



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: General Purposes Committee **Date:** May 19, 2023
From: Kim Somerville **File:** 08-4055-05/2023-Vol 01
 Director, Community Social Development
Re: **Richmond Accessibility Advisory Committee 2023 Work Program**

Staff Recommendation

That the proposed work plan for the Richmond Accessibility Advisory Committee as outlined in the staff report titled "Richmond Accessibility Advisory Committee 2023 Work Program," dated May 19, 2023, from the Director, Community Social Development, be approved.

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

Att. 1

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

Staff Report

Origin

On November 28, 2022, City Council approved the creation of the Richmond Accessibility Advisory Committee (RAAC) to address one of the municipal requirements of the new Accessible British Columbia Act (the Act). The RAAC acts as a resource and provides advice to City Council to support the advancement of accessibility in the city, so people with disabilities are able to participate fully in all aspects of community life. Each year, RAAC will submit an annual report to Council for the completed year and a proposed work plan for the upcoming year. As this is the inaugural year of the RAAC, this report presents the proposed RAAC 2023 Work Program (Attachment 1).

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

Proactive stakeholder and civic engagement to foster understanding and involvement and advance Richmond's interests.

This report also supports Council's Strategic Plan 2022–2026 Focus Area #6 A Vibrant, Resilient and Active Community:

Vibrant, resilient and active communities supported by a wide variety of opportunities to get involved, build relationships and access resources.

Analysis

The RAAC is comprised of up to 12 Council-appointed, voting members who bring unique perspectives, knowledge and experiences to committee meetings. By fostering meaningful dialogue and information sharing, the RAAC provides input and advice to City Council to support and enhance the advancement of accessibility in the community. The proposed RAAC 2023 Work Program outlines the RAAC's priorities for the coming year that will further their mandate.

The proposed RAAC 2023 Work Program also aligns the Committee's efforts with the Act's requirements related to the role of accessibility advisory committees, including the requirements to:

- Assist the City with identifying barriers experienced by people with disabilities when interacting with or within the City (public and staff);
- Advise the City on how to prevent and remove these barriers; and
- Support the development of the Richmond Accessibility Plan.

Proposed 2023 Work Program

The proposed 2023 Work Program was discussed at the RAAC meeting held on April 12, 2023. In 2023, priorities for the committee include:

- Supporting the development of the new Richmond Accessibility Plan;
- Providing advice and recommendations related to the advancement of accessibility in the City, including providing input to support the development of new City strategies and initiatives; and
- Increasing RAAC members' awareness on issues and trends that impact people with disabilities in the community through guest speakers and presentations.

Throughout 2023, the RAAC will meet monthly to discuss accessibility-related matters, advise City Council and staff, and support the development of the new Richmond Accessibility Plan, which is required by the Act to outline how the City will identify, remove and prevent barriers across planning and service areas. Development of the Richmond Accessibility Plan is underway and a draft plan will be presented to Council for approval in principle in fall 2023.

The RAAC will also provide an accessibility lens to the review of related policies, plans and initiatives that work to advance accessibility in the community and will respond to requests and referrals from Council as they arise. The 2023 Work Program will be revised as necessary to respond to emerging opportunities related to the RAAC's advisory role.

The RAAC Work Program will be implemented within the committee's annual operating budget of \$7,500.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The proposed RAAC 2023 Work Program outlines the Committee's priorities for the year to fulfil its mandate of supporting the advancement of accessibility in Richmond, so that people with disabilities are able to participate fully in all aspects of community life. Staff recommend that the proposed RAAC 2023 Work Program be approved.



Melanie Burner
Program Manager, Social Development
(604-276-4390)

Att. 1: Richmond Accessibility Advisory Committee Proposed 2023 Work Program

Richmond Accessibility Advisory Committee Proposed 2023 Work Program

Richmond Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Program		
Initiative	Actions	Expected Outcome
1. Participate in a RAAC orientation.	1.1 Members participate in an orientation to the RAAC to learn about the roles and responsibilities of advisory committee members, the RAAC Terms of Reference and the City's current strategies and initiatives related to accessibility.	Members are aware of and understand the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The RAAC Terms of Reference • Their role as an appointed member of the RAAC • The City's Respectful Workplace Policy 6800 • The 2023 Work Program • Current City of Richmond strategies and initiatives related to accessibility, including the development of the Richmond Accessibility Plan
2. Act as a resource to the City by providing recommendations and perspectives on issues and opportunities related to advancing accessibility in Richmond.	2.1 Respond to City Council requests and provide advice on issues related to advancing accessibility in Richmond. 2.2 Consult and provide input on City strategies, initiatives and policies that impact accessibility in Richmond. 2.3 Provide input and feedback to City staff on the accessibility of existing City programs, services and the built environment.	The RAAC applies an accessibility lens to support the development and updating of City strategies, initiatives and policies and advises City Council and staff, as requested. The RAAC provides on-going feedback to support the identification, removal and prevention of barriers in existing City programs, services and the built environment.
3. Support the development of the Richmond Accessibility Plan.	3.1 Participate in and provide advice and recommendations related to the development of the Richmond Accessibility Plan.	The RAAC provides feedback on the development of the Richmond Accessibility Plan.

Richmond Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Program

Initiative	Actions	Expected Outcome
	3.2 Promote and support opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in public engagement related to the development of the Richmond Accessibility Plan.	The Richmond Accessibility Plan is completed. Public engagement opportunities to support the development of the Richmond Accessibility Plan are accessible and consider a diverse range of needs.
4. Build on the RAAC's knowledge of accessibility issues through information sharing, guest speakers and educational opportunities.	4.1 Invite guest speakers to present on issues and trends that impact people with disabilities in the community at regular RAAC meetings. 4.2 Identify accessibility-related educational opportunities for members to learn about emerging issues and trends impacting people with disabilities that can inform the City's policies or practices. 4.3 Monitor accessibility-related issues and emerging trends.	The RAAC is informed of trends and concerns raised by people with disabilities in the community. The RAAC is well equipped to provide an accessibility lens to City strategies, policies and initiatives, as requested.
5. Encourage public awareness and community engagement to understand the needs and concerns of people with disabilities in Richmond.	5.1 Discuss accessibility-related matters arising as a standing item on the RAAC agenda. 5.2 Participate in information sessions, educational activities and special events open to the public that focus on issues impacting people with disabilities in Richmond. 5.3 Promote opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in public engagement opportunities led and supported by the City.	RAAC is informed of trends and concerns raised by community members with disabilities. The City and residents continue to be well informed about the latest trends, research and advocacy efforts related to accessibility matters. People with disabilities are increasingly aware of engagement opportunities related to advancing accessibility in Richmond.

Richmond Accessibility Advisory Committee Work Program

Initiative	Actions	Expected Outcome
<p>6. Support priority accessibility-related City initiatives through aligning RAAC agenda and discussion topics.</p>	<p>6.1 Review current and upcoming City initiatives related to accessibility and determine where RAAC participation will be most effective within the scope of the committee's advisory role.</p>	<p>The RAAC's work and focus are aligned with Council-approved priorities related to advancing accessibility in Richmond.</p> <p>The RAAC's work informs current policy updates and initiatives from various City departments related to advancing accessibility.</p>