council Chambers on October 05/05 (report attached).

The Transportation Sub-committee has been active, bringing to the table the issues regarding RAVCO & TransLink. We, as an advisory group, again elected to write and point out important issues affecting seniors which we requested they take into account (report attached).

Our Senior/Youth sub-committee partnered with Richmond Youth Services Agency on seniors and youth projects. Two members volunteered to supervise two programs at the Youth Centre, and four RSAC members participated. The Mayor proclaimed April 16, 2005 as 'Youth Service Day' (report attached).

The Chair served as the Committee's representative on the Parks Recreation and Culture Renewal Working Group. They met monthly for fourteen months. Recommendations which were incorporated into the PRCS Master Plan for the Delivery of PRC Services were made to Mayor & Council on September 6, 2005. City Council has recommended that PRCS seek public feedback on the proposed plan and the Community Working Group be reconvened to review the Master Plan documentation. Council specifically asked that the CWG provide their comments on

the recommendations and the action plans. Feedback was to be reported to Council in the fall of 2005. This final meeting was held November 3rd. The working group went through the recommendations again and agreed the changes they asked for had been incorporated. By and large the majority of the members felt agreeable that the document go forward to Council. Some felt more than enough time had been spent and hoped the changes in the delivery of recreational services would benefit the Richmond recreation population as a whole.

An Isolated Seniors sub-committee has been working with other agencies (e.g., Chimo, Volunteer Richmond, Richmond Addiction Services) to encourage initiatives aimed at isolated seniors. A representative of Knowledge Network was also invited to speak to the RSAC about how they might reach this target group with public service messages.

Members attended workshops, community meetings, and open houses throughout the year:

- Forum for Dialogue: Building Bridges for the Prevention of Older Women Abuse
- Cross Cultural Round Table on Security
- Future of Multiculturalism in B.C.
- Co-Hosted All Candidates Meetings, both Provincial and Municipal
- National Visible Minority Council
- 411 Dunsmuir Seniors Centre Annual Open House
- Safe Community Alliance Meeting
- Richmond Addictions Services Steering Committee
- Richmond Community Services Advisory Council's workshop & meetings with MLA's
- National Advisory Council on Aging: Seniors on the Margin
- Austin Harris Seniors Assisted Living Open House
- Seniors Affordable Housing Project
- Specific Transit Needs of Seniors, Translink
- Civic Engagement Forum
- What is Happening to the Family Doctor Forum
- Premier's Council on Aging and Seniors' Issues
- Congress on Aging and Seniors' Issues

In order to further our own education on seniors issues & concerns the following speakers were invited throughout the year:

Speaker

Mr. James Lowe
Dr. Caroline Wang

Jan Weaver & Dr. Peter Chen, Dr P. Yakimov
Mr. Ted Townsend (City of Richmond)
Mr. Everett MacKenzie
Mr. William Harlan

Topic

Chimo Seniors Outreach Program
Shortage of Family Physicians in
Richmond

Primary Care Changes for Richmond
The Richmond Oval
RIAC Strategic Plan 2004-2010
Knowledge Network re: reaching out to
isolated seniors.

I would like to thank Council and Council committees and staff who have listened to requests, suggestions and concerns from the Advisory Committee, and particularly the attendance of Urban Planning staff at our meetings. We appreciate the attendance of Councilor Derek Dang and the information he brings to us regarding items involving seniors from Council deliberations and also the importance to the Committee in having a Councilor as liaison taking our concerns back to Council.

RSAC 2005 Membership:

Seemah Aaron, Olive Bassett, Neil Bernbaum, Aileen Cormack, Angela Gault, Mohinder Grewal, Shams Jilani, Raouff Mosaheb, Stephen Ngan, Carol Smith, Bill Sorenson, Doug Symons and Daryl Whiting

Respectfully submitted,

M. Olive Bassett, Chair
Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee
December 2005

Appendix A – Sub-Committee Reports

Housing

The construction of the Austin Harris project on Moncton Street has received approval from City Council, BC Housing, Richmond Health Services and local residents. Ground breaking is scheduled for the spring of 2006. The residence will accommodate 50 assisted living units for seniors being incapable of living on their own without some help. The Residence will be developed and managed by SUCCESS, but will be overseen by the Richmond Health Services. The Residence, if there are no hitches in construction, should open by the spring of 2007.

Richmond, unfortunately, has no new affordable assisted living units (Austin Harris project not complete until 2007) therefore, Richmond Health Services have approached Courtyard Gardens and as of October 2005, they have signed a contract, which will add 25 units to their overall affordable assisted living units.

Submitted by:
Aileen Cormack
Housing Subcommittee

Health

During 2005 an announcement was made by the Provincial Minister of Health that there would be funding for an additional 36 beds for dementia patients at Rosewood Manor. The Rosewood Foundation was given the task of fundraising to cover the costs of furnishing each new room. I am happy to report that by September 2005 the funds required have been met, in fact considerably more has been contributed by very generous Richmondites. The project will be completed by April 2006.

Submitted by:
Aileen Cormack
Housing Subcommittee

A member of the RSAC reported on the above projects, which were outside the Terms of Reference for this committee. The member's involvement with other Richmond Committees on community decision-making was able to provide RSAC with updates on seniors' issues.

Primary Care Forum

The Seniors Advisory Committee and the Community Health Committee of Richmond Health Services joined forces and put on a very successful forum on the future of Primary Care accessibility in Richmond Council Chambers on October 5, 2005.

This was an informational meeting held for the general public to learn more about the changes in

their own primary health care. The object of the forum was that those attending would leave with a better understanding of their own personal primary health care and future delivery.

The meeting was facilitated by Bruce Beairsto, Superintendent S.D. #38. Speakers included Ted Bruce, Dr. P. Quelch, Dr. Alan Brookstone, Dr. Gary Mazowita, Monica Gregory and Barb Leslie. Doctors spoke about:

- full service family practice,
- group practice networks, and
- hospitalists.

Also,

- an executive director, VCH, addressed who provides primary health care and where, and an overview of future delivery innovations,
- a nurse practitioner spoke about their extended role now and in the future, and
- a program manager spoke about wellness centers.

The forum was so well attended there was standing room only in the City Council Chambers. As well as members of the community, Mayor and several Councilors, local doctors, nurses and administrators attended.

The audience was very appreciative of the information provided and hoped we would in the future have informational sessions on new initiatives affecting their health.

Submitted by:

Aileen Cormack

M.Olive Bassett

Health Subcommittee

Intercultural/Multicultural Issues

Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC):

- Co-hosted a very successful Civic Participation Forum for voters.
- Made presentations to stakeholders re. its' 2004-2010 Work Program.
- Wrote to the CEO of Vancouver Coastal Health Authority to address the issues of Seniors from Ethnocultural Minorities, as highlighted in a 2005 Policy Paper by the National Advisory Council on Aging.
- Debated and made recommendations on Display of Religious Symbols at the City Hall.
- Scheduled to meet with the Minister for Tourism in November.
- RSAC Representative on RIAC is Mohinder Grewal

Cross-Cultural Roundtable on Security:

- Held two National and one Regional meeting. Next National meeting in Nov. in Ottawa. Likely to include 3 to 4 cabinet ministers.
- It appears that the dialogue with the Ministers, the Deputy Ministers, the Heads of Agencies

such as RCMP and CSIS and senior Public Servants is being fruitful to all concerned. The Canada Border Security Agency (CBSA) and the RCMP are, for instance, holding regular consultations with the Roundtable and other stake holders on issues such as Racial Profiling. CBSA are soon having public consultations across Canada On their new proposed Policy Initiatives.

- I (Mohinder Grewal), along with another member from the Roundtable, accompanied the Deputy Prime Minister as part of a delegation on an official visit to Pakistan in September.

411 Dunsmuir Seniors Centre

- RSAC member Shams Jilani is the Chair of the Multicultural Committee
- 411 Dunsmuir Seniors Centre hosts multicultural events

Submitted by:

Mohinder Grewal

Shams Jilani

Intercultural/Multicultural Subcommittee

Other:

Premiers' Council on Aging and Seniors' Issues:

- 18 members appointed from across B.C. We have a member on it.
- Is holding a Congress in Vancouver on 28 Oct. Around 150 from across S.C. are likely to attend.
- Meetings have been scheduled in various Regions for the next 12 months.

Submitted by:

Mohinder Grewal

Transportation

The main issue for the Transportation Committee this year has been the Richmond-Airport-Vancouver (RAV) rapid transit project. The RSAC's concerns are with public safety and accessibility. It is felt that with unstaffed stations and driverless trains there will be a greater potential for crime or other unsatisfactory behaviour within and around the stations and trains. The RSAC has written of this concern to City council urging Council to press RAVCO to install turnstiles and staff at each station. So far, RAVCO has rejected these moves. On the plus side, stations will be accessible with elevators at each station for those having mobility problems.

Committee members attended an "Accessible Transit Workshop" in June for the purpose of assisting TransLink in developing a plan to ensure transit is accessible to the most number of people possible. More workshops are to take place on this topic.

There have been some complaints from HandyDart users about long waits after the booked time

the bus to arrive. Difficult for users having appointments to get to or waiting outside in poor weather. Also, there is some concern about the lack of courtesy on the part of a few employees at Richmond's HandyDart service.

Overall, however, Translink has made considerable improvements over the last few years in serving both the able and not so abled public transit users.

Submitted by:
Doug Symons
Daryl Whiting
Transportation Subcommittee

Isolated Seniors

Throughout the year 2005, our sub-committee members have been working with various agencies to direct an appropriate path that can be taken to determine the extent of isolation within our seniors' population. This is the first barrier that we have encountered, as obtaining such information is difficult due to confidentiality issues.

Secondly, once confirmation is received and it is determined that we, indeed, do have a problem in our community, the manner in which this problem could be addressed will require the coordinated efforts of many agencies but will necessitate the forming of an "umbrella" group to direct the program. At the present time the agencies involved are: The Richmond Seniors' Advisory Committee; Chimo; Richmond Addiction Services; Minoru Seniors and Community Health Services. As the Community Health Services has the widest access to such individuals and their family physicians, and would be in a position to handle the confidentiality issue, it appears that this would be the logical group to take on the task with the help of all other agencies involved.

It would be prudent to look at a previous program that existed in the city, prior to the amalgamation of the Richmond Health Authority with that of the new Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, to model such a revised program after. It worked extremely well then and was the envy of many other communities. Like the Slips-Trips and Falls program, Richmond was first in implementing such a program which has now been adopted Province-wide, and was again first in setting up a program that identified and assisted the isolated seniors of our community.

We will continue in our quest to investigate all avenues, in order to reach our Isolated Senior.

Submitted by:
Carol Smith
Isolated Seniors Subcommittee

Seniors/Youth

Dinner and a Movie at Richmond Youth Service Agency

This program ran every second Friday evening from April until September 2005 when unfortunately, funding ran out. It is at present in hiatus until more resources can be found to hire a part-time staff person to supervise the children and young adults who frequent after-school activities at the Youth Centre.

The aim was for the young people to prepare a meal; afterwards they would sit down to dinner together before ending the evening with a video. Three volunteers from the Seniors Advisory Committee made a firm commitment to attend sessions regularly, aided by others on an occasional basis. The young people involved were aged 11 to 15. At least two adults, other than the staff person, always supervised the cooking activity. The young people were assigned tasks and a meal, usually consisting of a main course, salad and dessert. Copies of recipes were provided for the young people to take away. Meals were chosen in consultation with the children, were simple to make and nutritious and included ethnic favourites such as Chicken Adobo, with helpful commentary on the authenticity provided by one young man from the Filipino community. Although the initial invitation was for us to teach the children, we found that teaching was not necessary, as most of them already had cooking experience. All that was required of us was supervision and encouragement which we were happy to provide liberally.

Although the children for the most part were well behaved and helpful, there were a couple with problems and we noticed a marked improvement in the behaviour of two in particular. One would hang back at first and did not appear to mix much with the others, especially the adults. At the end of the program, he appeared to be a changed boy. Not only did he mix well and related well to the adults, he spent one evening making sushi for the whole company – and a very creditable and highly successful effort it was. It was a delight to see the results of our encouragement. Another young woman, at the age of 14 had dropped out of school. We heard recently that not only has she returned to school, she is now achieving B grades. While most of the credit must go to the staff people at RYSA, notably Ms. Melanie Archer and a summer student Benjie who were in almost daily contact with the young people, we would like to feel that our involvement contributed in some way. All of us who volunteered are committed to the Asset Building philosophy and see activities such as this as a major component.

Another activity involving members of the RSAC were craft evenings. For one project, one of the RSAC volunteers brought her sewing equipment and the older children used donated fabric to make a large number of potpourri sachets and larger items such as neck rolls, which were in turn donated to the Minoru Activity Centre, to be used as door prizes and volunteer appreciation gifts.

Both we and the young people would be sorry to see the program end and we are hoping that RYSA will be able to find the funding to hire a part-time staff supervisor. We can see great potential for the program and enhancements that can be made that would not require extra funding. One suggestion was to find local Richmond “celebrities” who would volunteer to come

and cook with the children or give a cooking lesson. Another would be to invite community members to sit and have dinner with the young people and simply interact and converse with them and discuss their own activities within the community (e.g., RCMP officer, or members of Council).

The program has enhanced and reinforced the connection between youth and the Minoru Activity Centre. Those of us involved in the above activities are grateful to Council for their suggestion that we establish a connection with the Youth of our community.

Youth Service Day

Mayor Malcolm Brodie proclaimed April 16th 'Youth Service Day'. This was a special event for the youth of RYSA. With Advisory Committee seniors and RYSA staff supervising, youth from the centre worked from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at three different seniors' complexes in Richmond. They cleaned up gardens, washed windows, fixed computer problems and literally did for the seniors what they found difficult to do for themselves.

A grant application has been submitted to the National Crime Prevention Strategy Community Mobilization Program. The Seniors Advisory Committee are supporting the application and are named as one of the partners.

The application is a request for funds for an inter-generational project that would discourage violence directed at seniors and encourage programs that bring them together in a positive manner. The proposal has been approved locally and has now been sent to Ottawa. One project will be chosen to receive funding.

It is the hope of the RSAC sub-committee of Seniors/Youth, if chosen the program will be based on the 'Asset Development Model' that City Council endorsed for Richmond Youth.

Submitted by:
Angela Gauld
M. Olive Bassett
Seniors/Youth Subcommittee

RICHMOND SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
2006 Work Program

Possible tasks for 2006

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)

Minoru Activity Centre (Seniors)

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

Submitted by:

Olive Bassett
Chair, Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee
November 2005

WORK PLAN

Year: 2006

UPDATE REPORTS:

Committee: SENIORS ADVISORY

FACILITY: Minoru Seniors Centre

Objective	Action Plan	Target Date	Outcome	Success Rating
To expand intergenerational programming	-Increase number of seniors involved -Liaise with youth workers to increase awareness of benefits	October-06	-Seniors and youth cooperate with each other in projects -Increased awareness of mentorship. Work with Seniors Advisory Committee to develop initiatives.	
To raise the profile of seniors in the Community	-To create meaningful opportunities for seniors to participate as volunteers in Community events. Liaise with community organizations to engage seniors in projects	November-06	-Seniors are seen as a resource. -Increase awareness and recognition of the vital role seniors play in the community.	
Celebrate Seniors Week, Citywide	-Involve Senior Coordinators in planning and implementing. Involve Seniors Advisory to plan activities	Jun-06	-City wide coordination of events. Increased collaboration with organizations working with seniors.	



Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee
Serving Richmond since 1991



October 5, 2005

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

Dear Mayor and Council

Re: Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee 2006 Proposed Budget

On behalf of Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee, I wish to propose the following 2006 budget for approval.

Meeting Expenses (10 – 11 in 2006)	\$1,000.00
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Expected Events during 2006

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