



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

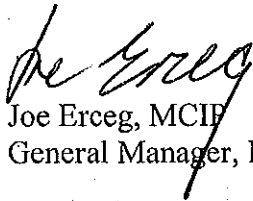
To: Planning Committee
From: Joe Erceg, MCIP
General Manager, Planning & Development
Re: 2008 Annual Report and 2009 Work Program
Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee

To Planning - Jan 20, 2009
Date: December 16, 2008

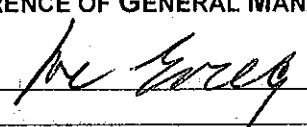
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Staff Recommendation

That, as per the General Manager, Planning and Development report dated December 16, 2008, entitled: "2008 Annual Report and 2009 Work Program: Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee", the Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee 2009 Work Program (**Attachment 1**) be approved.


Joe Erceg, MCIP
General Manager, Planning and Development

Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	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's (RSAC) 2008 Annual Report and proposed 2009 Work Program.

Findings Of Fact

1. RSAC 2008 Annual Report: The highlights of RSAC 2008 activities are described in **Attachment 1**.
2. Proposed RSAC 2009 Work Program/Budget: The proposed RSAC 2009 Work Program and Budget are described in **Attachment 1**.

Analysis

1. 2008 Annual Report

Highlights of the 2008 Annual Report include RSAC advocacy for seniors affordable housing, partnering with the Community Health Advisory Committee to host a community forum, "What's Up Doc", re: health literacy, and support of the UBCM funded program offered by Minoru Activity Centre, "Decreasing Barriers, Increasing Wellness", that has successfully connected isolated seniors with social and physical activities.

2. Proposed 2009 Work Program

The RSAC will continue to focus on seniors' housing, health, and transportation issues through the work of its sub-committees, and will strive to increase knowledge and communication regarding seniors issues through liaison with other organizations and committees. The RSAC will also continue to monitor other areas of concern to seniors, including isolated seniors, intergenerational interaction, safety and publicity.

3. Proposed 2009 Budget

The RSAC is requesting a continuation of their annual operating budget of \$2,000.

Financial Impact

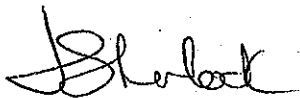
The RSAC receives an annual operating grant of \$2,000 as part of the 2009 base budget.

Conclusion

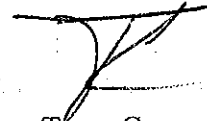
The RSAC continues to address the concerns of Richmond seniors, advise Council regarding these concerns, and plan for the future needs of this growing segment of the community.

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 are planned for 2009.

Staff recommend support for the RSAC proposed 2009 Work Program.



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LS:cas



Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee
Serving Richmond since 1991



Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee 2008 Annual Report to City Council, Proposed 2009 Work Program

1. 2008 Annual Report

Purpose

The role of the Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee is primarily two-fold: to act as a resource and provide advice to City Council on issues affecting seniors, referred by City Council or staff; and outreach to Richmond's seniors community and supportive agencies to better understand the issues facing seniors and to make recommendations to appropriate bodies.

As City Council has not made many requests or referrals to the RSAC over the last few years, most of our efforts have been centered on identifying issues of concern and giving support, where appropriate, to address those concerns.

Membership

Our membership for much of the past year has been at 12 members, down three from the full complement of 15. We are particularly lacking a representative(s) from the Asian community. Also, our members come from a comfortable level of society – well housed and well fed. Through the use of sub-committees we are able to reach out to the larger community.

The sub-committees are: Housing, Health, Intercultural/ Multicultural, Transportation, Publicity, Safety, Isolated Seniors, Intergenerational Activities, and Law/ Legislation. Most of the RSAC members participate on one or more of these sub-committees that serve an important role in our work. Sub-committee reports are included in **Appendix 1**.

Meetings

We meet regularly each month, except for July and August. We often invite guest speakers that are involved in various ways with seniors to keep us informed on current issues. Many of our members belong to other community groups and/or attend various forums and workshops that supply additional information to our meetings.

We are fortunate to have Eva Busich-Veloso, Coordinator of Senior Services, City of Richmond; and Susan Match, Older Adult Counsellor with Richmond Addiction Services as regular attendees at our meetings. We also acknowledge, with thanks, the assistance and advice of Councillor Derek Dang and Staff Liaison, Lesley Sherlock.

Sampling of Guest Speakers:

- Presentation by Pinegrove expansion proponents.
- Carolyn Brandly, UBCM Age-Friendly Communities Program.
- Carole Gillam, Director Community Care Network, VCH.
- Lisa D'Paoli, Director Acute Care Network, Richmond Hospital re: Richmond Integrated Care Initiatives.
- Shashi Engineer, GM of Richmond Taxi Re: taxi service concerns.

Letters sent to:

- Robert Kates, Mgr. Real Estate Services re: Affordable Housing in Richmond.
- Jim Lamond, Richmond Sports Council re: Senior Games, seeking information on the Richmond event and planning.
- Pinegrove Place re: expressing support for Pinegrove Place Expansion.
- Diana Nikolic, Richmond Advisory Design Panel, re: representation of the RSAC on the RADP.
- Richmond Taxi, Kimber Cabs, YVR Mgr. Ground Transportation re: concerns about quality of service.

Member participation in Forums and Conferences:

- Aging in Place Conference, Simon Fraser University
- Critical Care Meeting, Richmond Hospital.
- RCSAC meeting re: Recreation Access Cards & Fee Subsidy Program, plus Space Needs Workshop.
- COSCO Conference, "Seniors Health, Housing and Income in a Global Age-Friendly Community".
- Coastal Health Forum, Sprint into Aging.
- Seniors Health Care Conference, Coastal Health Advisory Committees.
- Hosted a Forum, in partnership with Richmond Health Services, "What's Up Doc?" re: Health Literacy

2. Our Work Program for 2009 (see Appendix 2)

- Continue to gather information on issues affecting seniors in order to provide knowledgeable and relevant advice to Council whenever requested and whenever appropriate, as issues arise;
- Continue the work of the sub-committees;
- Continue to support the annual Seniors Week and Wellness Fair, and to work with the Minoru Seniors Centre on common issues; and
- Maintain our liaison/representation with the Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee, Falls Prevention Committee, RCMP Multi-Cultural Advisory Committee, Richmond Integrated Comprehensive Addiction System, and the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee, and to extend our involvement with other community groups as appropriate.

3. Proposed Budget for 2009

We propose the following budget for 2009, for your approval:

Meeting Expenses	\$1,000.00
Expected Events During 2009	
Seniors Week	
Wellness Fair	
Workshops & Forms	
Intergenerational Projects	
Conferences concerning Seniors issues	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
Total	<u>\$2,000.00</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Symons and Daryl Whiting, Co-Chairs
December 2008

Sub-Committee Reports

Housing Subcommittee

During 2008, we have seen in Richmond a number of affordable housing units incorporated in developers' plans, although less than 30 units have been completed. Nothing is available now or in the near future for seniors on a very limited income. Meetings were held with City Staff to discuss ongoing issues (positive and negative) re: the number of units to be available within the next few years.

Members are optimistic about future plans of the Faith Communities (unfortunately South Arm Church plans are no longer viable). Dr. Chen has discussed his plans for Abbeyfield housing with City Staff, that we are hoping will be a "go".

The problem of "affordable" housing has been an uphill battle, but hopefully we are beginning to see some relief.

Respectfully submitted,
Aileen Cormack, Chair, Housing Subcommittee

Transportation Sub-Committee

There are primarily two transportation related issues that continue to be of concern to our committee: the Canada Line and HandiDart service.

Ease of egress from the Canada Line elevated stations, particularly the lack of down escalators at most stations has been of concern to some seniors. It was pointed out to us, by Canada Line officials, that there would be elevator service at all stations. While this does answer the issue of mobility, it has left some feeling that it is less safe in an enclosed elevator as opposed to a more open and visible escalator. It is unlikely there will be any change by TransLink on this matter.

The second Canada Line issue is a general concern about the personal safety of riders on the trains, platforms and in the station vicinities. It is felt that when access controls are in place there will be some improvement, but having a staff member(s) at each station would give an even greater sense of security. These concerns have been made known to the appropriate agencies but it appears that these concerns are considered unfounded.

One of the sub-committee members attended a series of TransLink workshops on accessible transit. The results of those meetings have lead to improvements beginning January 1, 2009 in HandiDart service. There will be longer hours of availability and better service between neighbouring municipalities; these are positive changes, long sought after. There still remain some concerns over changes made to the way in which Taxi-Saver Coupons are issued. Coupons will no longer be available in Richmond but rather must be ordered and mailed from a central office in Burnaby. We continue to work, along with the Richmond Persons

With Disabilities Association, to arrange some way in which Richmond users could purchase the coupons locally.

Respectfully submitted,

Doug Symons and Daryl Whiting, RSAC Transportation Sub-Committee

Safety Sub-Committee

This subcommittee continues to work on various safety issues that are brought to our attention from time to time; the two main issues remain as "Falls Prevention" and "Outdoor Hazards". Both these issues are being extremely well addressed through our Falls Prevention Network Committee, which embraces representatives from a wide variety of agencies and members of the business community. The previous procedures regarding the reporting of "Outdoor Hazards" has been amended and we are advised that these new procedures are working well and have been well accepted in the community. I continue to attend various seminars/workshops that relate to "Safety" initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol D. Smith, Chair, Safety Sub-committee

Intercultural/Multicultural Liaison

(1) Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee Liaison:

I continued to represent RSAC on RIAC at its monthly meetings. In my capacity as the rotating chair of RIAC in the last quarter of 2007, I appeared before the City Planning Committee on January 22, 2008 to present their 2007 Annual Report and 2008 Work Program. The Report and the Plan were well received.

During the year RIAC continued to work on the Newcomers' Guide, Civic Engagement Network and Youth Integration. The Committee also took initial steps in planning to host a Citizenship Granting Ceremony in Richmond. In response to a referral by the City, RIAC made suggestions on the proposed City Center Plan.

I, along with some other RIAC members, attended the Welcoming and Inclusive Communities Forum hosted by the Province at the Wosk Center for Dialogue, as well as the Faith and the Environment Forum held at Langara College.

Respectfully submitted,

Mohinder Grewal

(2) RCMP Multicultural Advisory Committee Liaison:

The main purpose of this committee is to advance and promote positive relations between the RCMP and Richmond's diverse multi-cultural community. They hope to do this by encouraging an effective RCMP response to diversity issues.

Officers are trained in "Bias Free Policing" and focus on racial profiling. Other training is on sensitivity, partnerships and promoting trust. Before a new officer even puts on a uniform

they go out into the community and meet various groups. This way they can see Richmond through the eyes of the community first.

Many other innovative programs are being carried on such as: **Positive Ticketing** for youth, a reward for doing the right thing; **Onside Program**, supports and enhances RCMP's work with troubled youth, e.g., sent more than 500 youth to NHL hockey games and CFL football games with members of the Richmond RCMP.

Family Violence Unit: The RCMP now has a Counsellor position responsible for working closely with the RCMP's Family Violence unit to offer assistance to those who are vulnerable to sexual assault, child abuse and elder abuse.

Richmond RCMP Bike Section: As well as other duties this eight- member team undertakes public education programs and establishes relationships with Richmond's Youth.

Police-Community partnerships are the foundation of the Richmond RCMP's organizational philosophy.

Respectfully submitted,
Olive Bassett

Isolated Seniors Subcommittee

The Isolated Seniors Subcommittee of the Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee went from having the desperate problem of identifying the isolated seniors within our community to limiting our meetings to two per year after the institution of two new programs.

The 'Blundell Integrated Neighbourhood Network' identified seniors who were isolated from the community by identifying seniors who had no connection to any community services because, when necessary, they relied on Richmond Hospital Emergency Services. This program is a partnership among Vancouver Coastal Health, Richmond Health Services & Volunteer Richmond.

Minoru Activity staff, under the aegis of the City of Richmond, applied for and received funding from UBCM for a program, 'Decreasing Barriers, Increasing Wellness'. Working in partnership with Richmond Health Services, Minoru staff were able to contact those who were recently hospitalized, and other isolated and frail seniors living in the community, to increase and maintain personal wellness and, if they so wish, to enter into the program. This program allowed seniors to receive a supported entry into independent recreation through a day-program that included transportation, food, adapted fitness, leisure education, and social interaction at no cost to the senior.

Respectfully submitted,
Olive Bassett, Chair, Intercultural Sub-Committee

Proposed Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee 2009 Work Program						
Initiative	RSAC Actions/Steps	Expected Outcome	Indicator of RSAC Success	Lead/Sub-Cte	Partners	Status
Housing						
Monitor seniors housing in new developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue monitoring New developments that include affordable housing, and numbers allocated to seniors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase the availability and types of affordable and supportive housing for seniors in Richmond 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RSAC informed of affordable and supportive housing developments - RSAC consulted regarding seniors affordable and supportive housing developments - Council advised as necessary 	Aileen, Carol, Neil, Doug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developers - NGOs - Faith Community - etc. 	Ongoing
Liaise with community groups seeking to establish seniors housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in the monthly meetings organized by the Faith Communities, Affordable Housing Task Force, others 					
Advise developers seeking to establish seniors housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue monitoring Army & Navy Steveston & No. 1 Road development for 150 units (assisted living). - Organizing discussions with Dr. Chen and Associates on an Abbeyfield type residence. 					
Advise the City re: use of the Affordable Housing Statutory Reserve Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing dialogue with the City on future plans for use of the affordable housing fund (approximately \$10 million). 					
Health						
Monitor quality of health care services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor community concerns re: long term care - Continue to monitor cleanliness issues at Richmond Hospital - Discuss the issue of changing demographics in community services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better quality long term care - Improved cleanliness at Richmond Hospital - Community health services more responsive to changing demographics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RSAC informed of and consulted about a range of seniors health care concerns - RSAC monitors the impact of and response to changing demographics - Council advised as necessary 	Corisande, Aileen, Susan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vancouver Coastal Health - Richmond Health Services - Community services 	Ongoing

Proposed Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee 2009 Work Program

Initiative	RSAC Actions/Steps	Expected Outcome	Indicator of RSAC Success	Lead/Sub-Cte	Partners	Status
Raise awareness of seniors' health issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bring forward speakers to RSAC on relevant health issues - Work with the Community Health Advisory Committee in reformatting joint public forums 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RSAC well informed about a range of health issues - Forums reach a wide audience on seniors' health concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speakers on health issues inform the RSAC - RSAC participates effectively in well-attended public events 	Corisande, Aileen, Susan	- Community Health Advisory Committee	As opportunities arise
Advocate for increased and improved seniors' addiction services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with the Medical Health Officer on seniors' addiction issues - Liaise with the Community Health Advisory Committee (CHAC) on seniors' addiction issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Seniors addiction issues better understood and addressed - RSAC well informed about seniors' addiction issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medical Health Officer speaks to the RSAC - CHAC and RSAC mutually informed - Council advised as necessary 	Susan, Aileen, Corisande	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vancouver Coastal Health - Richmond Health Services - Richmond Hospital - NGOs 	Ongoing
Intercultural/Multicultural Liaison						
Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC) Liaison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue participating in the work of RIAC as a representative of the RSAC and, where appropriate, bring Senior's perspective to the deliberations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other members of RIAC recognize how inter-cultural issues may impact seniors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendations and advice provided by RIAC have been viewed through a Senior's lens. - RSAC is kept informed of RIAC's major initiatives 	Mohinder	- RIAC	Ongoing

Proposed Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee 2009 Work Program

Initiative	RSAC Actions/Steps	Expected Outcome	Indicator of RSAC Success	Lead/Sub-Cte.	Partners	Status
RCMP Multicultural Committee Liaison	- Attend meetings, monitor activities, report back	- RSAC informed re: RCMP Multicultural activities - RCMP outreach includes seniors' perspective	- RSAC informed about Committee activities - Seniors' perspective contributed to the RCMP	Olive	- RCMP	Ongoing
411 Dunsmuir Multicultural Committee & other liaison	- Attend meetings, monitor activities, report back	- RSAC aware of 411 Dunsmuir and other organizations' multicultural activities - Community initiatives enriched with seniors' perspective	- RSAC informed about multicultural community events - RSAC members participate in multicultural community events - Seniors' perspective contributed	Shams	- 411 Dunsmuir - Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society	Ongoing
Transportation						
Seek information and make recommendations regarding transportation issues affecting seniors	- Subcommittee meetings with representatives of various transportation related agencies, e.g., Translink, HandyDART - Invite speakers to RSAC meetings, e.g., re: Canada Line, No. 3 Road improvements	- Transportation reflects seniors' needs	- RSAC informed re: transportation issues - RSAC advises re: transportation concerns - Council advised as necessary	Doug, Daryl	- Richmond Centre for Disability - Minoru Place Activity Centre - Translink - HandyDART	Ongoing

Proposed Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee 2009 Work Program

Initiative	RSAC Actions/Steps	Expected Outcome	Indicator of RSAC Success	Lead/Sub-Cte.	Partners	Status
Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee Liaison						
RCSAC Liaison - Act as conduit of information between the RSAC and the RCSAC - Offer issues/ concerns/responses to RCSAC initiatives, through a seniors' lens - Promote the inclusion of seniors in community activities.	- Attend monthly meetings, taking information/ announcements/ concerns both ways. - Support specific projects of members of the RCSAC that are in line with the mandate and priorities of the RSAC and seniors. - Attend various public meetings/ fundraisers/AGMs, etc., as a representative of the Seniors Advisory Committee to give heightened profile to the Committee in Richmond and seniors in general.	- Greater understanding among and between the RSAC and members of other Social Service Agencies, Programs and Committees - Ageist beliefs and behaviours identified and broken down - Participation in the greater community by more seniors	- Increase in Co-sponsored events and partnering on projects, petitions, letter writing, etc. - Decrease in ageist language and assumptions. - Increase in participation in and attendance by our members and other seniors at events and programs offered in the community.	Gail	- RCSAC	Ongoing
Isolated Seniors						
Reduce the isolation of seniors by coordinating services	- Continue to monitor - Liaise with appropriate organisations	- Seniors more connected with community services and activities	- RSAC continues to advocate for improved outreach to isolated seniors - Council advised as necessary	Olive, Carol, Seemah, Susan	- Minoru Activity Centre - Richmond Health Services, - NGOs	Twice yearly meetings
Intergenerational						
Increase intergenerational understanding by supporting intergenerational activities	- Continue to monitor - Liaise with appropriate organisations	- Increased intergenerational opportunities and understanding	- RSAC continues to encourage intergenerational interaction - Council advised as necessary	Olive	- Community Centres - Richmond Youth Services	Ongoing

Proposed Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee 2009 Work Program

Initiative	RSAC Actions/Steps	Expected Outcome	Indicator of RSAC Success	Lead/Sub-Cte	Partners	Status
Safety						
Improve safety of Richmond's seniors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to monitor - Liaise with appropriate organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased seniors' safety and sense of security - Falls and outdoor hazards reduced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RSAC provides seniors perspective on safety issues and advocates for a safe community - Council advised as necessary 	Carol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safe Community Alliance - Falls Prevention Network 	Ongoing
Publicity						
Increase the profile of seniors issues in Richmond	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to publicize seniors' issues (e.g., RSAC member writes monthly column) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Greater public awareness of seniors issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RSAC informs the public - Council advised as necessary 	Aileen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Richmond Review 	Ongoing