

**MINUTES OF THE
CHINATOWN HISTORIC AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE**

FEBRUARY 10, 2015

A meeting of the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee was held on Tuesday, February 10, 2015, at 5:30 pm, in the Boardroom of the Chinese Cultural Centre, 50 East Pender Street, Vancouver, BC.

PRESENT: Clinton McDougall (Chair)
Alison Appelbe
Matthew Halverson
Vincent Ho (arrived 6:15 p.m.)
Councillor Jang (arrived 6:05 p.m.)
Bob Ip
Kelly Ip
Mike Newall
Gair Williamson
Brian Yu

ABSENT: Xiaohui (Sherri) Han
Councillor Louie

ALSO PRESENT: Zlatan Jankovic, Heritage Planner
Wesley Joe, DTES Planner (Item 2)
Tanis Knowles Yarnell, Planner (Item 3)
Helen Ma, DTES Planner (Item 2)

RECORDING SECRETARY: Linda Tylla, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

With a quorum present, the Clinton McDougall assumed the chair called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m.

Zlatan Jankovic, Heritage Planner thanked members for meeting in order to help continue the work of the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee (CHAPC) until the 2015 members are appointed by Council later in February. He also introduced Councillor Jang as the new Council representative to the CHAPC and acknowledged Councillor Louie, also a Council representative, who was not able to attend the meeting.

1) Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

MOVED by Kelly IP
AND SECONDED by Kenneth Liu

That the proposed agenda for the February 10, 2015 Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Mike Newall
AND SECONDED by Matthew Halverson

That the minutes of September 9, 2014 Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee meeting be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Due to technical issues, the agenda was varied to reverse the order of items 2 and 3.

2) Chinatown Planning Initiatives - Update

Zlatan Jankovic, Heritage Planner, introduced staff members of the DTES planning team, Wesley Joe and Helen Ma who were present to provide an update on a number of ongoing planning initiatives for Chinatown.

Staff provided updates as follows.

Support for Chinatown Society Buildings

On December 17, 2014 Council approved \$1.16 million in matching grants to 17 Chinese family clan and benevolent societies for critical capital upgrades to society-owned buildings in Chinatown and the Downtown Eastside. 10 Societies provide affordable housing for a total of 407 units with rents ranging between \$175 and \$670 per month. These grants support and strengthen the Societies, which continue to play a vital role in protecting affordable housing and preserving the area's unique character, cultural identity and heritage. The purpose of the matching grant is to help extend the life of the building with upgrades to be completed within two years.

Applications are currently being accepted for the second round of matching grants, closing Friday, February 27, 2015. It was noted that there are not many applications to date for the second round.

Strategic Support for Society Buildings

Complementing the Chinese Society Buildings Matching Grant Program, a consultant team is being sought to provide strategic support for the rehabilitation of the heritage Society buildings. This includes conducting technical studies of the Society heritage buildings in Chinatown, and preparing a business case and partner development package for their rehabilitation. Staff hope to have the strategy team secured in March.

DTES Capital Grants

December 17, 2014 Council approved an investment of \$955,814 to 40 non-profit organizations in the DTES through the DTES Capital Grants Program to strategically advance the social, economic, and environmental objectives of the DTES Plan. The Grants Program provides funding based on Council priorities to help the local community—vulnerable residents, in particular—to achieve better opportunities and quality of life. For Chinatown, two societies and an artist facility have been approved for grant funding.

Dragon Lights

The dragon lights in Chinatown will be cleaned and re-painted in the same colour and updated with new LED lighting. This is a partnership between the Chinatown Community and the City of Vancouver, with the Community to raise matching funds.

Recognizing Lillian To

Council directed staff to report back on options to commemorate Lillian To, former Chief Executive Officer of SUCCESS, in recognition of her lifetime achievements advocating for the rights, responsibilities and benefits to newcomers to the City of Vancouver. Two sites on Pender (Carrall and at Shanghai Alley) are being considered, with the courtyard as the preferred area. The City would like to see the public space improved prior to any installation. A fundraising initiative may be undertaken for a commemorative structure at the site to be chosen.

Kelly Ip, SUCCESS representative to CHAPC, noted that SUCCESS would like to see the commemoration happen before December 2015 if possible.

The next report to Council is slated for the end of March with options for locations and costs being presented. Community consultation will also be required for the project and staff will report back to CHAPC as new information is available.

Staff responded to various questions related to the provision of open space for activities such as the night market. The DTES Plan did not change the Chinatown Plan, but reiterated to importance of space for the community to interact. There currently is no commitment for a new public space, but activation of space or opportunities to partner with developers will be explored with a goal to improve public realm space where possible. Laneway activation is still being contemplated but is proving challenging due to complexity. Discussion ensued on the underutilized space at the corner of Pender and Carrall.

Chinatown Character Workshop

A workshop will be held Friday, February 13 with Chinatown Community members to discuss with City staff the meaning of Chinatown character, the interpretation of the HA-1 and HA-1A zoning and design guidelines, and how to capture the essence of Chinatown character into the building design. The findings will be reported back to a special joint workshop of the Urban Design Panel (UDP) and the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee (CHAPC) in early March.

Although Friday's workshop is by invitation only to promote focused discussion, additional public consultation will be held at a later date. Feedback received will be provided to CHAPC to help inform committee feedback on future applications.

Neon Light Program

Staff will explore a program to reintroduce neon lights in the Chinatown area. The intention of the program is to support businesses and the work may inform future policy related to neon lights as well.

Committee members were encouraged to direct members of the community with specific questions related to current planning initiatives or development applications in Chinatown to the City's 3-1-1 service.

3) Heritage Action Plan - Update

Tanis Knowles Yarnell, Planner provided an on-screen presentation which presented an overview and progress update on the Plan, and reviewed the work program and public consultation schedule for 2015.

The Heritage Action Plan, approved by City Council in December 2013, is a set of strategic actions aimed at updating and improving the City's existing Heritage Conservation Program. The following are key areas for action and implementation through the Plan:

1. Heritage Conservation Program review
2. Heritage Register upgrade
3. Character home zoning review
4. Sustainability initiatives
5. Awareness and advocacy initiatives

A consultant team has been put in place, led by Donald Luxton and Associates. Broad public consultation will take place through the various stages of work and it was noted that Matthew Halverson sits on the Heritage Action Plan Committee as a representative for CHAPC.

Staff noted next steps including an update to CHAPC in late spring and a review of incentive tools and programs in the fall of 2015. Staff will communicate to the committee regarding the upcoming public consultation schedule as well.

Staff responded to a variety of questions related to the types of heritage programs, tools and incentives which might be explored under the work program. Staff also responded to questions related to the temporary procedures to protect pre-1940 character homes and the interim measure requiring the reuse and recycling of materials from demolished homes.

Additional background information on the Heritage Action Plan can be found online at: www.vancouver.ca/heritage-action-plan

Next meeting:

DATE: March 10, 2015
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Chinese Cultural Centre Boardroom, 50 East Pender Street

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Chair

Date Approved