

RICHMOND SENIORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 12, 2017

Richmond City Hall

Meeting Room M.1.002 at 9:30 a.m.

In Attendance: Hans Havas (Chair), Seemah Aaron, Doug Symons, Mohinder Grewal, Becky Wong (Vice Chair), Jackie Schell, Sheila Rooney, Joan Haws, Sandra Gebhardt, Peter Chan, Paul Cassidy, Yasmin Ali, Shams Jilani, Councillor Ken Johnston, Heather Muter (Staff Liaison), Nora Wright (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Daryl Whiting, Neil Bernbaum

1. Meeting called to order at 9:31 am with welcome and Introductions
2. **Guest Speaker** – Norman Koetze, Emergency Social Services and Public Education Co-ordinator.

Norman opened his presentation by emphasizing preparedness in case of an emergency i.e. what to expect in an emergency and what happens after the emergency. Reminder given to Prevent, Prepare and Act and to have an emergency kit available. Norman highlighted the following:

- Community Centres may be used as Reception Centres once structurally inspected for safety
- A lot of information is available on the City web site; www.richmond.ca/emergency
- City would operate an Emergency Operations Centre including Emergency Social Services
- Emphasis on having a personal support network for reassurance of assistance
- Create, practice and follow your Family Emergency plan to create peace of mind when separated
- Use long distance calling, or out of area contact person, to increase the chance of making contact as local calling may not be available
- Red Cross would be asked to activate their Crib and provide a 1 – 800 number for family reunification

A question and answer period followed and handouts were provided.

Presentation concluded at 10.25 am

3. Approval of Agenda – Moved: Becky Wong, Seconded: Shams Jilani, Carried.
4. Approval of March 2017 minutes – Moved: Doug Symons, Seconded: Sheila Rooney, Carried. Note: Joan Haws was in attendance at the March meeting.

5. **Correspondence** – Nil.

6. **Business Arising** – Nil.

7. **New Business**

Elder Abuse

Doug introduced this subject and it was agreed to defer to the May meeting following further information regarding elder abuse to be shared with Committee prior to next meeting.

8. **Reports**

Falls Prevention Network – Sheila

Sheila referred to the circulated report on the meeting held on February 21, 2017 and stated that the next meeting was scheduled for the week of April 17th with the Vial of Life initiative as an agenda item. Yasmin referred to a meeting with Vancouver Coast Health and the grant of \$10,000 to allow the program to be energized and promoted with the help of volunteers.

Yasmin emphasized the importance of having up to date medical information available at home (in the fridge) and the participation of pharmacies, hospitals to encourage patient participation in this pilot program.

Richmond Health Advisory – Paul

The following information was provided from March 9, 2017:

1. Lions Manor being upgraded to multi level that includes Day Care, Assisted Living, Residential and Alzheimer care
2. The North Tower is in the middle of the planning process and lobbying is ongoing.
3. The proposed MSP reductions may have an impact on Seniors supplementary income – being researched
4. A new Palliative Care physician has been hired. The target is to have 54% of palliative care at home.
5. A plan is being developed for collaborative care including – primary care at home – obtaining hospital privileges for physicians with patients in Residential care – keeping seniors well – Adult care programs - dedicated RNs and Social Workers - Developing a Referral System
6. Confidentiality/Privacy still an issue, no standards for best practice, electronic records are not standardized
7. Home care standards non-existent, individuals see and want care differently
8. Exploring the use of digital media for use in Health Care – attending conference provided by Federal Government

Paul announced that he was no longer a guest at the committee but would become a permanent committee member.

Housing - no report

Intercultural/Multicultural – Shams

Shams stated he had not yet received a letter of appointment to the Intercultural Advisory Committee and the Chair responded that this was forthcoming as well as his appointment to the Multicultural Committee.

It was suggested that these should be two separate agenda items i.e. Intercultural Advisory and Multicultural.

Information provided on the various Vaisakhi celebrations taking place in Vancouver and Surrey over the coming weekend.

Promotions – Jackie

Attended the Wellness fair – ACTIVATE on Wednesday March 29, 2017.

Our new brochures, table sign were set up as well as a sign “Ask Us” free chance to win a jar of jellybeans!

Unfortunately, we were given a spot in the lounge area, which was not in the path of visitors or in the main room (Next time we need to register earlier).

We did have people stop and inquire on what we represented, for many it was the first time hearing about us. Lots of brochures were distributed and lots of interest in us.

Some of the concerns pointed out to us were:

- MSP premium elimination
- Eye health education CNIB presentations
- City to include snow removal on city sidewalks and their own lots i.e. corners to bus stops
- More efficient bus service from Skytrain to residential areas
- Bingo at Minoru Place and the new Centre

All in all it was a great experience and the proof that we need to get out in the community so seniors know we are here.

The winner of the Jellybeans was Cecilia Lui who guessed 312 and there were 316 in the jar. She was excited.

Richmond Community Services Advisory Committee – Sandra

The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2017 and a report will be provided at the May meeting.

Council of Senior Citizens Organization of BC (COSCO) - Mohinder

Mohinder referred to the 2016 Conference and the two reports available on the web site. The COSCO newsletter was distributed.

Mohinder drew attention to the fact that SAC was an associate member and advised that a committee member representative should attend meetings to bring back information. The meetings are held monthly from 10 am thru to 12 noon at the Hastings Park Community Centre. COSCO also provide free workshops funded by the government.

Seniors Advocate – Mohinder

Mohinder confirmed that these meetings are only held every 3 months. There is a reserved list of members to replace outgoing members and this is done by health region which means that Richmond potentially could have two members. Mohinder suggested that someone from the SAC apply for vacancy for the Vancouver health region to ensure future participation of SAC.

Transportation – Hans

Hans referred to the a previously circulated report on the Richmond Area Transit Plan and the Richmond Better at Home Transportation Service.

Hans continued with the following updates:

- Snow Removal Bylaw in effect and explained by Hans, this being a follow up to the SAC letter submitted to Council
- April 24th will see a much improved Richmond bus service i.e. 410 will run every 4 minutes in peak hours and normal hours every 10 minutes; 401 will run every 8 minutes in peak hours and normal hours every 10 to 12 minutes; 403 every 5 minutes all day; 430 every 15 minutes all day;
- Canada Line improving with new cars and new door system
- A workshop will be held at Thompson Community Centre by Translink on April 27th from 10.00 am thru to 11.30 am, registration on line and quote code 176263

Hans committed to emailing the full changes and details from Translink to committee members.

Shams expressed concern about bus availability for seniors to temples and mosques and Hans responded he would follow up with Translink.

Council Liaison – Councillor Ken Johnson

Councillor Johnson provided the following updates:

- New hospital tower/annex – concept plan approved by Ministry of Health but no commitment received.
- April 19th committee meeting on large houses on agricultural land
- OIC RCMP Will Ng has been appointed and has local connections in the community
- Harvest Power smell complaints have gone down but still being monitored
- Snow Angel Program to help out with new Snow removal Bylaw
- Official name of the new Minoru complex is “Minoru Centre for Active Living”

MPAC/Seniors Services/Staff Liaison

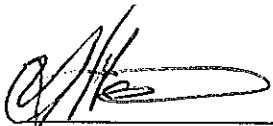
Heather provided the following information:

- Raising the Profile Project – 17 spaces for Richmond and 4 spaces from SAC – Jackie, Doug, Sandra and Yasmin to attend this event on May 4th 9.30 am thru to 4.00 pm at SFU
- ACTIVATE Wellness Fair successful with 750 in attendance
- Seniors Week will be June 5th thru 11th
- MSS hosting Volunteer Tea on April 12th for 140 volunteers from 12.30 pm thru 2.30 pm
- National Canadian Film Day on April 19th at Richmond Cultural Centre from 4 pm thru 7 pm

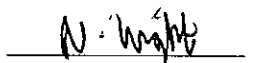
Yasmin expressed interest in contributing to another Health Committee and emphasized the need for medication support for seniors in their homes.

No further business and meeting adjourned at 11.35 am.

9. **Next meeting – Wednesday May 10, 2017 at 9.30 am, Richmond City Hall, Meeting Room M.1.002**



Hans Havas
Chair



Nora Wright
Recording Secretary

