

**MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 1, 2010 AT 5:00PM  
IN THE ESPLANADE CUTBANKS ROOM**

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**PRESENT MEMBERS:** Malcolm Sissons, Chair  
George Webb, Vice-Chair [*until 6:25 p.m.*]  
Dennis Baresco  
Mark Dumanowski  
Alderman Ty Schneider, Aldermanic Representative  
Dr. Andrea McIntosh, Arts and Heritage Advisory Board Representative  
Philip Pype, Archivist - *ex-officio*  
Jeanie Gartly, Superintendent of Planning Services - *ex-officio*  
Carol Beatty, Cultural Development Manager - *ex-officio*  
Jessica Bester, Planning Officer (Recording Secretary)

**NOT PRESENT:** Earl Morris  
Barry Finkelman, Arts and Heritage Advisory Board Chair - *ex-officio*

**SPECIAL GUESTS:** Darren Folkersen, Lawyer, City Solicitor's Office  
Ian McLaughlin, Member of the Historical Society of Medicine Hat and District

**1. DRAFT MUNICIPAL DESIGNATION BYLAW AND AGREEMENT UPDATE**

Jeanie Gartly reported on her discussions with Mr. Mathew Francis, Head of the Alberta Municipal Heritage Partnership Program, relating to the Draft Municipal Designation Bylaw and Agreement. Mr. Francis advised that to date a precedent for revoking a designated historic resource has not been set by any Municipal Council in Alberta. He advised that revocation would depend on whether a City Council was willing to enforce their Municipal Designation Bylaw. He also noted that designation is generally removed only if a historic building is lost to a fire.

There was discussion on Section 7 of the Bylaw where reference is made to City Council appointing an individual to administer the Draft Bylaw. Mr. Francis stated that most Municipalities appoint a Council representative to act on their behalf.

The Committee was also advised that an historic photo of a building or site may be included in the Statement of Significance (SOS) to graphically depict the building in an earlier time period.

Discussion arose about the SOS for the Hargrave Sissons Block / Merchants Bank of Canada character defining elements on the south side of the building in addition to the facades on the front. Generally the front is the only part of the building that is featured in a SOS. However, the original brick materials and style in the case of the Merchants Bank are only evident on the south facade. It was noted that in future the alley may become a downtown streetscape. Staff has discussed this with the landowner and they are agreeable to the addition of the south facade.

Solicitor Darren Folkersen noted that the Hargrave Sissons Block / Merchants Bank of Canada building is built right up to the south property line and encroaches slightly onto the property to the south. Therefore, if the south portion of this building is added to the bylaw as a regulated portion he would advise that it be done with the proviso that this designation would not inhibit development on the adjacent non-designated lot to the south. The Committee agreed that this would be appropriate.

Similarly, Andrea McIntosh noted that the transom and door located on the west side of the building was not included as a regulated portion in the SOS. The Committee agreed that these building features should be regulated to show the original architectural quoins around the doorway because it can be viewed from the street. Staff will follow up with the landowners on this as well.

The Committee agreed to call a special meeting on June 15, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. to address the Draft Municipal Heritage Designation Bylaw and Agreement for the Hargrave Sissons Block / Merchants Bank of Canada before it is presented to City Council at the June 21, 2010 meeting.

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## **2. MEETING FOR HERITAGE RESOURCES COMMITTEE INPUT INTO THE CITY OF MEDICINE HAT PLAN**

A public consultation session for the “Medicine Hat Plan” was held for the cultural community on May 13, 2010. Committee members who attended reported that the cultural community who participated in the meeting expressed their concern about a rumour regarding a planned takeover of the Cultural Centre by the Medicine Hat College. Mr. Sissons noted to the Consultants that the Plan predicts that the city is growing, especially with aging ‘boomers’ who will have more leisure time and who have an interest in arts and heritage; therefore the addition, rather than the reduction of cultural facilities should be considered. Others noted that a Cultural Master Plan should be undertaken that would include a Cultural Facilities Plan. The Committee agreed that these issues should be considered in the development of the Medicine Hat Plan.

Carol Beatty noted discussion and interest at the meeting in creating a cultural district and public art placement throughout the City as the city grows. Mr. Sissons noted that the cultural community expressed concern about the potential loss of studio space for community groups at the Cultural Centre. Alderman Ty Schneider recognized that this was a concern expressed at the meeting. The Committee agreed that the input session was valuable.

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### 3. MUNICIPAL HERITAGE SURVEY

Chair Malcolm Sissons welcomed Ian McLaughlin from the Historical Society, which has been undertaking a Municipal Heritage Survey of Historic Buildings throughout the City. Mr. McLaughlin stated that consultant Hilary Tarrant and two summer students have been completing the survey over the summers supported by the provincial government, City of Medicine Hat and Historical Society funding. The survey includes historic buildings constructed prior to 1969. Documentation includes, but is not limited to; site name, municipal and legal address, construction date, architectural code, and previous owners and their occupations as found in the City's tax rolls and Henderson Directories. Photographs of the front and rear elevations of each building are also included.

Mr. McLaughlin informed the Committee that surveys of Municipal Heritage buildings have been completed and stored in the Esplanade Archives for the Downtown and Riverside, the Southeast and Southwest Hill, and Crescent Heights neighborhoods. The survey is currently being undertaken in the Crestwood and Norwood neighborhoods. Mr. Sissons noted that the Province's "Creating a Future for Alberta's Historic Places" program requires that an inventory be established and that a list of "Places of Interest" be determined by the City. A comprehensive survey of all historic buildings within the City will ensure that the Committee considers all potential buildings for municipal heritage designation.

There was discussion on whether the surveys include important historic artifacts and landscapes, and Mr. McLaughlin noted that the surveys only include historic buildings. It was agreed that in order to complete the mandate of the Heritage Resources Committee, surveys of artifacts and landscapes, in addition to buildings will need to be conducted.

The Committee also identified a need to determine a list of criteria that would be used to determine which surveyed historic resources should be considered for municipal designation.

Committee members expressed appreciation to Mr. McLaughlin for attending the meeting and requested that he pass on the Committee's appreciation to the local Historical Society for this important work.

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**4. HERITAGE GARDEN PROGRESS REPORT**

Chair Malcolm Sissons gave a status report on the sub-committee for the Ewart Duggan House Heritage Garden Landscaping project, and noted the Committee members who volunteered to be on the sub-committee were George Webb, Andrea McIntosh, and Jeanie Gartly. Mr. Sissons reported that Corlaine Gardner agreed to represent the Grasslands Naturalists and Gerta DeLange will represent the landscaping industry. The Horticultural Society is very interested and has agreed to appoint a member at their next meeting. The Parks Department will contribute expertise when required as the project develops. A sub-committee meeting will be called to begin the work plan, once all members have been recruited

INFORMATION

**5. JOINT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

Chair Malcolm Sissons requested that Dr. Andrea McIntosh report on the Joint Advisory Board meeting she attended. Dr. McIntosh noted that the Advisory Boards receive monthly reports of their budget status and Committee members agreed that a budget report should become a regular item on the Agenda.

INFORMATION

**6. SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE**

The Committee agreed to continue to hold regular meetings during the summer months. They will be held on July 6, 2010 and August 3, 2010.

INFORMATION

**7. INCENTIVE PROGRAMS UPDATE**

Jeanie Gartly advised that she and Carol Beatty have gathered research on the various tax incentive programs in municipalities across Canada to ensure preservation of historic resources. She will summarize their findings for future discussion. George Webb advised that Keith Crush had assembled some information on the same topic, and it was agreed that this information would be incorporated into the summary being prepared.

INFORMATION

**8. HERITAGE AWARDS UPDATE**

Chair Malcolm Sissons expressed appreciation to Committee members for preparing the nominations for the 2010 Heritage Awards. The Alberta Historical Resources Foundation Heritage Awards will be selected in the fall of this year.

INFORMATION

**9. HERITAGE SITE LISTING – UPDATE**

Jeanie Gartly invited the Committee to make proposals for historic resources on the heritage site list on an ongoing basis. She noted that Archivist Philip Pype had reviewed the files provided by Mr. Jim Marshall and has recently added new historic buildings to the list. Mr. Sissons requested that terminology similar to the Heritage Partnership Program be used. The Historical Society is conducting a “Survey” from which the “Inventory” is derived.

INFORMATION

**10. FUTURE MEETINGS - GUEST SPEAKERS**

The Committee discussed a list of potential guest speakers for future meetings and will continue to be developed. Committee members also discussed educating the public about local history through the short video clips provided on the local news network.

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**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Adopted by City Council on

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LARRY P. GODIN, CITY CLERK