

**CHINATOWN HISTORIC AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 12, 2025**

Minutes of the meeting of the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee (CHAPC) held virtually on Thursday, June 12, 2025.

**PRESENT:** Inge Roecker  
Ross Lam, Chair  
Shirley Shen  
Tate Zhang, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Sarah Kirby-Yung

**ABSENT:** Calvin Chan  
Carolina Jianto  
Lisa Jones  
Dr. Melissa Karmen Lee, CEO, Chinese Canadian Museum

**STAFF:** Helen Lee, Heritage Planner

**Call to Order**

With a quorum present, Chair Ross Lam called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

**Land Acknowledgement**

**1. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes**

**MOVED by Shirley Shen**  
**SECONDED by Tate Zhang**

That the Agenda for the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee meeting scheduled for June 12, 2025 be varied to consider Item 3 before Item 2 and postpone Item 4 until the next meeting.

That the Minutes of the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee meeting held on April 10, 2025 be amended as follows:

- a) wording under Item 2 on page 2 be amended from “non-City related initiatives” to “non-core CHAPC related initiatives”.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **3. Chinatown Advisory Committee Selection of CHAPC Representative**

After a brief overview of the Chinatown Advisory Committee and its role, Chair Lam opened the floor to nominations for the CHAPC representative on the CAC. The next CAC meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2025 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden.

The current Chair, Ross Lam, and Vice-Chair, Tate Zhang, were elected unanimously to be the representative and alternate for CHAPC on the CAC, respectively.

#### **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### **2. 51 East Pender Street – Chinese Canadian Museum VHR (M, HRA, HA) New Private Art Installation**

Due to technical difficulties, Helen Lee, Heritage Planner introduced the proposal in the absence of Dr. Melissa Lee, CEO for the Chinese Canadian Museum. The Applicant is seeking approval to install a number of decorative neon symbols on the upper story of this heritage building located at 51 East Pender Street. The Applicant has already secured a sign permit for the bilingual sign with “Chinese Canadian Museum” along the same façade.

Summary of proposal:

- Installation of 6 neon lights on upper portion of façade facing East Pender Street as per drawings sent out to members.
- The design influence for the proposal was the old neon signs found in Chinatown in the 1950s.
- The lights will not be visible from the street below along Pender or Keefer Streets.

Discussion ensued on:

- Use of LED vs traditional neon lighting
- Whether the signs were intended to be permanent or temporary
- Concerns on potential light pollution and disruption to existing and future residents of nearby condo buildings, as well as birds
- Colour selection for neon lights, and use of warmer colours to mitigate its effects
- Opportunity to highlight and work with existing architectural features such as windows, as opposed to using building surface as a platform for art
- Restriction on hours of operation to minimize impact of lights.

**MOVED by Shirley Shen  
SECONDED by Tate Zhang**

THAT the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee supports the proposal along the upper roof of the Chinese Canadian Museum at 51 East Pender Street, and commends the use of Chinese motifs and neon lighting.

Furthermore, the Applicant is encouraged to consider the following:

- Review the City's Outdoor Lighting Strategy, in particular, on the selection of colors and use of cutoffs and limiting hours of operation to mitigate glare and disturbance on neighboring uses
- Better integration of the decorative neon elements with the existing windows, including setting the neon elements into the window openings and using the art to celebrate the heritage building.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. Other Business**

Ms Lee advised that Member at Large, Grace Lee, tendered her resignation on CHAPC due to personal circumstances and wished to thank her for her role on the Committee. She also encouraged members to let their network know about the vacancy on CHAPC and submit an application.

Motion to adjourn the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee meeting held June 12 at 6:42 p.m.

**MOVED by Shirley Shen**  
**SECONDED by Inge Roecker**

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

**Next Meeting:**

Date: July 10, 2025 (TBC)  
Time: 5:30 p.m.  
Place: Webinar