



## Heritage Richmond Hill

### Minutes

**HRH#04-21**

**Tuesday, June 8, 2021, 7:00 p.m.**

**(Electronic Meeting during an Emergency, 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, June 8, 2021 at 7:05 p.m. via videoconference.

Committee Members Present via videoconference:

Marj Andre (Richmond Hill Historical Society) Vice-Chair  
Councillor West  
Councillor Cilevitz  
Dan Kelly (Ward 4)  
Barbara DiMambro (Ward 5)  
Doris Dumais (Ward 6)  
Jenica Veenstra (Richmond Hill Public Library)  
Al Itwar (Member at Large)

Regrets:

Morteza Behrooz (Ward 2) Chair  
James Counter (Ward 1)  
Helen Lu (Ward 3)  
Anthony Yeung (Education Community)

The following members of Staff were present via videoconference:

S. von Kursell, Manager, Policy  
J. Leung, Manager, Heritage and Urban Design  
P. Vega, Urban Design/Heritage Planner  
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk  
S. Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and provided opening remarks with respect to tonight's electronic Heritage Richmond Hill meeting.

**1. Adoption of Agenda**

Moved by: Councillor West

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#03-21 held May 4, 2021**

Moved by: D. Kelly

a) That the minutes of Heritage Richmond Hill meeting HRH#03-21 held May 4, 2021 be adopted.

Carried

**3.2 Extracts - Council meeting C#27-21 held May 26, 2021**

Moved by: Councillor West

That the extracts from Council meeting C#27-21 held May 26, 2021 regarding the following items be received:

a) SRPI.21.046 - Heritage Permit Application - 16 Bawden Drive - Hilt/Bawden House – File D12-07267;

b) SRPI.21.042 - 2021 Heritage Grant Applications - 7 Properties

- 11225 Leslie Street, 9875 Leslie Street, 217 Gormley Road West, 16 Bawden Drive, 32 Love Court, 26 Gormley Court and 97 Centre Street West

c) Presentation by Dan Kelly, Designation Sub-Committee, regarding proposed process improvements for listing properties on the Richmond Hill Heritage Register

Carried

**4. Delegations**

There were no delegations.

## **5. Scheduled Business**

### **5.1 Presentation by Sybelle von Kursell, Manager of Policy Planning, Joanne Leung, Manager of Urban Design and Pamela Vega, Urban Design/Heritage Planner, regarding the Official Plan Review**

Joanne Leung, Manager, Heritage and Urban Design, extended her appreciation to Sybelle von Kursell, Manager of Policy, for joining the meeting to present the City Plan 2041 Official Plan Update, and advised that she was the team leader and architect for the update. J. Leung noted that the Official Plan (OP) team had worked tirelessly within the last several months in organizing consultation events throughout the City. She also advised that following the presentation, Pamela Vega, Urban Design/Heritage Planner, would provide details on the OP policies in the heritage section of the current OP.

Sybelle von Kursell, Manager of Policy, began by describing the purpose of the OP, noting that it needed to conform to the Region of York's OP and applicable Provincial plans, and be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement. She provided details on the five core chapters of the City's OP, and advised that schedules and maps helped clarify the policy direction within the document. S. von Kursell outlined the reasons for updating the current OP, and other related initiatives that were underway, noting that the key objective was that the work be aligned to address the same vision for the City.

S. von Kursell provided an overview of the phases of the OP update, the proposed 2041 Vision and urban structure, and the four pillars that will be considered when updating the OP. She noted that the pillar of "Protect and Enhance" was likely particularly relevant to the Committee as it was generally the lens used to consider cultural heritage matters. S. von Kursell shared the findings from the "What We Heard" report, and outlined Phase 2 and 3 of the OP Update process. She advised that implementation occurred through a broad partnership with many stakeholders, and touched on the engagement methods used to reach a broad audience and all stakeholders.

Pamela Vega, Urban Design/Heritage Planner, began by describing the purpose of her presentation, and advised of the two types of heritage policies within the OP, noting that the policies provided a framework for the City to protect and conserve its cultural heritage. She advised that OP policies did not include details on processes or the "how", as they were

detailed in other documents. P. Vega summarized the Heritage Conservation Framework in Richmond Hill, advised of the regulatory policies within the OP that dealt specifically with cultural heritage, including the tools provided by the OP established through non-heritage-specific legislation. She advised that most of the heritage-specific policies in the OP identified when the guiding principles and tools would be implemented in Richmond Hill. P. Vega also outlined the site-specific and City-wide conservation policies within the OP.

The Committee extended their gratitude to S. von Kursell and P. Vega for their presentation and complemented the team undertaking the review. The Committee provided suggestions on additional content that could be added to the introductory paragraph of the summary that was included in the OP. Comments were heard regarding the role of the Committee in communicating the importance of heritage in the OP, and the significance of having strong heritage policies within the document.

J. Leung addressed questions and concerns regarding the role of the Committee and Council in protecting the City's heritage resources and the limitations of working within the Ontario Heritage Act. Committee members shared their opinion on the importance and future role of the Committee, the use of digitization as a tool to protect the City's heritage, and importance of enforcing heritage related by-laws and penalties as a means to protect the City's cultural resources.

The Committee inquired as to the possibility of including a description of the history of Richmond Hill within the OP. S. von Kursell advised that a description was included within Chapter 1 of the OP, and urged the Committee to review it to see if it required further embellishment. M. Andre advised that she would ask the Richmond Hill Historical Society to review the introduction and provide comments.

Moved by: D. Dumais

a) That the presentation by Sybelle von Kursell, Manager of Policy Planning, Joanne Leung, Manager of Urban Design and Pamela Vega, Urban Design/Heritage Planner, regarding the Official Plan Review, be received.

Carried

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

Dan Kelly presented the City's Heritage Inventory by Ward, highlighted that that most historic buildings were located in Ward 2 and 4, and drew attention to the number of designated and listed properties. D. Kelly shared information on the number of vacant properties that were designated and listed, and statistics regarding both the Plaque Program and property relocation. He displayed a map to illustrate where heritage properties were located, noting that such a tool, as well as the previous analysis, was a demonstration of transparency.

The Committee shared their gratitude toward D. Kelly for his efforts, and dedication with respect to the material he prepared. It was suggested that an inexpensive handbook be prepared and distributed to all Richmond Hill residents to explain the necessity of protecting heritage and the reasons why it was important, and as a means of raising awareness of the Committee's work and purpose. The Committee also discussed the difficulties associated with relocating heritage buildings.

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That the verbal update by the Designation Sub-committee be received.

Carried

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

- Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

## **7. Adjournment**

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.