



**GASTOWN HISTORIC AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 19, 2021**

Minutes of the meeting of the Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee (GHAPC) held on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, via videoconference.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brady Dunlop, Community Architect, Chair
Peter Meiszner, Community Resident Owner, Vice-Chair
Mahbod Biazi, Community Property Owner
Clarence Lowe, Community Business Representative (arrived at 4:25 p.m.)
Jurian ter Horst, Community Heritage Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sarah Chesterman, Community Resident Tenant

GUESTS: Bryce Gauthier, Principal, Gauthier & Associates Landscape Architecture Inc. (Item 3)
Stephanie Gimine, Project Engineer, Engineering Services (Item 3)
Bonnie Ma, Policy Planner, Downtown Eastside Planning Team (Item 3)
Lisa Parker, Branch Manager, Street Activities (Item 3)
Jesse Wiebe, Senior Engineer, Engineering Services (Item 3)

STAFF: Elijah Sabadlan, Heritage Planner

RECORDING SECRETARY: Debbie Reimer, Mosaic Writing Group

Call to Order

Brady Dunlop, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m.

1. Introductions and Welcome

Mr. Dunlop acknowledged the unceded ancestral territories of the territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations and thanked them for having care for this land.

Elijah Sabadlan, Heritage Planner, conducted the roll call.

2. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

MOVED by Mahbod Biazi
SECONDED by Peter Meiszner

THAT the Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee adopts the agenda for the May 19, 2021 meeting, as presented.

CARRIED

MOVED by Peter Meiszner
SECONDED by Jurian ter Horst

THAT the Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee adopts the minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting, as presented.

CARRIED

3. **Blood Alley Square Update**

Jesse Wiebe, Engineering Services, and Bryce Gauthier, Gauthier & Associates Landscape Architecture Inc., led the review of a presentation titled "GHAPC Presentation Blood Alley Square" and highlighted:

- The 10-year action plan for the Blood Alley Square redesign is in its final stages
- Creation of an urban space is based on the following principles:
 - Space that is dynamic, diverse and welcoming
 - Conservation or reinterpretation of important heritage characteristics
 - Retention of mature trees
 - Provision of shared loading for residents and businesses
 - Improve function of solid waste management
 - Stronger connection between Blood Alley Square and adjacent developments
 - A stewardship strategy that encourages equal opportunity use
- Blood Alley Square is designated as a National Historic Site
- Blood Alley Square design plans were driven by the National Historic Site designation and public engagement:
 - Focus on the character defining elements of trees, globe lights, bollards and cobblestone paving
 - Installation of expanded planters to maintain the health of the trees
 - Priority placed on safety and accessibility to address public concerns

Member Arrived

Clarence Lowe joined the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

- Paving was altered to improve accessibility, but cobblestones will be retained in specific areas
- Cobblestones and bricks will be reused and reset in different paving patterns
- Bollards will be retained, and globe lights will be refinished
- New handrails are unpolished stainless steel to resist weather and limit maintenance challenges
- Construction is expected to begin in fall 2021
- The stewardship plan will be developed following public consultation and will include event programming; artistic and creative opportunities; operation and maintenance; and social enterprise opportunities
- Waste management and Gastown complete streets have been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Discussion ensued on:

- The expected completion of the project is spring 2022

- Three sides of Blood Alley Square will be activated with commercial retail units and patios
- Blood Alley Square will be open during daylight hours
- Ways to celebrate the history of the space will be included in the stewardship strategy
- Public information posters about the redesign were installed within Blood Alley and other areas in the Downtown Eastside:
 - Suggestion to send the Blood Alley Square presentation to the community
- The future role of patios within plazas will be the subject of public engagement:
 - The need to consider individual neighbourhood sensitivities will be considered
- Stainless steel handrails will be unpolished for aesthetic appeal and the durability required for the neighbourhood.

Members provided the following feedback:

- The need to advise the public of the rationale for the design materials that were selected for the revitalization of Blood Alley Square, as the decisions may not be supported by heritage purists
- The revitalization exemplifies the Gastown spirit:
 - The attention given to this project is in keeping with the Gastown spirit and passion.

4. New Business

In response to questions from the members, Lisa Parker, Branch Manager, Street Activities, advised:

- The repair of Gastown Road was postponed due to budgetary constraints and logistical issues associated with the COVID-19 pandemic
- Planning for road repairs is in its initial stages and will be included in the next four-year capital plan.

5. Staff Update

Mr. Sabadlan thanked outgoing committee members and reported:

- James Bolt will be rejoining the heritage team
- The appointment of new advisory committee members is nearing completion
- Orientation for new GHAPC members will be provided at the June 16, 2021 meeting.

6. Adjournment

The Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee meeting held May 19, 2021 adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Date: June 16, 2021

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Place: Videoconference (WebEx Events)

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Certified correct:

Brady Dunlop, Chair

Date Approved