



**CHINATOWN HISTORIC AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 12, 2020**

Minutes of the meeting of the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee (CHAPC) held on Thursday, March 12, 2020, in the Boardroom of the Chinese Cultural Centre, 50 East Pender Street, Vancouver, BC.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Andrew Larigakis, Architectural Institute of BC, Chair  
Sarah Ling, Member-at-Large, Vice Chair  
Albert Lam, Heritage Vancouver  
Fang Liu, Architectural Institute of BC  
Edmund Ma, Chinatown Property Owner  
Inge Roecker, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society (arrived at 5:40 p.m.)  
Leslie Shieh, Planning Institute of British Columbia (arrived at 6:20 p.m.)  
Eric Siu, Chinatown Property Owner  
Grace Wong, Chinatown Merchants Association

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Michael Yu, Chinatown Merchants Association

**GUEST:** Wesley Joe, Planner, Downtown Eastside (DTES) Team (Item 3)

**STAFF:** Amber Knowles, Staff Liaison

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Roberta Pak, Mosaic Writing Group

**1. Chair and Vice Chair Election Process**

**1.1 Election of the Chair**

Amber Knowles, Staff Liaison, called for nominations for the position of Chair for a term ending December 31, 2020. Andrew Larigakis was nominated and consented to the nomination.

Ms. Knowles called a second and third time for nominations.

There being no further nominations, Mr. Larigakis was acclaimed as the Chair, for a term commencing immediately and expiring on December 31, 2020.

**1.2 Election of the Vice Chair**

Ms. Knowles called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair for a term ending December 31, 2020. Sarah Ling was nominated and consented to the nomination.

Ms. Knowles called a second and third time for nominations.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Ling was acclaimed as the Vice Chair, for a term commencing immediately and expiring on December 31, 2020.

### **Call to Order**

Andrew Larigakis, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

### **2. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes**

MOVED by Grace Wong  
SECONDED by Sarah Ling

THAT the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee:

1. Adopts the agenda for the March 12, 2020 meeting, as presented; and
2. Adopts the minutes of the January 9, 2020 meeting, as presented.

CARRIED

### **3. Cannabis Update**

Wesley Joe, Planner, DTES Team, provided an update on a report that will be considered by Council on March 31, 2020. In June 2019, Council directed staff to explore possible amendments to the Zoning and Development By-law section 11 to allow well considered retail cannabis locations in the DTES. After analysis, two possible sites were identified with one site in Chinatown, around Gore Avenue and Union Street. The report to Council is for information purposes only and no recommendations are being made at this time.

Discussion ensued on:

- Concerns regarding the potential for changes to the boundaries depicted on the map included in the report
- A full public hearing process would be undertaken if a rezoning application were to be considered by Council including full notification to the community and local organizations.

### **4. Heritage Principles: Parks Canada, *The Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada***

Ms. Knowles reviewed document titled "The Conservation Decision-Making Process and Key Terminology" and highlighted:

- The document is a case-by-case resolution of problems and not a technical manual
- The document is not a substitute for a professional heritage consultant
- The importance of definitions used:
  - The definition for historic places is not limited to buildings
  - Heritage value is not limited to appearance
  - Character defining elements are always listed on Statements of Significance
- The guidelines are useful for planning an intervention in preserving the heritage value of a site, especially in a land-use application
- Determining the primary treatment:
  - Restoration, preservation, or rehabilitation

- Conservation is a general term used in Canada:
  - Restoration relates to the past:
    - Remove features or replace missing features
    - No conjecture in restoration
    - Must be evidence-based
    - Usually not the primary treatment
  - Preservation relates to the present:
    - Focus on maintenance and repair
    - Continued use
    - May be a short-term intervention
    - Most cautious approach and promotes minimal intervention
  - Rehabilitation relates to the future:
    - Includes all of the preservation components and adapting to a new use or updating to current building codes
    - Additions to a building.

Discussion ensued on:

- The Standards and Guidelines have been adopted by the City of Vancouver
- Statements of Significance:
  - A property owner is required to hire a heritage consultant to prepare a Statement of Significance prior to undertaking heritage work
  - Informative tool used at various stages of the application process
  - Supplementary information may be necessary to fully understand the value of a heritage site from the perspective of all stakeholders
  - Staff are exploring the incorporation of local knowledge into Statements of Significance
  - The qualifications for non-professional experts to prepare a Statement of Significance for sites with complex heritage and cultural values
- The Heritage Register is on the City of Vancouver website:
  - An application for exterior changes to buildings on the Heritage Register triggers a request for a Statement of Significance
  - Existing Statements of Significance may not reflect current heritage values
  - Buildings that are not rated as A, B or C on the Heritage Register may not trigger a Statement of Significance
  - A policy is in place to allow City of Vancouver staff to request a Statement of Significance for buildings identified as having heritage value, but not on the Heritage Register
- The Chinatown Transformation Team is reviewing the Statement of Significance for Chinatown
- The Heritage Action Plan has been completed and further engagement on the Heritage Register will take place as part of the Vancouver Plan.

## 5. Other Business

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, teleconferencing will be considered for future meetings, if necessary.

**6. Adjournment**

MOVED by Leslie Shieh  
SECONDED by Inge Roecker

THAT the meeting of the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee meeting held March 12, 2020 be adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

CARRIED

**Next Meeting:**

Date: April 9, 2020  
Time: 5:30 p.m.  
Place: Chinese Cultural Centre Boardroom, 50 East Pender Street

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Certified correct:

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Andrew Larigakis, Chair

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Date Approved