



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

Minutes of the meeting of the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee (CHAPC) held on Thursday, November 12, 2020, via videoconference.

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Andrew Larigakis, Architectural Institute of BC, Chair (arrived at 6:12 p.m.)
Fang Liu, Architectural Institute of BC
Inge Roecker, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society
Leslie Shieh, Planning Institute of British Columbia
Grace Wong, Chinatown Merchants Association
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sarah Ling, Member-at-Large, Vice Chair
Albert Lam, Heritage Vancouver
Edmund Ma, Chinatown Property Owner
Eric Siu, Chinatown Property Owner
Michael Yu, Chinatown Merchants Association
- LIAISONS PRESENT:** Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung
Trustee Allan Wong, Vancouver School Board
- GUESTS:** Helen Ma, Co-Lead, Chinatown Transformation Team (Item 2)
Baldwin Wong, Co-Lead, Chinatown Transformation Team (Item 2)
- STAFF:** Amber Knowles, Staff Liaison
- RECORDING SECRETARY:** Debbie Reimer, Mosaic Writing Group

Call to Order

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Inge Roecker was appointed Acting Chair and called the meeting to order at 5:51 p.m.

1. **Adoption of Agenda and Minutes**
As quorum had not been achieved, this item was not discussed.
2. **Chinatown Transformation Team: Cultural Heritage Assets Management Plan (CHAMP)**
Helen Ma and Baldwin Wong, Co-Leads, Chinatown Transformation Team, jointly led the review of a presentation titled "Chinatown Cultural Heritage Assets Management Plan (C.H.A.M.P)" and highlighted:
 - Impacts of COVID-19, economic recovery and anti-Asian racism threaten the future of Chinatown:
 - CHAMP is a long-term plan to advocate for systemic change and sustainable economic recovery

- Chinatown needs to care for its most vulnerable citizens who are facing issues such as homelessness; substance use and overdose; mental health; and extreme poverty
- Seven Legacy Stewardship Group (LSG) projects will be funded through the Great Beginnings Project Chinatown Fund
- Building blocks of CHAMP:
 - Research of other Chinatowns and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) sites to learn from successes and challenges
 - Understanding Chinatown values
 - Compiling community asset inventory
 - LSG to serve as a platform for generating ideas and actions
 - Identification of the need for long-term action and change
- Foundational values that reflect the Chinatown's way of life and culture, are inspired by the past and are forward-looking:
 - Celebrate identities together
 - Care for each other
 - Fight for positive change and prosperity
 - Honour heritage and memories
 - All belong to a living community
- Principles:
 - Honour Indigenous peoples' connection to the place and work towards the goal or reconciliation
 - Advocate for equity and systemic change for cultural redress for Chinatown and the community
 - Embrace intangible heritage
 - Seek equity and include representation by those with lived experience
 - Utilize capacity and relationship building approaches in the work to be performed
 - Take impactful actions that show results
 - Advocate for inclusive economic growth
- CHAMP framework
- Strategies and actions:
 - Chinatown Charter:
 - Develop a social contract to include core values of Chinatown for all partners
 - Partnerships and asset management:
 - LSG to address the long standing need for capacity development to manage assets
 - Inclusivity:
 - Local community's interests come first while assessing potential UNESCO designation's impact
 - Include under-represented and marginalized voices in a meaningful way
 - Seek ways to engage with Indigenous communities and local First Nations
 - Growing people and community assets:
 - Include tangible and intangible assets, such as culinary heritage and language, in the inventory
 - Range of strategically-focussed social, cultural and economic incentive programs
 - Supportive policies and regulations:
 - Revise the historical context statement and statement of significance to include cultural heritage
 - Develop design guidelines that better reflect the identity of Chinatown

- Address the surrounding neighbourhood

Member Arrived

Andrew Larigakis arrived at 6:12 p.m.

- Next steps:
 - Develop a strategy to support the rehabilitation of society heritage buildings
 - Develop a special enterprise program (SEP) to support legacy cultural businesses
 - Strengthen the relationships between the Indigenous and Chinese community
 - Public and stakeholder engagement to seek feedback on CHAMP during fall 2020 and 2021
 - A final report to Council will be submitted to Council towards the end of 2021.

Change in Chair

Andrew Larigakis assumed the chair at 6:25 p.m.

Discussion ensued on:

- LSG pilot projects generated through five working groups:
 - The Fire Dragon Festival has been deferred to September 2021
 - Food Festival to bring people back into Chinatown is also deferred to September 2021
 - Over 70 ideas have been generated but seven are currently being implemented as pilot projects
 - Importance of communicating and marketing events
- Immediate measures that can be implemented to support Chinatown businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - Improve the street environment
 - Reduction parking fees or parking incentives
 - Rent/lease subsidies are under consideration
 - Short-term assistance through the SEP
- Suggestion that CHAMP include the recognition of Chinatown's vulnerabilities that have been made visible as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Provision of funding to Heritage Vancouver Society to capture stories of resiliency and learnings from the COVID-19 crisis
- Chinatown was significantly impacted by the reduction in tourism during the COVID-19 pandemic
- The importance of housing the homeless population from the surrounding community and adding seniors' housing to improve Chinatown's street environment
- Motions to be considered by Council later in November 2020:
 - Request for federal government funding, similar to that provided to Granville Island to create an economic and cultural hub
 - Short-term measures to support businesses including actions to create a more comfortable environment, explore the competitiveness of parking fees to encourage visitors and to participate in the digital marketplace
- The need for urgent action to address community concerns regarding public safety.

The following motion was drafted for consideration when a quorum is present:

“The Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee is highly supportive of the presented draft framework of the Cultural Heritage Assets Management Plan. COVID-19 has created increased stress on the non-tangible assets, such as businesses and cultural assets. We wish to see a focus on short term supports for these assets. We also wish to get a better understanding about how we can build resiliency in the community in the face of future stresses.”

3. Staff Update

Amber Knowles, Heritage Planner, and staff liaison to CHAPC provided the following update:

- All committee members’ terms have been extended to the spring 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic:
 - If required, resignations can be tendered with the Divisional or Committee Clerk
- Ms. Knowles will be on leave during 2021 and a new staff liaison will be appointed.

4. Adjournment

The Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee meeting held November 12, 2020 adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Date: December 10, 2020
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Place: Videoconference (WebEx Events)

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Certified correct:

Andrew Larigakis, Chair

Date Approved