



Heritage Richmond Hill

Minutes

HRH#02-22

Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 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, March 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. via videoconference.

Committee Members present via videoconference:

Marj Andre (Richmond Hill Historical Society) Chair
Barbara DiMambro (Ward 5) Vice-Chair
Councillor Cilevitz
James Counter (Ward 1)
Helen Lu (Ward 3)
Kidambi Raj (Ward 3)
Dan Kelly (Ward 4)
Doris Dumais (Ward 6)
Jenica Veenstra (Richmond Hill Public Library)

Regrets:

Mayor West
Al Itwar (Member at Large)
Tom Pechkovsky (Education Community)

The following members of Staff were present via videoconference:

J. Leung, Manager, Heritage and Urban Design
P. Vega, Heritage/Urban Design Planner
R. Ban, Deputy City Clerk
K. Hurley, Council/Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and provided opening remarks with respect to tonight's electronic Heritage Richmond Hill meeting.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Moved by: D. Dumais

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk.

Carried

3. 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*.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

4.1 Minutes - Heritage Richmond Hill meeting HRH#01-22 held February 15, 2022

Moved by: B. DiMambro

a) That the minutes of Heritage Richmond Hill meeting HRH#01-22 held February 15, 2022, as amended, be adopted.

Carried

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. Scheduled Business

6.1 SRPI.22.027 - Heritage Permit Application for 376 Church Street South - File D12-07166

Committee members noted the importance of undertaking the repair work at the City owned heritage building located at 376 Church Street South to ensure it was maintained and to prevent any degradation, and inquired about the repair work having been identified in 2017. Staff confirmed that the repair work was identified through a 2017 condition assessment report of various City heritage buildings and was a project headed by Asset Management.

An inquiry was made for clarification asking if this repair work was considered a minor alteration as discussed at the February meeting, and if these types of items still needed to come forward to Heritage Richmond Hill for consideration. Staff confirmed that the recommendations contained in staff report SRPI.22.027 were considered minor alterations, but until Council considered and enacted the revised delegated authority

by-law which staff were targeting to bring forward before the summer recess, that the current process would continue.

Moved by: J. Counter

a) That the Heritage Permit Application to repaint and repair the exterior of the building at 376 Church Street South, as described in staff report SRPI.22.027, be approved.

Carried

6.2 SRPI.22.029 - Heritage Permit Application for 1370 Elgin Mills Road East - File D12-07175

Committee members inquired about whether the repair work on the Richmond Hill Railway Station building was required at this time, noting the costs associated with the work. Staff advised that a Heritage Specialist went on site to review the subject property located at 1370 Elgin Mills Road East and confirmed that elements of the paint were at the end of their life cycle, for example starting to chip, and that they would be repairing and repainting those elements and not the entire building. It was noted that similar to the previous Heritage Permit Application considered under Item 6.1, that required work to a heritage building should be attended to so as to prevent further deterioration and potentially higher repair costs.

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

a) That the Heritage Permit Application to repaint and repair the exterior of the building at 1370 Elgin Mills Road East, as described in staff report SRPI.22.029, be approved.

Carried

6.3 Correspondence from Marj Andre, Chair, Heritage Richmond Hill Committee, received February 8, 2022, regarding the Provincial Government proposal to Restrict Municipal Heritage Designations

Marj Andre, Chair, Heritage Richmond Hill, introduced the correspondence that she submitted regarding the Provincial Government's proposal to Restrict Municipal Heritage Designations, as discussed in The Toronto Star article dated February 8, 2022, and other recent publications which were distributed as part of Item 6.3 on the agenda. Pamela Vega, Heritage/Urban Design Planner, addressed the topic and the Report of the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force and noted that no members of

the heritage community or from the Ministry responsible for heritage were included in the discussions leading up to the creation of this Report. P. Vega identified two recommendations within the Report that were specific to heritage:

- Recommendation 16 - Prevent abuse of the heritage preservation and designation process by:
 - a) Prohibiting the use of bulk listing on municipal heritage registers
 - b) Prohibiting reactive heritage designations after a Planning Act development application has been filed
- Recommendation 17 - Requiring municipalities to compensate property owners for loss of property value as a result of heritage designations, based on the principle of best economic use of land

P. Vega noted the recommendations were not open for comment and therefore staff were not sure how to address them at this time. Discussion ensued amongst the Committee members regarding their concern with the lack of consultation and communication with various heritage stakeholders leading up to the Report, and that it should have been addressed through the municipality's Affordability Housing Strategy. Staff addressed the comments made and highlighted the overlap and relationship between heritage and affordable housing, and noted that these two areas could work together.

Committee members discussed the relationship between heritage buildings, including those that are vacant, and affordable housing as it related to Richmond Hill's Inventory of Cultural Heritage Resources, specifically the George Quantz House located at Bayview Avenue and High Tech Road, and whether heritage buildings such as this that although not owned by the City, could be repurposed. Joanne Leung, Manager, Heritage and Urban Design, provided an update related to the use of the George Quantz House, noting it was zoned for commercial use rather than residential, and addressed the subject of heritage homes coming into public ownership and the associated implications and maintenance costs for the municipality.

The Committee further discussed their concerns related to the membership of the Task Force and the suggestion that heritage committees in the province were in some way abusing the heritage process and delaying development, and inquired if a letter could be sent expressing concern regarding the lack of consultation and inquiring about

the broader plan. Staff noted that at this time, the Task Force's Report identified recommendations and no formal plan was released regarding the implementation of the recommendations.

Next steps were discussed regarding following up with the province on the Report of the Ontario Housing Affordability Task Force related to the heritage related recommendations, specifically their interpretation, the opportunity for heritage stakeholders to provide comments, what mechanisms would be used for their implementation, and the rationale behind each one, acknowledging the impact of the Report and its relationship with the City's Affordable Housing Strategy. J. Leung commented that the Report addressed a broad range of topics and advised the Committee that staff were requested to provide a response to the Policy team at the City specific to the heritage components of the Report, and was hoping there would be further direction regarding next steps.

Moved by: D. Dumais

a) That the correspondence from Marj Andre, Chair, Heritage Richmond Hill Committee, received February 8, 2022, regarding the Provincial Government proposal to Restrict Municipal Heritage Designations, be received and that all comments be referred back to staff.

Carried

6.4 Designation Sub-committee - Verbal Update

Dan Kelly advised that the Designation Sub-committee did not have an update to provide at this month's meeting.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of Heritage Richmond Hill was scheduled on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Moved by: J. Veenstra

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.