



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Community Services Committee
FROM: Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning
RE: **Richmond Seniors Advisory Council 2000 Annual Report; and the Year 2001 Work Plan**

DATE: February 28, 2001
FILE: 0100-20-SADV1-01

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Richmond Seniors Advisory 2000 Annual Report (attached as **Appendix A** to this report dated February 28, 2001) be received for information.
2. That the Richmond Seniors Advisory Year 2001 Work Plan (attached as **Appendix B** to this report dated February 28, 2001) be endorsed.

Terry Crowe
Manager, Policy Planning

Att. 2

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

This report presents the Richmond Seniors Advisory Council annual report to Council, which sets out its activities and accomplishments for the year 2000, and presents to Council for its approval, a work plan for the year 2001.

FINDINGS OF FACT

A more detailed description of the Year 2000 accomplishments and planned work tasks for 2001 are presented in the attached Seniors Advisory Council Annual Report (Appendix A).

The following is a synopsis of the 2000 accomplishments and the 2001 planned tasks.

Major Accomplishments for 2000

- Continued support for the operation of Wellness Clinics at the Community Centres.
- Co-ordinated the development of the Seniors' Golden Garden at Minoru Seniors Centre.
- Revised the Seniors Advisory Council brochure for public distribution.
- Ongoing co-ordination in the development of Richmond Peer Counselling Program.
- Co-sponsored a public forum "Slips, Trips and Falls". This forum set the direction to work with City staff and Richmond Health Services to establish pedestrian street/sidewalk strategy in Richmond.
- Co-ordinated the annual 'Salute to Seniors' event.
- Initiated the Affordable Seniors Supportive Housing study.
- Contributed a record amount of volunteer hours on seniors topics and projects over the year.
- Participated on the TransLink advisory committee.
- Liased with various community and external organizations on seniors matters (BC Seniors Advisory Council, Vancouver/Richmond Population Health Advisory Committee, Vancouver/Richmond Health Board, Richmond Connections, community multicultural organizations).

Year 2001 Work Plan

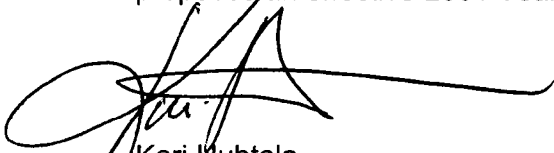
- Continue to work with Richmond Connections and other Richmond community organizations to establish and maintain the Richmond Peer Counselling Program.
- Assist the City in completing the Affordable Seniors Supportive Housing Study for presentation to Council (target date spring, 2001).
- Participate in the celebration of Seniors Week in June, 2001.
- Organize information and education forums for seniors on specific subjects (i.e. Human Rights, Women's Issues, Safety, Adult Guardianship, etc.).
- Work towards changing BC Human Rights, specifically, regarding the status of seniors aged 65 years old and over as non-persons.
- Work with the City to ensure that transit services for Richmond and the connections to other Lower Mainland destinations, will assist seniors in their transportation needs and quality of life.
- Work with the City to establish a pedestrian safety strategy (e.g. safe sidewalks, crossings, and signage/signalized systems).

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- The Seniors Advisory Council did receive a City grant of \$1,000 (General Contingency Account) in 2000 to cover miscellaneous expenses (e.g. conference attendance, transit and bus rental, project development support, etc.). A similar request of \$1,000 to support the Seniors Advisory Council as been proposed for 2001.
- In 2001, administrative and staff support to the Seniors Advisory Council is to be provided by Urban Development staff.

CONCLUSION

The Seniors Advisory Council has completed a number of successful tasks in 2000, and proposes an effective 2001 Year Work Plan.



Kari Huhtala
Senior Planner

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Richmond Seniors Advisory Council 2000 Annual Report and Year 2001 Task

The Richmond Seniors Advisory Council supports the following Sub-Committees:

Housing:	Carol Smith, Lois Carson-Boyce, Neil Birnbaum, Aileen Cormack
Peer Counselling:	Lillian Durrant, Aileen Cormack
Health:	Lillian Durrant, Jessie McCorkell, Aileen Cormack
PHAC:	Carol Smith
Multicultural:	Shams Jilani
BC Seniors Advisory Council:	Mohinder Grewal
Transportation:	Charles Barry, Aileen Cormack
Safety:	Lois Carson-Boyce
Secretary:	Lois Ashford

This annual report presents the Richmond Seniors Advisory Council's 2000 accomplishments during the year 2000, together with activities being planned in 2001.

Accomplishments of 2000

Health

We continue to support Wellness Clinics in three Community Centres and have funded the costs of three blood pressure units for Sea Island Community Centre. These monthly clinics not only provide minor medical attention (i.e. blood pressure), but also include physiotherapists and pharmacists to give talks on the pros and cons of drugs.

Seniors Profile 2000 as part of the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board's ongoing commitment to improve seniors' health and wellness, and produced a report on the health and social status of seniors in the region. Comments from Committee members have been submitted for ongoing discussion purposes.

Seniors' Golden Garden

We applied for and received a grant from The Canada Co-ordinating Committee for the International Year of Older Persons, which was administered by The Canadian Wildlife Federation. This grant, along with monies received from corporate sponsors, was used to create a garden for birds and butterflies. In November, a ribbon cutting of the finished garden, located alongside Minoru Senior Centre, was attended by the Mayor, several Councillors, corporate representatives and seniors. As well, a plaque was installed to recognize our Seniors Advisory Council's participation, along with that of the City and corporations. A tea followed to celebrate the completion of IYOP, which leaves a permanent legacy to Richmond seniors. The garden will be illustrated in The Canadian Wildlife Federation's Annual Report and other publications, along with a plaque for recognition of our participation.

The completed gardens could not have been undertaken without the dedicated City support and resources for the project.

New Terms of Reference

Revised Terms of Reference for our Seniors Advisory Council were presented to City Council and endorsed. As well, an updated Seniors Advisory Council brochure was updated and distributed during the year.

Peer Counselling

We are continuing our partnerships with Richmond Connections, Richmond Health Services, Minoru Seniors Society, City of Richmond and Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) to provide peer counselling for Richmond seniors. To date, we have received sufficient funds to hire a co-ordinator and recruit volunteers (seniors) to register for an 18 week course. It is anticipated that by February 2001, the course participants will have completed their training and the program will be up and running. We have received additional funding to enable us to invite interested seniors from other Lower Mainland regions to participate in taking a peer counselling course, we intend to sponsor and organize in the coming year.

Safety

There has been ongoing correspondence and discussion with City staff regarding pedestrian safety problems on the north side of Alderbridge Way. There is one property (east of McDonald's) where there is no sidewalk and the existing pathway is dangerous because of exposed tree roots. Across the street, on the south side of Alderbridge, no sidewalk has been provided by/for the Lansdowne Mall.

We have initiated discussions with Population Health and City staff regarding the Safety Audit and Action Program for Richmond. This initiative could involve youth in need of work. The kind of issues the project might cover would be the use of bright yellow paint to mark uneven sidewalks, corner ramps at corners, painting house numbers on curbs, reporting on sidewalk obstructions (e.g. encroaching hedges or low tree branches, which are of particular concerns to the visually impaired individuals. The referenced discussions will be addressing the fact the costs of such programs have probably been a charge to the City; whereas the benefits accrue to Population Health.

The Seniors Advisory Council was one of the sponsoring partners for the very successful public forum "Slips, Trips and Falls". One of the shocking statistics from Health Canada was the billions of dollars each year it costs them as a result of falls which they claim are 94% avoidable.

Salute to Seniors

The Annual "Salute to Seniors" event was held in June, 2000 at Richmond Centre Mall. Response to Seniors Week was excellent, every year it seems to become more important to the senior residents to obtain information regarding their well being.

Supportive Housing

This year, there has been significant headway in our ongoing efforts to pursue efforts toward the future provision of affordable supportive Housing for the elderly in Richmond. City staff have been an integral part of this effort in ongoing discussions with developers

and non-profit organizations to work towards such housing in Richmond, as well as the construction of new and/or renovation of existing seniors facilities.

In September 2000, the City received a \$10,000 ACT grant from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to prepare a comprehensive overview of information and requirements for the planning, development and operation of affordable seniors supportive housing for the frail elderly in Richmond.

Our Housing Subcommittee is a member of the Senior Supportive Housing Steering Committee, which includes a representative from Greater Vancouver Housing Corporation, BC Home Builders Association, Progressive Homes, Vancouver/ Richmond Health Board and Richmond Long Term Care (Richmond Health Services). This Steering Committee chose the consultants and has responded to a number of draft reports to date. A final consultant's report with recommendation is expected to be presented to City Council in March/April, 2001.

Volunteer Hours

Richmond Seniors Advisory Council members during 2000 have recorded approximately 2,500 volunteer hours.

Transportation

The Seniors Advisory Council has been involved in discussions with City and TransLink to develop the 98B transit line to Richmond.

BC Seniors Advisory Council

Regular updates were provided on the activities of the BC Seniors Advisory Council, and priority issues brought forward by the Provincial Association, by seniors attending the Community Public Forums of BCSAC and by the individual members of the Council itself.

Multiculturalism

Participated in the celebration of Multicultural Day at Cambie Community Centre.

Vancouver/Richmond Population Health Advisory Committee (PHAC)

Member reports on monthly meetings concerning seniors issues.

Vancouver/Richmond Health Board – Community Health Committee

Member reports on monthly meetings concerning seniors issues.

Human Rights

Met with Geoff Plante, MLA – Steveston, to discuss the discrepancy of the under 19's and over 65's not being recognized by the Human Rights Act. Correspondence with Provincial Government's Attorney General submitted on this subject. More lobbying should be done to influence the government to change the legislation.

Year 2001 Tasks

The following projects are to be either finalized during the year 2001 or considered to be a part of our long-term planning.

- ❖ Peer Counselling: implementation and operation.
- ❖ Seniors Supportive Housing Study: study completion, presentation to Council and implementation.
- ❖ Adult Guardianship: community education and awareness
- ❖ Seniors Week: annual community seniors celebration
- ❖ Pedestrian safety strategy: a framework towards managing City sidewalk development, maintenance and repair.
- ❖ Consumer Protection for seniors: community education and awareness
- ❖ BC Human Rights for youth and those over 65: seniors rights

Conclusions

Our wish for 2001 is that City Council and staff will continue to make more referrals to our Committee when issues concerning seniors arise.

Councillor Dang has provided the Committee with ongoing support in all aspects of the Committee's tasks.

On behalf of the Committee, I especially wish to thank Kari Huhtala for his highly valued assistance in all areas to our Committee, along with David McLellan, Jim Bruce, Dave Semple, Mike Redpath, Cathy Swan and other city staff. They have always been available for consultation on projects or ideas.

The Richmond Seniors Advisory Council has had a very successful year, and hopes to continue to be a major player for the advocacy of seniors concerns. The energy and enthusiasm of council members continues to grow and this should be a banner year for the completion of projects, which will last for many years.

Submitted respectfully,



Aileen Cormack
Chair, Richmond Seniors Advisory Council

Richmond Seniors Advisory Council Year 2001 Tasks

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