



To: Planning Committee **Date:** January 5, 2024
From: Kim Somerville
 Director, Community Social Development **File:** 01-0100-30-SADV1-01/2024-
 Vol 01
Re: **Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Work Program**

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled “Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Work Program” dated January 5, 2024 from the Director, Community Social Development, be approved.

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

Att. 2

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
CONCURRENCE OF ACTING GENERAL MANAGER	
SENIOR STAFF REPORT REVIEW	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO	

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 budget for the upcoming year. This report presents the RSAC 2023 Annual Report (Attachment 1) and Proposed RSAC 2024 Work Program (Attachment 2).

This report supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022–2026 Focus Area #1 Proactive in Stakeholder and Civic Engagement:

1.4 Leverage a variety of approaches to make civic engagement and participation easy and accessible.

This report also supports the Seniors Strategy (2022–2032) Strategic Direction #4 Education and Understanding about 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 healthy aging.

Analysis

The RSAC comprises up to 15 voting members who 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 2023 Work Program focused on supporting the implementation of the Council-adopted Seniors Strategy (2022–2032), monitoring seniors' issues and emerging trends, and supporting public awareness and community engagement.

2023 Annual Report

The RSAC 2023 Annual Report provides an overview of the Committee's work during the past year. Highlights for 2023 include:

- Participating in the implementation of the Seniors Strategy, including one member serving on the Seniors Strategy Working Group;
- Contributing input for the draft City of Richmond Accessibility Plan 2023–2033 and the development of a new Social Development Strategy;
- Volunteering at the Positive Aging Fair at the Minoru Centre for Active Living to hear directly from seniors about issues they experience in the community;
- Contributing to the review of the City of Richmond Enhanced Accessibility Design Guidelines and Technical Specifications to ensure the needs of people living with dementia are considered;

- Engaging in opportunities to enhance RSAC's knowledge of seniors' issues through coordinating regular guest speakers on key topics, sharing information and research, and participating in educational opportunities;
- Conducting regular RSAC meetings and participating in related Council-appointed Advisory Committees; and
- Having two members of RSAC appointed to the Council of Advisors for the BC Seniors Advocate.

The RSAC was actively involved in various seniors-related initiatives throughout the city in 2023, including those related to the implementation of the Seniors Strategy, and continued to monitor trends related to seniors in Richmond.

As an Advisory Committee to City Council, the RSAC's activities are fully supported by the City's operating budget. In 2023, the City allocated an operating budget of \$2,500, which was fully utilized.

Proposed RSAC 2024 Work Program

The Proposed RSAC 2024 Work Program was discussed at the RSAC meetings held on November 8 and December 13, 2023. Highlights of the Work Program for 2024 include:

- Building on and improving the RSAC's knowledge of seniors' issues in Richmond through information sharing, guest speakers and educational opportunities;
- Acting as an advisory resource to the City by providing recommendations and seniors' perspectives on issues related 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.

Through 2024, 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 2024 Work Program supports the implementation of the Council-adopted Seniors Strategy and various actions within other Council-adopted strategies and plans that impact seniors in Richmond. The 2024 Work Program will be revised as necessary to respond to emerging opportunities related to the RSAC's advisory role.

The 2024 RSAC Work Program will be implemented within the Committee's annual operating budget of \$2,500.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The Proposed RSAC 2024 Work Program builds upon work accomplished in 2023 as described in the RSAC 2023 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)

- Att. 1: Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee (RSAC) 2023 Annual Report
- 2: Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee (RSAC) 2024 Proposed Work Program

Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee (RSAC) 2023 Annual Report

Purpose

The purpose 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 help identify seniors' concerns and works with various community organizations and agencies, including City staff.

2023 Membership

The composition of RSAC includes 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).

The RSAC consisted of 14 voting members in 2023:

- Karen Barclay (VCH) [January to September]
- Penny Chan
- Queenie Choo (S.U.C.C.E.S.S.)
- Frank Deyell
- Carol Dickson (RCRG)
- Sandra Gebhardt
- Nina Graham
- Ella Huang (RCD)
- Ihsan Malik
- Mumtaz Nathu
- Diana Leung
- Yasmin Rahman
- Teong Sin Kwek [January to May]
- David Richardson

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

- Councillor Carol Day (Council Liaison)
- Anthony Kupferschmidt, Program Lead, Seniors (Staff Liaison)
- Sean Davies, Area Coordinator, Seniors Centre, Minoru Centre for Active Living

Meetings

The RSAC held 10 meetings in 2023. City staff provided information and resources to RSAC on topics related to seniors, including City and community programs and support services for seniors.

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 2023, members participated in the following committees:

- City Council appointed Advisory Committees, including the Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee (RCSAC) and the Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC);
- The Seniors Strategy 2022-2032 Working Group; and
- Ad-hoc committees, including the Enhanced Accessibility Design Guidelines and Technical Specifications Committee.

2023 Highlights

Highlights of the RSAC's work and participation in seniors-related initiatives in 2023 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 impact the aging population.
- The **Richmond Intercultural Advisory Committee (RIAC)** recognizes the diversity of Richmond and focuses on reducing cultural barriers and creating a harmonious community. The annual City of Richmond Diversity Symposium was a highlight in 2023. Included in its program was a presentation titled, *Are Seniors Aging in Place? Planning for Resilient Seniors' Communities through an Equity Lens*. The Diversity Symposium also featured a theatrical performance entitled, *Mosaic Firefly* that focused on the personal migration stories of Richmond youth and seniors.
- **Guest speakers** were invited to share information with, and seek input from, RSAC members. Invited guests in 2023 included:
 - Miriam Plishka, Park Planner, City of Richmond (Lansdowne Major Park Master Plan)
 - Lloyd Bie, Director of Transportation, City of Richmond (transportation issues and seniors)
 - Melanie Burner, Program Manager, Social Development, City of Richmond (Accessibility Plan 2023-2033)
 - Dorothy Jo, Program Manager, Social Planning and Donna Lee, Planner II, Poverty Reduction, City of Richmond (development of a new Social Development Strategy)
 - Stella Mozin, Planner 2, Social Equity, City of Richmond (Community Services Pop-Ups)
 - Carol Dickson, Manager, Senior Community Support Services, Richmond Cares, Richmond Gives (programs and services for seniors)
- The new **Seniors Strategy 2022-2032 Working Group** engaged an RSAC representative to support the implementation and evaluation of the Council-adopted Seniors Strategy. A representative from RSAC also supported the launch of the Seniors Strategy by participating in a Connecting the Dots workshop that brought together City staff and community agency representatives.
- An RSAC representative served on an ad-hoc committee to review the existing City's **Enhanced Accessibility Design Guidelines and Technical Specifications** and provide input to ensure that a forthcoming revised edition addresses the needs of people living with dementia.
- **Sister City** – In recognition of the 50th anniversary of the City's Sister City relationship to Wakayama City in Japan, members of RSAC supported the Sister City Advisory Committee by folding paper cranes to symbolize peace and longevity.
- **Community Engagement** – RSAC members volunteered at a booth at the Positive Aging Fair at the Minoru Centre for Active Living on October 5, 2023 to hear directly from seniors about issues they experience in the community.

- **Survey** – Members of RSAC completed an internal survey to rank and prioritize issues to focus on in 2023.
- **Annual Work Program** – In 2023, RSAC aligned its Work Program and the Council-adopted Seniors Strategy, and is committed to supporting the City in ongoing Seniors Strategy implementation.
- **Information Sessions, Webinars and Conferences** – Members of RSAC attended various information sessions, webinars and local conferences focused on seniors to support and enhance their work. For example, a representative of RSAC attended the 2023 Public Health Association of BC Conference in Vancouver.
- Two members of RSAC were appointed to the Council of Advisors for the BC Seniors Advocate.

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 seniors in Richmond. 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.

Report prepared by:
Sandra Gebhardt, Chair
Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee

**Richmond Seniors Advisory Committee (RSAC)
2024 Proposed Work Program**

The RSAC Proposed 2024 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.

RSAC Proposed 2024 Work Program		
Initiative	Actions	Expected Outcome
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"> • RSAC Terms of Reference • Their role as an appointed member of the RSAC • 2024 Work Program • Current City strategies and initiatives related to seniors • Additional opportunities for involvement as part of RSAC
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 or benefit seniors in the community at regular RSAC meetings.</p> <p>2.2 Identify internal and external 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>RSAC is informed of issues and trends raised by Richmond seniors.</p> <p>RSAC is informed and well-equipped to provide seniors' perspectives and recommendations to City staff and Council.</p>

RSAC Proposed 2024 Work Program		
Initiative	Actions	Expected Outcome
3. Act as a resource to the City by providing recommendations and perspectives on issues relating to seniors in Richmond.	<p>3.1 Respond to City Council requests and provide advice on issues relating to seniors in Richmond.</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 programs and services for seniors.</p>	<p>RSAC is informed and well-equipped to provide seniors' perspectives and recommendations to City staff and Council.</p> <p>RSAC will provide ongoing feedback on City strategies, policies and initiatives related to seniors.</p> <p>RSAC supports and provides input on the implementation of the Seniors Strategy.</p>
4. Encourage public awareness and community engagement related to the needs and concerns of seniors in Richmond.	<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 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 issues and trends that impact Richmond seniors.</p> <p>RSAC helps to increase awareness of opportunities for Richmond seniors to provide input on initiatives that impact them.</p>
5. Support priority seniors-related City initiatives through RSAC agenda discussion topics and subcommittees.	<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 Ensure subcommittee work supports City initiatives related to seniors.</p>	<p>RSAC work and focus are aligned with City priorities related to seniors in Richmond.</p> <p>RSAC work informs current policy updates and initiatives from various City departments related to seniors.</p>

RSAC Proposed 2024 Work Program		
Initiative	Actions	Expected Outcome
	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.