



**GASTOWN HISTORIC AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 18, 2023**

A meeting of the Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee was held on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at Cascadia Room, Third Floor, City Hall.

- PRESENT:** Tanya Bennett, Community Business Representative  
Harmony Cornwell, Local Property Owner, Chair  
Alyssa Myshok, Business Owner  
Adrian Watson, Community Architect
- LEAVE OF ABSENCE** Stephanie Ameyaw, Community Resident Tenant, Vice Chair  
Mitchell Thom, Local Property Owner
- LIAISONS PRESENT:** Councillor Peter Meiszner  
Rachel Magnusson, Branch Manager, Street Activities  
Elijah Sabadlan, Heritage Planner

**Call to Order**

The Chair (Harmony Cornwell) called the meeting to order at 4:29 p.m.

**1. Introduction**

The Chair opened with a land acknowledgement to recognize that we are on the unceded ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations, and expressed our gratitude for allowing us to inhabit in this land.

The Chair conducted a roll call.

**2. Adoption of Agenda and Minutes**

MOVED by Alyssa Myshok  
SECONDED by Tanya Bennett

THAT the Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee adopts the agenda for the October 18, 2023 meeting as presented.

CARRIED

Staff requested for some missing information before the call for motion to adopt the minutes for September 21, 2023.

MOVED by Adrian Watson  
SECONDED by Tanya Bennett

THAT the Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee adopts the minutes of the September 21, 2022 meeting presented.

CARRIED

**3. Vancouver Heritage Register Upgrade – Staff Update**

Staff provided a presentation to provide an update on the Vancouver Heritage Register (VHR) Upgrade project, including a summary of the proposed improvements to address key issues previously identified, and provided key highlights on the decisions and changes proposed for the VHR. Discussion followed, with Staff being asked to elaborate on the noted process and content improvement. Staff clarified that the project does not include changes to the historic district schedules and associated design guidelines on how to conserve heritage properties, as they are beyond the scope of the project.

MOVED by Adrian Watson  
SECONDED by Alyssa Myshok

THAT the Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee recognizes and supports the work to upgrade the Vancouver Heritage Register to be able to streamline data management processes, incorporate best standards, improve public accessibility, incorporate a values-based approach, simplify process, and clarify contents, while removing categories heritage can not control (such as trees). Further we support the Vancouver Heritage Register containing a Truth-telling Statement with land acknowledgements based on feedback from xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

CARRIED

**4. Gastown Public Spaces Plan – Staff Update**

Staff provided a presentation to provide an introduction of the Gastown Public Spaces Plan. Staff provided a summary of the draft goals and objectives of the plan, the direction from City Council, and an overview of the project deliverables, timing and funding.

Discussion followed, with members noting their observations on pedestrian and vehicular traffic along West Cordova Street (issues and recommendations), how staff would measure success of the pilot projects, and to elaborate on the scope of the public space plan, particularly how the proposed pedestrianization would negatively affect adjacent neighbourhoods.

MOVED by Alussa Myshok  
SECONDED by Adrian Watson

THAT the Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee:

1. acknowledges and generally supports the Gastown Public Spaces Plan process as presented during the staff update, but recognize the challenges the program may present; and,
2. requests ongoing periodic engagement and clarification on opportunities for involvement by Committee members, specifically related to the conservation of the Gastown Historic District (HA-2).

CARRIED

**5. New Business**

There were no new business discussed. Staff informally noted to the members of an upcoming Information Session for a rezoning application that includes three heritage buildings that are legally protected by municipal designation: the Dunn and Miller Block,

VHR-A (8 W Cordova St); the Callister Block, VHR-B (30-34 W Cordova St); and the McIntosh Block, VHR-B (36 W Cordova St).

The GHAPC meeting held on September 20, 2023 adjourned at 5:56.

CARRIED

**Next Meeting:**

Date: November 15, 2023

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Place: Cascadia Room, Third Floor, Vancouver City Hall

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