



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

TO: Community Services Committee

DATE: February 25, 2000

FROM: Terry Crowe
Manager, Land Use

FILE: 0100-20-SADV1-01

RE: Richmond Seniors Advisory Council 1999 Annual Report; and the Year 2000 Work Plan

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Richmond Seniors Advisory 1999 Annual Report (attached as **Appendix A** to this report dated February 25, 2000) be received for information.
2. That the Richmond Seniors Advisory Year 2000 Work Plan (attached as **Appendix B** to this report dated February 25, 2000) be endorsed.

Terry Crowe
Manager, Land Use

Att. 2

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER

STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

This report presents an annual report to Council, setting out its activities and accomplishments for the year 1999, and presents to Council for its approval, a work plan for the year 2000.

FINDINGS OF FACT

Major Accomplishments for 1999

- Continued support for Wellness Clinics at the Community Centres;
- Involvement in the Year of Older Person (IYOP) Celebrations and Activities;
 - Use of IYOP logo in City correspondences, agendas and minutes,
 - Attendance at the International Federation of Aging Conference in Vancouver,
 - Participation in the Seniors Summit and participation in endorsement of Vancouver Declaration,
 - Attendance at the Lt. Governor's Garden Party,
 - Development of the Street Banners celebrating the IYOP, and
 - Initiation of the Golden Gardens 'Seniors' Project.

- Reviewed and revised to the Seniors Advisory Council Terms of Reference;
- Co-ordination in the development of Richmond Peer Counselling Program;
- Presentation of brief on the need for more community police centres;
- Co-ordination of the annual 'Salute to Seniors' event;
- Continued work towards the establishment of a Frail Elderly Supportive Housing Project in Richmond;
- Provided a record amount of volunteer hours on seniors topics and projects over the year; and
- Participation on the TransLink advisory committee.

Year 2000 Work Plan

These projects are described in more detail as part of the attached Seniors Advisory Council 1999 Annual Report and 2000 Work Plan.

- Continue to work with Richmond Connections and other Richmond community organizations in establishing the Richmond Peer Counselling Program;
- Work towards the establishment of a supportive housing development for the Frail Elderly in Richmond (e.g. promoting the need, make funding application to hire a consultant to clarify the need, develop the project, etc.);
- Work with the City in completing the Golden Gardens at Minoru Park;
- Participate in the celebration of Seniors Week in June, 2000;
- 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; and
- Work with City to implement the planned TransLink transit services for Richmond and the connections to other Lower Mainland destinations, which will assist seniors in their transportation needs and quality of life.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- The Seniors Advisory Council did receive a City grant of \$500 (General Contingency Account) in 1999 to cover miscellaneous expenses (e.g. conference attendance, transit and bus rental, project development support, etc.).
- In 2000, the Seniors Advisory Council is requesting \$1,000 as an "additional level request". This matter will be addressed at the City's 2000 budget planning process.
- In 2000, administrative and staff support to the Seniors Council is provided by Urban Development staff.

CONCLUSION

The Seniors Advisory Council has completed a number of successful tasks in 1999. The Council recommends that they continue with the work identified in the 2000 Year Work Plan.

Kari Huhtala
Senior Social & Community Planner

KEH:cam

Richmond Seniors' Advisory Council (RSAC) 1999 Annual Report

The 1999 Richmond Seniors' Advisory Council supported the following Sub-committees:

Pensions	Mohinder Grewal Charles Barry Aileen Cormack
Housing	Carol Smith Lois Carson Boyce Ken Chow Aileen Cormack
Health	Lillian Durrant Charles Barry Aileen Cormack
Multicultural	Shams Jilani
B.C. Seniors Advisory Council	Mohinder Grewal
Transportation	Elinor Ellis Charles Barry Aileen Cormack
Secretary	Lois Ashford

This annual report presents the Richmond Seniors' Advisory Council's 1999 accomplishments, services and planned activities in 2000.

Accomplishments Of 1999

Health

The Committee continues to support Wellness Clinics in three Community Centres and have now expanded to additional two centres, Cambie and Sea Island Community Centres. These monthly clinics not only provide minor medical attention, i.e. blood pressure, but also include podiatrists, physiotherapists and pharmacists to give talks on the pros and cons of drugs.

International Year of Older Person (IYOP)

IYOP Celebrations This has been a useful, educational and productive year with many projects and other activities, culminating with the Cocktail Party at the Minoru Centre in October, 1999.

In addition, a Public Form, organized by the B.C. Seniors Advisory Council, was co-hosted, and was attended by:

- Right Honourable Flora McDonald,
- Mr. Don Herron, the Co-Chairs of the Canada Coordinating Committee for the IYOP,
- Honourable Penny Priddy, Minister of Health and Minister Responsible for Seniors,
- Ms. Margaret Neylon, Chair of B.C. Seniors Advisory Council and Provincial IYOP Steering Committee, and
- Mayor Greg Halsey-Brandt.

One of the Seniors Advisory Council members, Mohinder Grewal represented British Columbia on the Canada IYOP Coordinating Committee and kept the Advisory Council abreast of the National IYOP implementation activities. One of the direct beneficiaries of these activities was the proposed Golden Gardens Project (described further later), with a grant of \$500 was received. Additional funds for the project were received from the Toronto Dominion Bank and the Richmond Mall

IYOP Logo

The City of Richmond instituted the use of the IYOP Logo as part of certain City correspondences, Seniors Advisory Council agendas and Minutes.

Rights & Responsibilities of the Older Person

As part of the IYOP, the International Federation of Aging (IFA) held a world conference on Aging in Montreal. A Seniors Advisory Council member attended this conference. A major initiative that resulted 'IFA Montreal Declaration'. This Declaration, based on 'Canada's statement on the Rights & Responsibilities of the Older Persons', has been forwarded to the United Nations for discussion and endorsement.

Seniors Summit

In October, 1999, the 2000 Seniors Summit held a conference on issues facing seniors in B.C.. Some of the Seniors Advisory Council members participated. As a follow-up outcome, the conference endorsed the Vancouver Declaration (see **Attachment 1**), as well as set up a Committee to carry forward the implementation of the recommendation of the Seniors' Summit.

Richmond seniors have been in correspondence with the World Health Organization in Switzerland and are now on their web site which includes a paper entitled "Rights and Responsibilities of the Older Person".

Lt. Governor's Garden Party

In September, 1999, a group of seniors, including members of the Seniors Advisory Council, attended the Lt. Governor's Garden Party held on the grounds of Government House to celebrate IYOP. it was a very successful and enjoyable event. Over 1,000 seniors attended the function. Mohinder Grewal, Vice Chair, BC Seniors Council, was in the receiving line with the Lt. Governor, Mrs. Gardy Gardon, Minister Penny Priddy, and Ms. Margaret Neylon, Chair of the Provincial IYOP.

Street Banners

The Committee successfully canvassed for funds, which were used with assistance from City staff to have street banners displaying the IYOP logo on Minoru Boulevard.

Golden Gardens 'Seniors' Project

The Committee applied and received a grant for this project, jointly sponsored by the Canadian Coordinating Committee and the Wild Life Federation of Canada. Additional funds were received from the Toronto Dominion Bank and Richmond Mall to create a garden for birds and butterflies. Mr. Dave Semple and Mike Redpath were very supportive on the idea of a seniors garden and by early May, 2000, Mayor and Councillors will be invited to enjoy a walk around. The garden will be illustrated in the Wild Life Federation's Annual Report and other publications, along with a plaque for recognition of our participation.

New Terms of Reference

Revised Terms of Reference were presented and accepted by City Council, and the Seniors brochures are to be updated and distributed during the year 2000 (see **Attachment 2**).

Peer Counselling Program

The Seniors Advisory Council is continuing with our partnerships with Richmond Connections, Richmond Health Services, Minoru Seniors Society, City of Richmond, and the Victoria Order of Nurses. To date, the project has received sufficient funds from VanCity Savings, Richmond Credit Union and City of Richmond to enable us to hire a coordinator and undertake an eighteen week training program in 1999. Fundraising for undertaking the Peer Counselling Program to begin in early 2000 has been underway, and we have now been advised that a substantial grant for three year funding will be provided by the Vancouver Foundation. To date, \$22,500+ has been raised for the project. We expect to enlist seniors volunteers for training and by April/May, 2000, the Richmond Peer Counselling Program will be a reality. Local newspaper reports on this project are attached as **Attachment 3**.

Safety – Community Police Centres

A brief was presented to City Council on the need for more Community Police Centres. Richmond's Lansdowne Centre administration offered store front space, rent free for an additional Community Police Station.

Salute to Seniors

Salute to Seniors was postponed to October, 1999, due to the Seniors Strut scheduled in June, 1999. 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

The Committee is continuing to play a vital part in promoting the development of Supportive Housing for the Frail Elderly in Richmond. The City staff have been an integral part of our ongoing discussions with various developers and non-profit organizations.

We are, at present, completing applications for grants from BC Housing and a financial institution with a view to hire a consultant to reinforce the demand for Supportive Housing for the frail elderly in Richmond.

The Committee has received correspondence from the Honourable Penny Priddy, Mike Farnsworth and Moe Sihota with their endorsement for us to complete a "needs" paper.

Letter from The Honourable Mike Farnsworth included a detailed brochure on specifics, bringing a project to completion - from the purchase of land to the final inspection of the building. We were informed that there are funds available from the Provincial Government, but first priority is to obtain land suitable for the project.

Volunteer Hours

RSAC members during 1999 have recorded approximately 2500 volunteer hours (e.g. approximate per year of hours of work).

Transportation

Our members have been invited to attend and give input on two committees in Richmond. A member attended a three day conference on the future of TransLink, representing the seniors of the Lower Mainland.

Year 2000 Work Plan

1. Continue to work with Richmond Connections and other Richmond community organizations in establishing the Richmond Peer Counselling Program.
2. Work towards the establishment of a supportive housing development for the Frail Elderly in Richmond.
3. Work with the City in completing the Golden Gardens.
4. Participate in the celebration of Seniors Week in June, 2000.
5. Organize information and education forums on specific subjects (i.e. Human Rights, Women's Issues, Safety, Adult Guardianship, etc.)
6. Work towards changing BC Human Rights. specifically regarding the status of seniors aged 65 years old and over.
7. Work with City to implement the planned TransLink transit services for Richmond and the connections to other Lower Mainland destinations.

Conclusions

Our wish for 2000, is that City Council and staff will continue to:

- The successful partnership with the Richmond Seniors Advisory Council, and
- Make more referrals to our Seniors Council when issues concerning seniors arise.

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

On behalf of the Seniors Council, I especially wish to thank Kari Huhtala for his highly valued assistance in all areas of our work, along with David McLellan, Terry Crowe, Jim Bruce, Dave Semple, Mike Redpath, Cathy McLuskie and City staff in general. They have always been available for consultation on project or ideas.

The Mayor, Councillors and the City of Richmond staff continue to display an interest in our endeavours and I truly feel that we in Richmond are fortunate to have such an organization overseeing the day-to-day issues concerning community living.

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 continue to grow and this should be a banner year for the completion of projects, which will last for many years.

Eileen Cormack, Chair
Richmond Seniors Advisory Council

**SENIORS SUMMIT OCT. 30 & 31ST, 1999
VANCOUVER, B.C.**

"VANCOUVER DECLARATION"

WHEREAS the United Nations has declared 1999 as the International Year of Older Person (IYOP); and

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has endorsed this proclamation and, under the theme of "Canada, a society for all ages," has established Canada's objectives for the Year, which are to:

- Enhance understanding, harmony and mutual support across the generations;
- Increase recognition of seniors' contributions to their families, their communities and the country;
- Help Canadians understand how individual and societal choices and decisions made today will affect individuals and our society in the future;
- Encourage all sectors of society to be responsive to a diverse and aging population in a rapidly changing world; and
- Create the potential for aging-related products, technology and services; and

WHEREAS the Province of British Columbia has endorsed the IYOP proclamation and Canada's Objectives for the Year, and has encouraged community groups and individuals throughout British Columbia to undertake initiatives in keeping with IYOP objectives; and

WHEREAS the Montreal Declaration has affirmed the right of older persons to work, income, health care and shelter, and has affirmed the responsibilities of older persons to contribute to the realization of these rights by participating in the political processes of their community in accordance with the UN democratic principles; and

WHEREAS the people of British Columbia are a people of diverse characteristics. We are women and men of diverse ethnicity and many religions, beliefs, and cultures. We speak many languages. We have a wide range of skills and abilities, and we live in varying economic circumstances; and

WHEREAS the "Seniors Summit" is an event which has been planned cooperatively by a variety of seniors groups and other groups committed to working with and for seniors, under the following Mission statement;

- To provide a forum which welcomes and includes seniors from all social, economic and ethno-cultural groups, and which stimulates and values seniors' contributions;
- To create opportunities for seniors, people who work with seniors, and other interested individuals to exchange information, share experiences and learn new ideas about issues affecting older adults;
- To generate interest in the issues of an aging population, among government and non-government organizations which serve and work with seniors, and amongst their staff; and
- To create legacies by linking the discussions, recommendations and actions of the Summit to the broader community, in keeping with the theme ... "working towards a Society for all ages";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The participants of the Seniors Summit, held in Vancouver, British Columbia on October 30th and 31st, 1999, welcome the proclamation of IYOP and support its aims and activities; and
2. The participants of the Seniors Summit urge all levels of government to ratify and implement the Montreal Declaration and the Declaration of the Seniors Summit; and
3. The participants of the Summit see effective consultation as an essential requirement in the work toward realizing the global, national, and local objectives noted in this Declaration; and believe that effective consultation requires:

- ATTACHMENTS
- RICHMOND SENIORS' ADVISORY COUNCIL (RSAC)
TERMS OF REFERENCE
- a. A structure and process that values input from all participants and takes all viewpoints into consideration;
 - b. A commitment on the part of individuals, organizations, communities and governments to participate;
 - c. Involvement of affected individuals and groups, and specifically the need to include people living in poverty;
 - d. Active efforts to include diverse voices, including all disadvantaged and unheard people, and to overcome barriers to participation and complacency (e.g. First Nations, ethnocultural, women, institutionalized, isolated, disabled, poor, homeless, and others);
 - e. A commitment to on-going consultation; and
 - f. A commitment from all levels of government to implement recommendations flowing from the consultative process, including the necessary funding.

WHEREAS poverty and lack of government financial commitments, underlies all the problems faced by seniors and other sectors of society;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: This Summit calls for a change in the financial priorities of all levels of government to address the issue listed below.

WHEREAS the participants of the Seniors Summit undertake to work on the following issues:

- A) Income
- B) Health
- C) Housing
- D) Transportation
- E) Other (Which are included with the Seniors Summit Recommendations, as appended); and

WHEREAS the Federal Government has agreed to enter into negotiations at the next round of the World Trade Organization (WTO) on trade in services; and

WHEREAS services include 160 activities that have been the responsibility of our Federal Government to regulate and manage for the benefit of all; and

WHEREAS the goal of the negotiation on services is to open services up for privatization and regulations made by the WTO, and these services include our health care, home care, and housing; and

WHEREAS we would lose democratic control over determining the kind of services and how they are administered;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: We communicate to our government our opposition to including trade in services in the World Trade Organization;

IN CLOSING, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Seniors Summit 1999 urges all groups controlled by and for their Seniors membership to join in a province-wide network for the general purpose of:

1. Achieving more effective and coordinated information flow amongst senior organizations;
2. Achieving more unity of voice on issues of concerns to Seniors' groups; and
3. Achieving more effective advocacy while retaining individual group identity.

RECOMMENDATIONS: See Appended

RICHMOND SENIORS' ADVISORY COUNCIL (RSAC) TERMS OF REFERENCE

History

Richmond's Seniors have always been a vital and active part of our community. Over the past few years, this segment of the population has grown substantially. With the aging of the baby boom generation, the projection for the future is that seniors will form the largest proportion of our society.

In order to address the concerns of seniors today, and to plan for the future needs of this growing segment of the community, Richmond City Council has endorsed the formation of a Seniors' Advisory Council. The first volunteer members of the Council were officially appointed by City Council in May of 1991. A City Councillor was also appointed to sit as an ex-officio member of the Seniors Council. Staff support is being provided by Urban Development.

Intent

The Seniors' Advisory Council will consider and evaluate issues referred to it by City Council, City staff, and members of the community. It will also initiate studies on matters deemed to be of concern to seniors and will submit information, options and recommendations to City Council, and City staff, as necessary and requested.

Goals

- a. To act as a resource and provide advice on long term City policies and issues which may affect present and future Richmond seniors, (e.g. transportation, housing).
- b. To act as a resource and provide advice on short-term issues related to seniors (e.g. access to shopping services, development proposals, and other issues as they may arise).
- c. To co-ordinate seniors' concerns, interests and views by receiving input from individuals and groups, and making recommendations to the appropriate bodies.

Annual Report

The Seniors' Advisory Council presents an annual year end progress report to City Council outlining activities of the previous year, and a planned work program and budget for the coming year.

18 Sunday, January 9, 2000 The Richmond News

Island

New seniors program offers peer counseling

BY SANDRA THOMAS
News Reporter

Richmond seniors have a new program to assist them through troubled times.

Richmond Connections Volunteers for Seniors has received a \$22,500 grant from the Vancouver Foundation in support of the Richmond Senior Peer Counseling Program.

Muffet Chambers, Volunteer For Seniors program co-ordinator, says the program has been created to provide trained senior volunteers who offer emotional support, guidance and empathy to at-risk peers troubled by loneliness, depression, loss of loved ones, intergenerational conflict and life changes.

"This is not a social program, as a matter of fact we tell our volunteers to not even expect a cup of coffee, when they go to visit."

Instead, the program has been designed to counsel seniors in becoming more self reliant, and to look inside to find the answers and strengths they need in order to come to their own conclusions.

Susan Wingate has been named volunteer co-ordinator for the program, a paid position that includes about 20 hours per month.

Volunteers will successfully complete an 18-week course and then a practicum. Once completed they will be expected to spend one-two hours per week with a designated senior. These pairings may last as long as six months,

or be over in as little as one. At the end of the six months, the contract may be negotiated for an extension.

Chambers says the money will be given to the program over three years, beginning with a \$10,000 start up grant in 2000, another \$7,500 in 2001, and the final installment in 2002.

Chambers says if someone is interested in the program, but misses the deadline for the course, there are plenty of other volunteer positions they can be placed in until the next course is scheduled.

"We always need volunteers."

Anyone interested in volunteering, or becoming a client may call 279-7034.

Briefs

Reformer eyes national setting

A seat on the Reform Party's Executive Council, that's what Richmond's Don MacConachie is hoping for when he travels to Ottawa later this month.

The party is holding its annual gathering, this year called Assembly 2000, and electing a new group of 22 executive council members who run the day-to-day business of the political party.

MacConachie, 60, is one of eight Reform Party members vying for the three positions on the executive representing B.C.

He has been a Reform member since 1992 and director of the local constituency office for the past three years and served on the campaign committees for past Reform candidates Adrian Wade and Nick Loenen.

Asked what he felt he could bring to the executive council, MacConachie said his varied experience as a cattle rancher, banker and operator of small and medium-sized businesses has provided him with the tools required to keep the

on some conditions.

"I continue to support the initiative as long as it does not drastically change the direction of the party while at the same time it allows us to spread east of the Manitoba border."

Counselling program receives grant

The Vancouver Foundation has provided a \$22,500 grant to Richmond Connections Volunteers for Seniors to support its latest program, the Richmond Senior Peer Counselling Program.

The free-of-charge service provides trained senior volunteers who offer emotional support, guidance and empathy to at-risk peers who are troubled by loneliness, depression, loss of loved ones, intergenerational conflict and life changes.

The first group of senior peer counsellors are scheduled to begin training early in 2000.

More information on becoming a volunteer or having a peer counsellor, is available at Richmond Connections, Senior Peer Counselling Program at 279-7034.

Rotary helps city's needy

Low-income Richmond residents got a little seasonal

uted by the Ministry of Social Services to deserving local residents.

"Rotary subscribes to the service above self," said Jindra Repa, president of the Rotary Club of Richmond. "Rotary believes in humanitarian projects, ethical business and professional practices and is the global leader in eradication of polio and international student exchanges."

'Butt' out during non-smoking week

In support of a non-smoking environment, Richmond school students will be invited to wear blue ribbons during the National Non-Smoking Week Jan. 17 - 21.

The idea is the brainchild of a group of students at Hugh Boyd secondary school where, last year, 750 blue lapel ribbons were handed out during World No Tobacco Day. The

colour of the ribbons symbolizes clean air, free from tobacco smoke.

To help school kids to quit the habit, the Richmond Health Department provides "Smoke Free Generation Grants" to schools and community organizations.

Quitting easy and it youth want lot of encour port, said C tobacco rec with Richr Services. A help them

Save!

ALL "IN STOCK" FRAMED PICTURES

P·I·C·T·U·R·E

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ON NOW!

YEAR 2000 WORK PLAN

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