



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Planning Committee **Date:** December 8, 2022  
**From:** Kim Somerville **File:** 08-4055-01/2022-Vol 01  
 Director, Community Social Development  
**Re:** **Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Work Program**

### Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled "Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee 2022 Annual Report and 2023 Work Program," dated December 8, 2022, from the Director, Community Social Development, be approved.

Kim Somerville  
 Director, Community Social Development  
 (604-247-4671)

Att. 2

<b>REPORT CONCURRENCE</b>	
<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>  <i>Joe Erceg</i>	
<b>SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b>  <i>SB</i>
<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>  <i>Green</i>	

## Staff Report

### Origin

The Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee (RSAC) was formed in 1991 to act as a resource, provide advice to City Council, and to support and enhance the health and well-being of the seniors (55+) population living in Richmond. Each year, RSAC submits to Council an annual report and financial statement for the completed year and a proposed work plan and proposed budget for the upcoming year. This report presents the RSAC 2022 Annual Report (Attachment 1) and Proposed 2023 Work Program (Attachment 2).

This report supports the Social Development Strategy 2013–2022 Strategic Direction #3: Address the Needs of an Aging Population:

*Action 7 – Implement, monitor and update the Older Adults Service Plan.*

*Action 9 – Support aging-in-place initiatives and the ongoing development of Richmond as an age-friendly community.*

This report supports the Seniors Strategy 2022–2032 Strategic Direction #4: Education and Understanding of Healthy Aging:

*4.3 Facilitate ongoing dialogue and engagement opportunities with seniors through accessible platforms and communication methods to seek feedback on issues and opportunities related to health.*

### Analysis

The RSAC comprises up to 15 voting members that bring unique perspectives, knowledge and experiences to committee meetings, fostering meaningful discussion and information sharing to provide input and advice to the City that supports and enhances the well-being of seniors living in Richmond. The RSAC 2022 Work Program focused on supporting the development of the new Seniors Strategy (2022–2032), monitoring seniors' issues and emerging trends, and supporting public awareness and community engagement.

### 2022 Annual Report

The RSAC 2022 Annual Report provides an overview of the committee's work during the past year. Highlights for 2022 include:

- Participating in and providing input on the development of the Seniors Strategy, including two members serving on the Seniors Strategy Stakeholder Advisory Committee throughout the year and several members volunteering to support and promote public engagement on the draft Seniors Strategy in April 2022.
- Developing enhanced partnerships with community organizations that serve seniors in Richmond through the updated RSAC Terms of Reference that, for the first time, included representatives from seniors-serving organizations in Richmond as part of the membership composition.

- Engaging in opportunities to enhance RSAC's knowledge of seniors' issues through coordinating monthly guest speakers on key topics, sharing information and research, and participating in educational opportunities such as the 2022 Provincial Summit on Aging.
- Conducting regular RSAC meetings and subcommittee meetings and participating in related Council-appointed Advisory Committees.

Throughout 2022, RSAC was actively involved in various initiatives related to the development of the Seniors Strategy and continued to monitor trends related to seniors in Richmond, including impacts and seniors' perceptions towards the safe return to programs and services following the COVID-19 pandemic.

The RSAC receives an annual operating budget of \$2,500. Expenses for 2022 totalled \$1,250 and included costs related to meeting coordination and administration, and registration for the Provincial Summit on Aging. Meeting expenses were lower than budgeted due to the virtual format of the monthly RSAC meetings.

#### Proposed 2023 Work Program

The Proposed 2023 Work Program was discussed at the RSAC meeting held on November 9, 2022. Highlights of the 2023 Work Program include:

- Building on and improving the RSAC's knowledge of seniors' issues in Richmond through information sharing, guest speakers and educational opportunities;
- Acting as a resource to the City, providing recommendations and seniors' perspectives on issues relating to seniors in Richmond. This includes providing advice on the implementation of the new Seniors Strategy (2022–2032);
- Encouraging public awareness and community engagement related to the needs and concerns of seniors in Richmond; and
- Supporting priority seniors-related initiatives through subcommittee work and discussions at RSAC meetings.

Throughout 2023, the RSAC will meet regularly to discuss seniors-related matters, advise City Council and staff, and participate in City initiatives that support the health and well-being of seniors in Richmond. The RSAC will continue to provide input and a seniors' perspective on related policies, plans and initiatives and respond to requests and referrals from Council as they arise. The Proposed 2023 Work Program supports the implementation of the Seniors Strategy and various actions within other Council-adopted strategies and plans that impact seniors in Richmond. The 2023 Work Program will be revised as necessary to respond to emerging opportunities related to the RSAC's advisory role.

The RSAC Work Program will be implemented within the committee's annual operating budget of \$2,500.

#### **Financial Impact**

None.

## Conclusion

The Proposed 2023 RSAC Work Program supports the Seniors Strategy, and several actions in City Council adopted strategies and plans for seniors. The 2023 Work Program builds upon work accomplished in 2022, as described in the RSAC 2022 Annual Report, and outlines the committee's commitment to monitor and address current and emerging issues and trends impacting the growing number of seniors in Richmond. RSAC will continue to provide input and advice to the City to enhance the development and implementation of City strategies, programs and services that support seniors to remain informed, healthy and connected to their community.



Claire Adamson  
Manager, Community Social Development  
(604-247-4482)

CA:ca

- Att. 1: Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee (RSAC) 2022 Annual Report (Prepared by Sandra Gebhardt, RSAC Chair)
- 2: Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee (RSAC) Proposed 2023 Work Program

## **Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee (RSAC) 2022 Annual Report**

### **Purpose**

The role of the Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee (RSAC) is to act as a resource, provide advice to City Council, and to support and enhance the health and well-being of seniors (55+) in Richmond. The RSAC helps identify seniors' concerns and works with various community organizations and agencies, including City staff.

### **2022 Membership**

Effective January 2022, the RSAC Terms of Reference was updated and the composition of its membership was revised to include up to 11 citizen representatives and up to four representatives from organizations that support seniors in Richmond. These organizations include: S.U.C.C.E.S.S.; Richmond Centre for Disability (RCD); Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives (RCRG); and Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH). By bringing these agencies to the table, RSAC benefited from their knowledge regarding seniors' needs and issues, and learned first-hand about the programs and services available for seniors.

The RSAC consisted of 12 voting members in 2022:

- Penny Chan
- Queenie Choo (S.U.C.C.E.S.S.)
- Frank Deyell
- Carol Dickson (RCRG)
- Sandra Gebhardt
- Nina Graham
- Lawrence Ho
- Ella Huang (RCD)
- Diana Leung
- Ihsan Malik
- Mumtaz Nathu
- Yasmin Rahman

The RSAC also included three non-voting City of Richmond representatives:

- Councillor Carol Day (Council Liaison)
- Claire Adamson, Manager, Community Social Development (Staff Liaison)
- Sean Davies, Area Coordinator, Seniors Centre, Minoru Centre for Active Living

### **Meetings**

The RSAC held 10 meetings in 2022. City staff provided information and resources to RSAC on topics related to seniors, including City and community programs and services, support services for seniors and the Richmond Seniors Resource Guide.

### **RSAC Membership Roles on City Committees and RSAC Subcommittees**

RSAC members may volunteer to sit on related City-led committees and on RSAC subcommittees. In 2022, members participated in the following committees and subcommittees:

- City Council appointed Advisory Committees, including the Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (RCSAC) and the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC);
- RSAC subcommittees, including the Aging Well and Education and Speakers subcommittees; and
- Ad-hoc committees, including the Seniors Strategy Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

## 2022 Highlights

Highlights of the RSAC's work and participation in seniors-related initiatives in 2022 included:

- The **Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (RCSAC)** comprises social service agencies that provide programs and services to the community of Richmond. RSAC continued to bring the voice of seniors to this table on issues that include food security, poverty reduction and homelessness.
- The **Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC)** recognizes the diverse nature of Richmond and focuses on reducing cultural barriers and creating a harmonious community. The annual City of Richmond Diversity Symposium was a highlight in 2022. Included in its program was a session on Disrupting the Digital Divide: Creating Resilient Pathways for Older Adults.
- The **Aging Well** subcommittee, now in its second year, looks at seniors' needs from a holistic perspective and gathers information on related topics and issues such as affordable housing, homelessness, ageism, cost of living, safety, specifically the safety and walkability in Richmond, digital literacy and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, transportation and social prescribing. The subcommittee's priorities included supporting seniors to live in their own homes as long as possible, food security and safe sidewalks/crosswalks. The Aging Well subcommittee reported back to the broader committee to support a fuller discussion and provide additional information and resources to the RSAC.
- The **Education and Speakers** subcommittee finds relevant speakers for the monthly RSAC meetings based on information, questions and concerns raised by seniors in Richmond throughout the year. Guest speakers in 2022 included:
  - Carol Dickson, Manager, Senior Community Support Services, Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives
  - Ella Huang, Executive Director, Richmond Centre for Disability
  - Queenie Choo, Chief Executive Officer, S.U.C.C.E.S.S.
  - Chris Chan, Travel Training Manager, Public Affairs, TransLink
  - Valerie Watson, Program Lead, Homelessness, City of Richmond
  - Hajira Hussain, Executive Director, Richmond Food Bank
  - Bahareh Kardeh, Executive Director, Stakeholders' Walkability/Wheelability Audit in Neighbourhoods (SWAN)
  - Claire Adamson, Manager, Community Social Development, City of Richmond
  - Manvir Aujla, Accessibility Coordinator, City of Richmond
- The **Seniors Strategy (2022–2032) Stakeholder Advisory Committee** engaged members in the Seniors Strategy planning process, including seeking input on the Seniors Strategies directions and actions. Two RSAC members, Sandra Gebhardt and Frank Deyell sat on this committee and shared their input and perspectives, relaying pertinent information back to the broader RSAC.
- **Community Engagement** – As part of the RSAC's input into the draft Seniors Strategy community engagement plan, members reinforced the importance of creating equal opportunities for seniors with low computer literacy to provide feedback and voice their opinions. The RSAC supported the City's in-person engagement opportunities by volunteering at Seniors Strategy public engagement drop-in sessions hosted at various community centres, the Brighthouse Branch of the Richmond Public Library and

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. The success of this activity was twofold; it allowed all seniors to participate and it allowed for one-on-one discussions about seniors-related issues. RSAC will continue to engage seniors in these meaningful discussions and share findings with the appropriate committees and City staff.

- **Terms of Reference and Annual Work Plan** – As in previous years, the RSAC reviewed its Terms of Reference and developed its annual Work Plan. In 2022, the committee added actions within the Seniors Strategy to its work program and is committed to supporting the City to achieve its implementation goals.
- **Information Sessions, Webinars and Conferences** – Three members from the RSAC attended the 2022 Provincial Summit on Aging, titled *Better Together*, hosted by the United Way. Participants across Canada came together to discuss current issues and new programs for seniors. The Summit was extremely informative and covered topics such as Social Prescribing: A Holistic and Community-led Approach to Health and Wellbeing; Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery; Bridging the Digital Divide, Let's Talk!; Harnessing the Power of Community to Enable the Future of the Car; and Addressing Ageism: Principles for Strategies and Tools for Action.

The Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee would like to thank Mayor Malcolm Brodie and City Councillors for their support of the RSAC and are honoured to be of service to Richmond's seniors. The committee would also like to thank Council Liaison Carol Day for keeping the RSAC informed and updated on issues arising at City Council that impact seniors. We look forward to meeting in person again in the near future!

**Report prepared by:**

*Sandra Gebhardt, Chair*

*Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee*

**Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee (RSAC)  
Proposed 2023 Work Program**

The RSAC Proposed 2023 Work Program outlines several initiatives with associated actions that support RSAC's mandate to act as a resource, provide advice to City Council, and to support and enhance the health and well-being of the seniors (55+) population living in Richmond.

<b>RSAC Proposed 2023 Work Program</b>		
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Expected Outcome</b>
1. Participate in an RSAC orientation.	<p>1.1 Members participate in an orientation to the RSAC to learn about the roles and responsibilities of advisory committee members, the RSAC Terms of Reference and the City's current strategies and initiatives related to seniors.</p> <p>1.2 Members may indicate an interest in participating in RSAC subcommittees and taking on additional related roles within the scope of the RSAC Terms of Reference.</p>	<p>Members are aware of and understand the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RSAC Terms of Reference</li> <li>• Their role as an appointed member of the RSAC</li> <li>• The 2023 Work Program</li> <li>• Current City of Richmond strategies and initiatives related to seniors</li> <li>• Additional opportunities for involvement as part of RSAC</li> </ul>
2. Build on and improve the RSAC's knowledge of seniors' issues through information sharing, guest speakers and educational opportunities.	<p>2.1 Invite guest speakers to present on issues and trends that impact seniors in the community at regular RSAC meetings.</p> <p>2.2 Identify seniors-related educational opportunities for members to learn about issues and trends impacting seniors that can inform the City's policies or practices.</p> <p>2.3 Monitor seniors' issues and emerging trends.</p>	<p>The RSAC is informed of trends and concerns raised by community members aged 55+.</p> <p>The RSAC is informed and well equipped to provide seniors' perspective and recommendations to City staff and Council, as requested.</p>



**RSAC Proposed 2023 Work Program**

<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Expected Outcome</b>
<p>3. Act as a resource to the City by providing recommendations and perspectives on issues relating to seniors in Richmond to the City.</p>	<p>3.1 Respond to City Council requests and provide advice on issues relating to seniors in Richmond, as requested.</p> <p>3.2 Consult and provide input on City plans, strategies, projects and policies that impact seniors.</p> <p>3.3 Participate in and promote initiatives related to the implementation of the Seniors Strategy.</p> <p>3.4 Provide input and feedback to City staff on existing programs and services for seniors.</p>	<p>The RSAC is informed and well-equipped to provide seniors' perspectives and recommendations to City staff and Council, as requested.</p> <p>The RSAC will provide ongoing feedback on City strategies, policies and initiatives related to seniors.</p> <p>The RSAC supports and provides input on the implementation of the Seniors Strategy.</p>
<p>4. Encourage public awareness and community engagement related to the needs and concerns of seniors in Richmond.</p>	<p>4.1 Discuss seniors-related matters arising as a standing item on the RSAC agenda and when possible, provide feedback to those who raised the concern.</p> <p>4.2 Participate in information sessions, educational activities and special events open to the public that focus on issues impacting Richmond seniors.</p> <p>4.3 Promote opportunities for seniors to participate in public engagement opportunities led and supported by the City.</p>	<p>RSAC is informed of trends and concerns raised by community members aged 55+.</p> <p>RSAC helps to ensure Richmond seniors are aware of opportunities to provide input on initiatives that impact them.</p>
<p>5. Support priority seniors-related City initiatives through aligning RSAC agenda discussion topics and subcommittees.</p>	<p>5.1 Review current and upcoming City initiatives related to seniors and determine where RSAC participation will be most effective within the scope of the committee's advisory role.</p> <p>5.2 Align subcommittee work with Council-approved initiatives.</p>	<p>The RSAC's work and focus are aligned with Council-approved priorities related to seniors in Richmond.</p> <p>RSAC work informs current policy updates and initiatives from various City departments related to seniors.</p>

<b>RSAC Proposed 2023 Work Program</b>		
<b>Initiative</b>	<b>Actions</b>	<b>Expected Outcome</b>
	5.3 Discuss subcommittee work, updates on initiatives, and other important and emerging topics during monthly RSAC meetings for broader committee input and information.	Communication is streamlined between the broader RSAC, subcommittees and work on various initiatives that impact seniors.