



**-CHINATOWN HISTORIC AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 9, 2020**

Minutes of the meeting of the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee (CHAPC) held on Thursday, January 9, 2020, in the Boardroom of the Chinese Cultural Centre, 50 East Pender Street, Vancouver, BC.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Andrew Larigakis, Architectural Institute of BC (Vice Chair)  
Albert Lam, Heritage Vancouver  
Sarah Ling, Member-at-Large  
Grace Wong, Chinatown Merchants Association  
Fang Liu, Architectural Institute of BC (arrived at 5:48 p.m.)  
Eric Siu, Chinatown Property Owner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Edmund Ma, Chinatown Property Owner  
Inge Roecker, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Garden Society  
Leslie Shieh, Planning Institute of British Columbia  
Michael Yu, Chinatown Merchants Association

**LIAISONS PRESENT:** John Coupar, Park Board Commissioner  
Cllr. Sarah Kirby-Yung (arrived at 5:45 p.m.; departed at 6:47 p.m.)  
Allan Wong, Vancouver School Board Trustee

**GUESTS:** Helen Lee, Chinatown Transformation Team  
Baldwin Wong, Chinatown Transformation Team

**STAFF:** Amber Knowles, Staff Liaison

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

**Call to Order**

Andrew Larigakis, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

**Agenda Varied**

The agenda was varied to consider Item 2 prior to Item 1.

**2. Chinatown Cultural Asset Mapping Update and Discussion**

Baldwin Wong, Senior Social Planner and Co-Lead, Chinatown Transformation Team, provided an overview of the work completed to date and highlighted:

- The establishment of the Legacy Stewardship Group (LSG):
  - Comprised of 36 people appointed by Council
  - The mandate of the LSG is to devise strategic actions to improve Chinatown
  - Working groups are focusing on specific areas of concern defined through stakeholder engagement and public input

- A small pocket museum is being established in the Chinese Cultural Centre and will be open to the public in the Spring 2020.

Helen Lee, Planner (Legacy Actions), provided an update on the asset mapping project for Chinatown and highlighted:

- A review of the initial mapping completed since the project started
- Over 460 people provided input on the Hidden Gems of Chinatown through various engagement activities to supplement what had already been captured in previous research

### **Member Arrived**

Fang Liu arrived at 5:48 p.m. and quorum was achieved.

- Assets were mapped and categorized in line with the following United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) domains for intangible heritage:
  - Oral traditions
  - Performing arts
  - Social practices, rituals and festive events
  - Knowledge and practices concerning nature and universe
  - Sites of traditional craftsmanship
- Analysis of the mapped areas of important cultural assets within Chinatown's boundaries:
  - Gathering spaces for seniors is currently only 7.52% of the area
  - Arts and cultural spaces comprise 8.02% of the area
  - Retail and food service establishments (food related and integral to Chinatown but not restricted to Chinese food only) total 30%
  - Single Room Occupation (SROs) and rooming/residential hotels equal 4.5%
- An Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) approach is being considered to understand and manage the cultural assets in Chinatown
- Next steps will include the creation of a vision statement for Chinatown with the community.

Discussion ensued during the presentation regarding:

- Social housing:
  - The numbers depicted in the analysis presented for social housing appear to be low and require a clearer definition
  - The SROs are not specific to Chinese residents
  - Further consideration should be given to using metrics aligned with City data for assessing social housing
- Certain locations are cultural anchors within Chinatown and their importance is not thoroughly depicted in the mapping analysis:
  - Chinese Cultural Centre
  - Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden
  - Chinatown Memorial Square
  - Andy Livingstone Park.

Following the presentation, discussion ensued on:

- Members of the public can attend the LSG meetings and participate as observers however, they must obtain an invitation to the meeting prior to attending
- Food establishments should be identified as Chinese or other
- Safety is being considered by one of the working groups coordinated by the LSG
- The number of cultural assets currently owned by private entities
- Identifying the ownership of assets within the mapping process allows Council to actively use tools at its disposal to protect cultural sites
- The businesses operating in Chinatown that do not enhance or support the culture of Chinatown
- The life of Chinatown is depicted in public spaces including sidewalks and other outdoor spaces:
  - Infrastructure may need to be changed to protect the importance of public spaces:
    - Wider roads or pedestrian-only roads
    - Wider sidewalks
    - Street lighting
    - Underground utility services
    - Services to sustain people living in Chinatown
- Suggestion that the Chinatown Transformation Team showcase case studies to educate stakeholders on successful and less successful examples of cultural asset management
- Identify the risks and challenges the community is facing within the mapping process
- Identification of Chinatown characteristics to support future policy development
- Staff are working on a public version of the cultural assets map which will be made available for comments in the coming months.

### **Agenda Varied**

The order of the agenda was resumed.

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

MOVED by Grace Wong

SECONDED by Fang Liu

THAT the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee:

1. Adopts the agenda for the January 9, 2020 meeting with the addition of Item 3 – Elections; and
2. Adopts the minutes of the December 12, 2019 meeting, as presented.

CARRIED

**3. Elections**

MOVED by Sarah Ling  
SECONDED by Albert Lam

THAT the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee will hold an election for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair at the next regular meeting, scheduled for February 13, 2020.

CARRIED

**4. Adjournment**

MOVED by Grace Wong  
SECONDED by Eric Siu

THAT the meeting of the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee meeting held January 9, 2020 be adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

CARRIED

**Next Meeting:**

Date: February 13, 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, Vice Chair

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Date Approved