



**CHINAOWN HISTORIC AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 10, 2025**

Minutes of the meeting of the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee (CHAPC) held virtually on Thursday, April 10, 2025.

PRESENT: Shirley Shen, Architectural Institute of BC
Calvin Chan, Chinatown Merchants Association (arrived at 5:51 p.m.)
Ross Lam, Chinatown Merchants Association
Grace Lee, Member at Large
Tate Zhang, Planning Institute of BC

REGRETS: Lisa Jones, Architectural Institute of BC
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung
Scott Massey, Social Planner, Cultural Services, CoV

ALSO PRESENT: Helen Lee, Heritage Planner, CoV
Thomas Chui, Senior Engineer of Integrated Projects, CoV
Megan Pate, Associate Director of Integrated Projects, CoV
Eric Fredericksen, Head of Public Art, Cultural Services, CoV

Call to Order

With a quorum present, Helen Lee, Heritage Planner/Staff Liaison, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m..

1. Land Acknowledgement

Agenda Varied

After a round of personal introductions, the agenda was varied to consider Item 4 prior to the Election of Chair/Vice Chair under Item 2.

4. Chinatown Memorial Square Redesign

Thomas Chui, Senior Engineer and Project Manager for the Chinatown Memorial Square Redesign project, provided an overview of the project history, included work conducted to date and a summary of the previous phases of engagement, ahead of the upcoming open houses. Highlights include:

- Three design concepts have been prepared by the design consultant and will be shared at the public open houses on April 12 and April 16; a preferred refined design will be put together, taking elements from each of the concepts based on feedback from the open houses

- Intention is to have the design completed by mid-2026 with construction tendered in Fall 2026
- Footprint of plaza will be expanded as part of the project
- Retention of existing and addition of new street trees, where appropriate
- Existing monument to remain in place with space to accommodate two commemorative plaques
- Key design considerations, including accessibility and user experience, are to be reflected in pavement design and site furnishing selection.
- Public survey is open for comments at: <https://www.shapeyourcity.ca/memorial-square-redesign>

Discussion ensued on:

- The inclusion of cultural elements in the proposal, and the desire to include more modern elements that speak to the younger generation and new immigrants
- How the design could encourage more people to gather and use it for various activities, including Chinese seniors and children
- Mitigating homelessness and people camping in the area in the design considerations
- Inclusion of signage to explain how Chinese culture and symbols were incorporated into the design
- Opportunities for storytelling through walking tours and programming of this space
- Potential for additional public art in and around the plaza, either temporary or permanent, aside from refinishing existing monument

2. Election of Chair/Vice Chair

Ms Lee provided a brief overview on the roles of the Chair and Vice Chair, and called for nominations for the position of Chair ending on December 31, 2025.

Discussion ensued on:

- Concerns on lack of future agenda items, and ability to bring forward non-core CHAPC related initiatives to CHAPC or have CHAPC more involved in those initiatives

Ross Lam was nominated and consented to the nomination for the position of Chair. There being no further nominations, Mr. Lam was acclaimed as the Chair for a term commencing immediately and expiring on December 31, 2025.

Ms Lee called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair for a term ending December 31, 2025. Nominations for Vice Chair were received for Shirley Shen, Calvin Chan and Tate Zhang. Ms Zhang received three votes and consented to the nomination for the position of Vice Chair.

5. Staff Updates

No staff updates, but discussion ensued on:

- the status of the 105 Keefer Street development application, how it would integrate with the new plaza design and that any minor amendments should come back to CHAPC
- consideration of developments adjacent to or outside boundaries of HA-1 and HA-1A zoning district
- the role of CHAPC as a Type B advisory body and the new Chinatown Advisory Committee

The Chair declared that the meeting of the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee meeting held April 10 be adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Date: May 8, 2025
 Time: 5:30 p.m.
 Place: Webinar

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