



## Heritage Richmond Hill

### Minutes

HRH#07-20

Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

**(Electronic Meeting pursuant to Section 238(3.3) of the Municipal Act, 2001)**

An Electronic Heritage Richmond Hill Meeting, pursuant to Section 238(3.3) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, of the Council of the City of Richmond Hill was held on Tuesday, December 8 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via videoconference.

Committee Members present via videoconference:

Morteza Behrooz (Ward 2) Chair  
Marj Andre (Richmond Hill Historical Society) Vice-Chair  
Councillor West  
Councillor Cilevitz  
Dan Kelly (Ward 4)  
Barbara DiMambro (Ward 5)  
Doris Dumais (Ward 6)

Regrets:

James Counter (Ward 1)  
Helen Lu (Ward 3)  
Anthony Yeung (Education Community)  
Joseph Deveau (Richmond Hill Public Library)  
Al Itwar (Member at Large)

Staff members present via videoconference:

P. Lee, Director, Policy Planning  
A. Farrugia, Manager, Parks Operations  
J. Leung, Manager, Heritage and Urban Design  
P. Vega, Urban Design/Heritage Planner  
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk  
K. Hurley, Council/Committee Coordinator

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and provided opening remarks with respect to tonight's electronic Heritage Richmond Hill meeting.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

Moved by: D Dumais

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk.

Carried

**2. Disclosures of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof**

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest by members of the Committee under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

**3. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**3.1 Minutes - Heritage Richmond Hill meeting HRH#06-20 held November 10, 2020**

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That the minutes of Heritage Richmond Hill meeting HRH#06-20 held November 10, 2020 be adopted.

Carried

**3.2 Extracts - Council meeting C#49-20 held November 25, 2020**

Moved by: B. DiMambro

a) That the extract from Council meeting C#49-20 held November 25, 2020 regarding staff report SRPI.20.024, Heritage Permit Application for 158 Gormley Road West, be received;

b) That the extract from Council meeting C#49-20 held November 25, 2020 regarding staff report SRPI.20.023, Removal of 11061 Bayview Avenue from Heritage Register, be received.

Carried

**4. Delegations**

There were no delegations.

**5. Scheduled Business**

**5.1 SRPI.20.039 - Heritage Permit Application for the Phase 2 David Dunlap Observatory Park Woodland Restoration - Project D12-07228**

**- Presentation by Ann Marie Farrugia, Manager, Parks Operations, and Joanne Leung, Manager, Urban Design**

Joanne Leung, Manager, Urban Design, provided introductory remarks regarding the Heritage Permit Application for the Phase 2 David Dunlap Observatory Park (DDO Park) Woodland Restoration, and advised that Ann Marie Farrugia, Manager, Parks Operations, was in attendance to assist with the presentation as her team was instrumental in the Woodland Restoration Project.

J. Leung provided background information on the David Dunlap Observatory Cultural Heritage Landscape located within the DDO Park which was designated in 2009, identified a number of heritage attributes to be protected including two buildings and landscape features, and advised that activities undertaken within the Cultural Heritage Landscape may require heritage permits and Council consent. She provided an overview of the mediated settlement for the residential development application associated with the DDO Park site, and noted that Richmond Hill would receive compensation from the developer to create 8.41 hectares of new self-sustaining native forest communities and to manage and enhance 24.46 hectares of existing woodlands within the property. J. Leung advised that in partnership with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) a baseline analysis and restoration plan for the Park was developed; and noted that the David Dunlap Observatory Park Master Plan was endorsed by Council in 2016 which set out a long term vision for the future enhancement, management and programming of the Park while continuing to protect the heritage attributes of the lands.

A. Farrugia provided additional details related to the DDO Park Master Plan highlighting that it provided direction as to where the restoration would take place on the property and where the woodlands would be developed, and advised that the Plan was a long term vision that continued to protect the heritage attributes of the lands. She advised that the TRCA prepared the *David Dunlap Observatory Study Area Natural Feature Baseline Assessment and Prioritization Report* which outlined the scopes and timing of the woodland restoration works and reviewed its objectives, and provided an overview of the DDO Park Restoration Plan that included two phases as follows:

**Phase 1 (2017 to 2022)**

- Removal of hazard ash trees;
- Invasive species management;
- Planting; and

- Monitoring and adaptive management.

**Phase 2 (2020 to 2025)**

- Hydrological improvements;
- Removal of hazard trees;
- Invasive species management;
- Planting; and
- Monitoring and adaptive management.

A. Farrugia noted that a number of designated attributes were located within the Phase 2 woodland creation and restoration areas, and advised that within the DDO cultural heritage landscape, there were three heritage attributes identified that were within or near the Phase 2 area including a larch tree line along the original laneway from Yonge Street, fence rows, and specimen plantings.

J. Leung reviewed for the Committee the Heritage Permit Application process as approved in 2014, and advised that Council consideration and approval was required to remove the invasive vegetation, prune the trees, and add new vegetation for the specimen plantings as part of the woodland restoration project.

A. Farrugia concluded the presentation by reviewing next steps in the process which included the removal of hazardous trees and invasive plants (winter 2021); site preparation including mowing to reduce plant competition, installation of deer fencing enclosures, and planning a variety of native trees and shrubs in the existing fence rows and open fields to create new forested areas (spring 2021); and monitoring and spot spraying of herbicides to control invasive species (fall 2021).

Committee members extended their thanks to the staff involved in the woodlot restoration on the DDO property and acknowledged all those who had contributed to making it an enjoyable passive parkland for current and future generations to enjoy.

Questions were asked regarding whether public access to the DDO Park was restricted with the work taking place on the property. A. Farrugia confirmed that neighbouring property owners were notified of the work scheduled to take place at the DDO Park and that public access was still permitted in the park but not on the trails, noting that TRCA was on site

planting and were able to advise any residents that entered the work area where access was temporarily not permitted.

Committee members inquired about whether there was a change in the status of the Elms Lea farmhouse on the David Dunlap Observatory property. J. Leung advised there had been no change in the status of the Elms Lea farmhouse that it was currently being leased, and once the family ceased to live there the building would return back to the City.

General discussion ensued regarding the process of approving the restoration of cultural heritage, specifically related to the heritage permit application for the proposed woodland restoration on the DDO property, and what could be learned from this experience going forward to potentially apply to other areas in the municipality as it involved both the natural environment as well as architecture. J. Leung provided background information on the cultural heritage landscape of the DDO property including heritage attributes, and how they were identified and assessed in both the Designating By-law and in the David Dunlap Observatory Lands Conservation Management Plan. In addition, J. Leung confirmed that a similar approach could be used in other areas, as well as for Heritage Conservation Districts such as Gormley, in accordance with the legislative and policy framework in place and with Council approval. Patrick Lee, Director, Policy Planning, noted that through the update to the City's Official Plan, policies were being explored that would incorporate view corridors that have a heritage perspective and that the Committee would have an opportunity to provide comments.

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

### **Recommendation 1**

**That the Heritage Richmond Hill Committee recommends to Council:**

**a) That the Heritage Permit Application to implement the proposed woodland restoration plan as described in the David Dunlap Observatory Park Phase 2 South-West Detailed Woodland Restoration and Implementation Plan (attached as Appendix 'A' to staff report SRPI.20.039), be approved.**

Carried

## **5.2 Designation Sub-Committee - Verbal Update**

Dan Kelly advised that there were no significant updates to provide on behalf of the Designation Sub-Committee.

## **6. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Heritage Richmond Hill was scheduled on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Chair Behrooz thanked members for their efforts over the last year, acknowledging the number of issues that they discussed as a Committee, and wished everyone happy holidays.

Councillor Cilevitz also thanked Heritage Richmond Hill members, the Chair and Vice-Chair, and staff for their dedication and commitment to heritage and extended happy holidays to everyone.

Councillor West echoed the comments made by the Chair and Councillor Cilevitz and acknowledged the dedicated group of citizen members appointed to Heritage Richmond Hill, and wished everyone the best of the holiday season.

## **7. Adjournment**

Moved by: D. Dumais

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.