

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

May 11, 2017

A meeting of the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee (CHAPC) was held on Tuesday, May 11, 2017 at 5:30 pm, in the Boardroom of the Chinese Cultural Centre, 50 East Pender Street, Vancouver, BC.

PRESENT:

Helen Lee, Chair
Andrew Lau, Vice-Chair
Marianne Amodio
John Atkin (departed 7:20 p.m.)
Gregory Borowski (arrived 5:55 p.m.)
(Vincent) Pui Lam Ho (arrived 6:24 p.m.)
Edmund Ma
Inge Roecker
Mark Shieh
May So
Brian Yu

ABSENT:

Joseph Lau
Raymond Tam
Councillor Kerry Jang
Councillor Raymond Louie
Commissioner Erin Shum, Parks Board
Vacant, Vancouver School Board

ALSO PRESENT:

Marco D'Agostini, Senior Heritage Planner
Gil Kelley, General Manager of Planning,
 Urban Design and Sustainability (Item 3)
Helen Ma, Planner, DTES Group (Item 3)
Bonnie Mah, Planner 2, DTES Group (Item 2)
Maxine Schleger, Heritage Planner
Mary-Ann McKinnon, Student
Tannis Knowles Yarnell, Planner,
 Heritage Action Plan Implementation (Item 2)

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Rae Ratslef, Raincoast Ventures Ltd.

A quorum being present, Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

1) Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

MOVED by Marianne Amodio
AND SECONDED by Mark Sheih

That the Agenda for the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee meeting scheduled May 11, 2017 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

MOVED by John Atkin
AND SECONDED by Inge Roecker

THAT the Minutes of the Chinatown Historic Area Planning Committee meeting held March 9, 2017 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

2) Heritage Action Plan Update

Tanis Knowles Yarnell, Planner, Heritage Action Plan Implementation, reviewed an overhead presentation on renewing the City's Heritage Action Plan (HAP), and highlighted: overview of the HAP; renewed vision and goals; emerging directions; strategic directions and potential actions for each goal; and next steps.

Staff received comments and responded to questions regarding: potential reimplementations of the density transfer program with an annual maximum; role of this and other City initiatives to support legacy businesses; and relevance of the HAP to existing policies, particularly for Chinatown.

6:24 p.m.

(Vincent) Pui Lam Ho arrived at the meeting.

Staff received further comments and responded to questions regarding: suggestion to separate out heritage residential buildings in the Building Bylaw rather than to treat them as modern buildings; process for adding properties to the Vancouver Heritage Register (VCH); and the need for special considerations for buildings of other eras and character homes.

It was confirmed that there would be a further presentation to CHAPC providing an update on further planned consultations.

3) Meeting with Gil Kelly, General Manager of Planning, Urban Design & Sustainability

Gil Kelley, General Manager of Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, and Helen Mah, Planning, were welcomed to the meeting. A round table of introductions ensued.

Mr. Kelley discussed his experiences in planning in San Francisco, and looked forward to the dialogue around the quality and character of Vancouver's special neighbourhoods, including Chinatown and Gastown.

Mr. Kelley discussed the challenge of Vancouver's growth with the mix of incomes, backgrounds, and ethnicities moving into the City; and shared his thoughts on the next economy for Vancouver. He agreed with the sentiment that there is something special about Chinatown that has to be enhanced and preserved while at the same time new investment is able to occur. He commented on his understanding of the role of CHAPC, particularly to advise on the intangibles, and spoke on the need to update the CHAPC Terms of Reference to ensure that they meet the needs of both CHAPC and the City.

Helen Ma, Planner, DTES Group, advised of the status of consultation on revisions to the zoning rules and regulations. A report would be provided to Council at its June 13, 2017 meeting, where the item would be scheduled to go to public hearing, likely on July 11, 2017. Through consultation, staff heard that there is a lot of support for what is proposed for the base zoning, concerns about buildings above 90 feet, and there is need to pay more attention to protecting the intangible character of Chinatown. Staff recommendations to Council include a recommendation to repeal the extra height rezoning in Chinatown and to limit site frontages.

Staff received comments and responded to questions regarding: support for the recommendation to repeal the extra height rezoning; lack of incentive for small-scale development; need to allow the fabric to function as it did traditionally, and for the guidelines to allow flexibility for different massing; importance of promoting innovation for special projects; and suggestion to revisit design guidelines.

7:20 p.m.

John Atkin departed the meeting.

Discussion continued on: need to create smaller business models and allow small-scale businesses as part of the revitalization process; interest in laneway addresses and relaxations on loading bays; interest in a long-term liaison to stay in touch with the community to ensure that collective promises are upheld; work done in Portland to reduce barriers and to foster creativity and innovation; and the importance of pilot projects.

CHAPC noted its interest to receive a presentation on the Planning Department budget in the fall; and to receive a presentation on the City's Places and Spaces program, which was intended to define the elements of public life and find better ways to use spaces.

Discussion continued on: need to clarify the relationship of CHAPC to the Urban Design Panel; opportunity that CHAPC offers for civic engagement; interest in moving to a relaxed, informal workshop format for CHAPC to review projects; need to define roles and procedures for CHAPC meetings in order to facilitate the most productive conversations; importance of the health of the small business community in Chinatown; potential for the City to help with arrangements for the night market in Chinatown; and interest to see a broader scope of jurisdiction and range of authority for CHAPC.

Staff was requested to email to CHAPC members the staff recommendation to Council regarding proposed FSRs.

The Chair thanked guests for their presentations, and looked forward to a future workshop to discuss issues in more depth. On behalf of the Committee, the Chair presented Mr. Kelley with a gift.

Next meeting:

DATE: June 8, 2017
TIME: 5:30 pm
PLACE: Chinese Cultural Centre Boardroom, 50 East Pender Street

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Chair

Date Approved