

Meeting Minutes



City of Guelph

Heritage Guelph Committee (HG)

May 27, 2019

City Hall Meeting Room B

From 12:00-2:00pm

Meeting Chair: P. Brian Skerrett

Present: P. Brian Skerrett, James Smith, Kesia Kvill, Michael Crawley, Bob Foster, Mary Tivy, Stephen Robinson (Senior Heritage Planner), Melissa Aldunate (Manager Policy Planning and Urban Design), and Hayley Nabuurs (Heritage Research Assistant)

Absent: Arlin Otto, David Waverman, and Charles Nixon

Agenda Items

All are welcomed by the Chair.

Items 1, 2, and 3

Item 1 – Call to Order

Item 2 – Acknowledgements

Item 3 – Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest - None

Item 4 - Approval of Minutes of the May 13, 2019 meeting.

AMENDMENT

Moved by: P. Brian Skerrett

Seconded by: Kesia Kvill

Carried – unanimous

THAT approval of the minutes of the May 13, 2019 meeting of Heritage Guelph be deferred to the June 10, 2019 meeting.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

Item 5

Draft Cultural Heritage Action Plan (CHAP) released for Council and public comment

Discussion of current draft document presented to Council Planning on April 8, 2019.

View staff report and CHAP document on Council Planning agenda at:

- Staff presented Community Consultation Presentation and lead workshop based on the CHAP online survey questions
- Concerns were expressed by committee members on not being consulted on the completed draft CHAP before it was presented to Council
- Expressed concern that it was not clear how previous comments from HG were incorporated into the draft presented to Council
- Concerns about what being labelled as a candidate CHL means for property owners and suggested that it be clarified in the CHAP
- Discussion concerning how priority is being determined for the candidate CHLs; cultural heritage significance (as per the City of Kitchener study) versus risk
- Requested the inclusion of an index illustrating the risks being analyzed for prioritization

CHAP survey questions

Do you feel that all the cultural heritage landscapes in Guelph are identified on this map and in Table 1?

- Staff asked if there are any areas not identified in the draft CHAP that should be included, the committee agreed with the selected areas;
- One member expressed that the Niska Road area should be removed since in their opinion HG had already dealt with this area and that the McNeil Campus should also be removed.

Do you agree with the five cultural heritage landscapes identified as high priority in Part E – Table 2 (Page E-3)?

- Staff asked if there is agreement with the five priority CHLs, committee members will send individual comments to staff
- One member disagreed with priority being given to Exhibition Park, Ward West and St. George's Park;
- One member suggested that the Junction should be moved into the top 5;
- Suggestion that Catholic Hill should be high priority because it is the most significant site in the city
- Concerns expressed by committee members about designated CHLs being included in the map and table and suggestion that they be included in the report as designated;
- Members asked for the table to be re-ordered to group CHLs by priority rather than by identification number

Financial Incentives: Are there additional types of incentives that the City should offer heritage property owners beyond those outlined in Part C – Incentives?

- Staff presented financial incentives from CHAP and sought comment
- Concerns expressed by committee members about Part IV and Part V property attributes being properly defined when applying for financial incentives;

- Concern expressed that incentives should not apply to properties just because they are within an HCD;
- Suggestion that tax relief should be considered;
- Suggestion that “stick” (as in “carrot and stick”) approach should also be used such as taxing vacant land owners at a higher property tax rate to keep the buildings occupied;
- Discussion about the use of grants as a financial incentive
- Suggestion that City could provide restoration workshops and design guidelines to property owners and offer technical support for restoration activities (e.g. ACO workshop on how to repair windows).

Cultural Heritage Promotion: Are there other actions the City should take to promote cultural heritage resources?

- Would like to see further detail provided about the tourism websites cited in the CHAP including web address
- Would like the CHAP to address interpretive panels;
- Discussion about educating local real estate agents about the CHAP as one form of promotion;
- Comments that the CHAP could include mention of social media.

Additional Comments

- Concerns from committee members about a lack of Indigenous acknowledgment in the draft CHAP and suggestion that it should be included in Section E
- Noted the need to organize committee time to discuss the recommendations for extant barns in the city
- Questions raised about possibility that the CHAP may result in an increase in requests to be removed from the heritage register
- Brutalist mid-century buildings are not addressed however not aware of an area that isn’t already captured in the CHAP;
- Should clarify the prioritization of CHLs in terms of work plan; should better explain the definitions of low, medium and high risk; should consider assessing priority in terms of cultural heritage significance; should explain how arrived at low, medium and high priorities for the CHLs.

Moved by: James Smith

Seconded by: Kesia Kvill

Carried – unanimous

THAT the meeting be extended to 2:30 p.m.

Next Meetings

Heritage Guelph: June 10, 2019 (12:00 noon-2:00 p.m.) City Hall, Mtg Rm C

HG Outreach Working Group: June 24, 2019 (10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon) City Hall, Mtg Rm B

HG Designation Working Group: June 24, 2019 (12:00 noon-2:00 p.m.) City Hall, Mtg Rm B

Adjournment

Moved by: Kesia Kvill

Seconded by: Michael Crawley

Carried – unanimous