



## Heritage Richmond Hill

### Minutes

**HRH#05-22**

**Tuesday, June 14, 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, June 14, 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 Sheppard  
Councillor Cilevitz  
Helen Lu (Ward 3)  
Kidambi Raj (Ward 3)  
Dan Kelly (Ward 4)  
Doris Dumais (Ward 6)  
Jenica Veenstra (Richmond Hill Public Library)  
Al Itwar (Member at Large)

Regrets:

James Counter (Ward 1)  
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  
S. Dumont, Council/Committee Coordinator

#### **1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and provided opening remarks with respect to tonight's electronic Heritage Richmond Hill meeting.

**2. Adoption of Agenda**

Moved by: K. Raj

That the agenda be adopted as distributed by the Clerk with the following addition:

a) Delegation from Hesham Mohamed and Matthew Creador, Treasure Hill, on behalf of the owner, regarding Request to Demolish the David Hislop House at 1577-1621 Major Mackenzie Drive East - (Item 5.2).

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#04-22 held May 17, 2022**

Moved by: J. Veenstra

a) That the minutes of Heritage Richmond Hill meeting HRH#04-22 held May 17, 2022, be adopted.

Carried

**4.2 Extracts - Council Meeting C#23-22 held May 25, 2022**

Moved by: Councillor Sheppard

a) That the extracts from the Council meeting C#23-22 held May 25, 2022, regarding staff reports SRPI.22.048 (Request to Amend Heritage Designating By-law 290-98), SRPI.22.052 (Heritage Permit Application for 37 Chao Crescent) and SRPI.22.056 (2022 Heritage Grant Applications - Six Properties), be received.

Carried

**5. Delegations**

**5.1 Philip Evans, ERA Architects, regarding Request to Demolish the David Hislop House at 1577-1621 Major Mackenzie Drive East - (refer to Item 6.1)**

Philip Evans, ERA Architects, regarding Request to Demolish the David Hislop House at 1577-1621 Major Mackenzie Drive East, provided a brief history on the property and advised that a Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) was prepared to assess the proposed removal of the David Hislop House to accommodate the redevelopment of the property. He advised that the CHIA concluded that the proposed mitigation strategy, a robust commemoration strategy, will communicate the Site's cultural heritage value. P. Evans advised of the themes within the conservation strategy that speak to the cultural value of the property and provided details on the interpretation strategy, which included park programming and historical location programming.

**5.2 Hesham Mohamed and Matthew Creador, Treasure Hill, on behalf of the owner, regarding Request to Demolish the David Hislop House at 1577-1621 Major Mackenzie Drive East - (refer to Item 6.1)**

Hesham Mohamed and Matthew Creador, Treasure Hill, joined the electronic meeting to be available to answer questions from the Committee, however, no questions were directed to them.

**6. Scheduled Business**

**6.1 SRPI.22.067 – Request to Demolish the David Hislop House at 1577-1621 Major Mackenzie Drive East (City Files D12-07322, D12-07323)**

Committee members thanked ERA Architects for incorporating historical elements in the design, and shared their opinion that the park did not showcase the significant historical value of the property to the broader community, and that it needed to be done in a more substantial way.

Committee members shared their disappointment that the home was allowed to deteriorate for years, and shared their opinion that it was a prime example of demolition by neglect. They highlighted the historical significance of the heritage site, noting that there were instances nearby where other heritage sites were preserved, and that it was unfortunate that the home had not been preserved and re-located. Committee members commented on the significant loss to the City's heritage landscape, and their disappointment that demolition was required due to the condition, and lack of care by the previous landowner. Committee members also shared their hope that other applicants who read about this situation would understand that the Heritage Richmond Hill Committee was not happy with the outcome of this situation.

Committee members remarked on the frequency in which demolition by neglect occurred, and questioned what they could do to stop it from occurring. Committee members shared their opinion that this situation demonstrated that the City's procedures and policies were not effective at preserving heritage assets, and that being reactive instead of proactive was contributing to the problem. Staff also addressed questions regarding the period in which the building was vacant, and how the designation status could be retained.

Committee members shared ideas of how the City could be proactive and improve the transparency and visibility of heritage properties. Comments were made regarding the complexities of operating within the Ontario Heritage Act, noting that it included good tools, but that it was up to Council and the community to determine how they could be implemented.

Moved by: Councillor Cilevitz

- a) That Council consent to the demolition request for the David Hislop House located at 1577-1621 Major Mackenzie Drive East;
- b) That the Clerk provide the Ontario Heritage Trust and the owner of the designated property described in municipal By-law 143-97, as amended by By-law 68-06, written notice of Council's decision regarding the demolition request for the David Hislop House;
- c) That the Interpretation Strategy as described in SRPI 22.067 be endorsed and implemented;
- d) That the owner carefully salvage at least 2,500 intact bricks from the David Hislop House, and transport them to the storage facility agreed upon with the City; and,
- e) That, once the demolition is complete, Council in consultation with Heritage Richmond Hill initiate the repeal process for Heritage Designation By-law 143-97, amended by By-law 68-06, which designated the property at 1577-1621 Major Mackenzie Drive East under Part IV of the *Ontario Heritage Act*.

Carried

**6.2 SRPI.22.074 – Request for Demolition of the John Love House at 6 Greywacke Street (formerly 630 King Road) (City File: D12-07232)**

Committee members advised that their comments were similar in nature to those made during consideration of Agenda Item 6.1, noting that it was

another example of demolition by neglect, and was a significant loss. Staff addressed questions regarding the vacancy of the property and confirmed that the owner entered into a Heritage Restoration Agreement (Agreement) to facilitate the relocation, restoration and inclusion of a rear addition to the building. Staff advised that the Agreement was not followed, and that they were looking to tighten the wording of future agreements to allow the City to have more power to ensure compliance. Committee members asked for further information on the Agreement, and shared their opinion that if the owner followed the Agreement, and if demolition by neglect was the result, that the problem lied with the wording of the Agreement, and that it should be addressed in the future.

Committee members shared their opinion that they needed to focus on the properties that could be saved, and use all the tools that were available to them. There was also discussion on imposing financial penalties on property owners, having volunteers monitor properties on the Heritage Registry, and having By-law staff lay charges.

Moved by: H. Lu

- a) That Council consent to the demolition request for the John Love House located at 6 Greywacke Street (formerly 630 King Road) subject to the owner constructing a replacement building in a style that reflects the property's history, and subject to the owner erecting a commemorative plaque on the property;
- b) That the Clerk provide the Ontario Heritage Trust and the owner of the designated property described in municipal By-law 95-13, amended by By-law 66-18, written notice of Council's decision regarding the demolition request for the John Love House;
- c) That, once the John Love House located at 6 Greywacke Street (formerly 630 King Road) is demolished, Council, in consultation with Heritage Richmond Hill initiate the repeal process for Heritage Designation By-law 95-13, amended by By-law 66-18.

Carried

**6.3 Request for information regarding the Heritage Status letter issued by Planning and Infrastructure Department - Discussion Item by Al Itwar**

Staff advised that the fee imposed for the Heritage Status Letter (Letter) was approved and enacted in the Tariff of Fees By-law, and that

consideration of the fee was outside the scope of the Committee, as outlined in the Terms of Reference.

Staff provided details on the Letter, noting that it was a formal document written by the City confirming a property's heritage status, and that a fee was charged due to the staff time and research that was required in its preparation. It was advised that lawyers' offices or property sellers usually requested the letter as a form of proof that no heritage hindrance existed with respect to the property.

Moved by: Al Itwar

a) That all comments regarding the Heritage Status letter issued by Planning and Infrastructure department be received.

Carried

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

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

#### **6.5 Promotion and Marketing Sub-committee - Verbal Update**

Doris Dumais advised that the Sub-committee had not had the opportunity to meet, and that she was preparing a proposal for consideration by the Sub-committee that would be ready next week. Staff advised that they would assist in the circulation of the proposal.

Committee members clarified the points of focus of the Sub-committee, which included a review of the orientation program for new members. It was requested that Staff circulate the orientation materials and important website links that were provided at the beginning of the Committee's term. Sub-committee members also proposed a virtual meeting in August to discuss D. Dumais proposal and the orientation program.

Moved by: Al Itwar

a) That the verbal update by the Promotion and Marketing Sub-committee be received.

Carried

### **7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Heritage Richmond Hill was scheduled on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

**8. Adjournment**

Moved by: D. Dumais

That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.