

City of Chilliwack
HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2019 – 12:00 pm
DOGWOOD ROOM - CITY HALL

Council Members:

Councillor Sue Knott, Chair
Councillor Bud Mercer, Vice-Chair

Heritage Advisory Committee:

Ray Ramey, Atchelitz Threshermen's Association
John Black, Atchelitz Threshermen's Association
Jim Harris, CFB Chilliwack Historical Society
Jon Kinneman, Algra Brothers Developments
Kathryn Bourdon, Community Member
Laura Reid, Community Member
Tristan Evans, Community Member (Chilliwack Museum)

City Staff:

Karen Stanton, Manager of Long Range Planning
Erin Leary, Planner III

Guest:

Donald Luxton, Senior Cultural Heritage Advisor Donald Luxton & Associates Inc.
Charlie Fortin, Chilliwack Historical Society
Shawna Maurice, Chilliwack Museum and Archives
Allison Kaye, Chilliwack Historical Society

Regrets:

Dr. David Schaepe, Stó:lō Research & Resource Management Centre

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Manager of Long Range Planning, at 12:00 pm. The committee members were advised that the City will be the spokesperson for the Heritage Strategic Action Plan, ensuring all official communications be managed by the Communications Department in collaboration with the Planning Department. The members were introduced and Donald Luxton from Luxton & Associates was introduced as the consultant for the Heritage Strategic Action Plan.

The role of the HAC regarding the HSAP was confirmed.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

4. PRESENTATIONS / DELEGATION

A presentation was provided by Donald Luxton covering the following topics:

1. Introduction to the HSAP
2. Timeline for completion of the various activities associated with the HSAP (ie. public engagement, draft plan, project completion)
3. Scope of the strategic plan
4. Methodologies for monitoring successful implementation of the HSAP over time
5. Summary of existing City initiatives for heritage preservation

S.W.O.T. Analysis

Committee members were asked to participate in a SWOT Analysis of the following topics:

1. Where are we now?
2. Where do we want to go? (goals)
3. How do we get there? (achieve goals)
4. How do we know we've gotten there? (measure success)

The key responses to the above are as follows:

Question 1

- Currently have an inventory of heritage sites throughout the city
- Chilliwack Museum is an asset
- Have well maintained and functioning Heritage buildings – Royal Hotel
- Running out of land – development pressures
- City Council wants to promote heritage in the community
- Community supports heritage retention
- Indigenous groups are finding their voice and contributing to this topic
- Revitalization of the downtown
- Large number of intact homes still exist from the 1991 inventory
- Some owners are pursuing voluntary heritage designation
- Local Government Act doesn't speak to cultural heritage
- Renewed interest in the history of Chilliwack from new residents to the area
- Challenge – some buildings are in bad condition
 - Inappropriate owners for heritage buildings

Question 2

- Plan for a 7-10 year timeline
- Have a good understanding of what "heritage" is by both the City and members of the community
- Updated inventory of heritage sites including a detailed process for new sites to be included on the inventory
- Plan for maintaining support for the plan and process for how to retain this program
- Community led initiative rather than City staff or Heritage Advisory Committee

Question 3

- Engage experts in various fields to create definitions of all types of “heritage”
- Educate the public on their options for heritage retention
- Dispel myths around the impact of heritage designations

Question 4

- Create a transparent process that everyone understands and knows how it works (sure, clear & fair)
- Create a deeper understanding of the word “heritage” that is inclusive and diverse
- Easily accessible information
- Sustainable initiatives
- Chilliwack become a leader in the heritage community
- Integrate well into existing policy framework

Summary of S.W.O.T. Analysis

Strength	Weakness	Opportunity	Threat
Many existing organizations	Losing human resources	Council is supportive of this initiative	Lack of information and misinformation
Digital methods for communication with the public	Lack of funding options	Public engagement	Lack of technical resources to preserve heritage sites
Longevity of programs and initiatives	Limited relationships with other Indigenous groups	Heritage tourism via the agricultural sector	
Relationship with the Stó:lō First Nation		Partnerships with existing organizations and individuals	

The committee also noted that the vision for the HSAP should include the following:

- Preservation of the identity of our community
- Leadership in the heritage community
- Shared community history with an emphasis on acknowledging and paying respect to Indigenous heritage.

5. OLD BUSINESS / ACTION ITEMS

6. NEW BUSINESS

7. INFORMATION

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Heritage Advisory Committee will be held at the discretion of the Chair.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.

DRAFT