



# City of Surrey

## *Special Heritage Advisory Commission*

### *Minutes*

Executive Boardroom  
City Hall  
14245 - 56 Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2003**  
Time: 10:38 a.m.

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**Present:**

B. Paton - Chair  
A. Clegg  
R. Fuller  
A. Lonneberg  
T. Menuin  
Councillor Higginbotham

**Absent:**

D. Bowyer  
R. Cammack  
C. Dragomir  
A. Stewart

**Staff Present:**

A. Kopystynski, Planning & Development  
J. McLeod, Planning & Development  
K. Miller, Legislative Services

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**A. DELEGATION**

**1. Historic Places Initiatives**

Mr. Bob Parliament, Conservation Consultant, Provincial Heritage Programs, was in attendance to discuss the Historic Places Initiative (HPI). Mr. Parliament listed the responsibilities of his office relative to the HPI as follows:

- Heritage Planning;
- Community heritage capacity building;
- Implementation of the HPI;
- Creation of a Canadian Register of Historic Places;
- Training;
- Building new partnerships; and
- Outreach to the Cariboo and Okanagan

Information from the Provincial Heritage Program office will include:

- Community heritage planning program funding;
- Provincial heritage legislation;
- Conservation practice;
- HPI; and
- BC Register of Historic Places

There followed an overview of the HPI.

The HPI is a national partnership to restore and preserve more of Canada's built heritage. Through the HPI, the federal, provincial and territorial governments are working together to try to reverse the loss of heritage buildings in Canada, 21% of which have disappeared in the last thirty years. Seven tools have been proposed. Currently four of the seven tools are being developed.

Eventually, these tools will also enable property owners and developers to access proposed federal financial incentives for the historic conservation of commercial properties. The HPI will help bring Canada in line with other countries like the US and the UK, where the preservation of building heritage is a national priority involving the private sector and communities. The aim of the HPI is to foster appreciation of our built heritage and encourage action that will make more of Canada's historic places and buildings an integral part of community life.

### **Three Accountability Tools**

*Canadian Register of Historic Places:* The CRHP will serve as a tool to identify, promote and celebrate historic places in Canada and engage Canadians in heritage conservation. It will provide a valuable source of easily accessible and accurate information for government authorities, land use planners, developers, the tourism industry, educators, researchers, heritage professionals and the public, and will define the universe of places eligible for future federal financial incentives. The CRHP will contain listings from federal, provincial (BCRHP) and territorial governments of historic places of local, provincial, territorial and national significance. More information regarding the BCRHP will be available in late 2003.

*National Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places:* The document is being developed to guide interventions to historic places in order to achieve a balance between conservation and functional requirements. The emphasis is on sound, practical advice for conserving our rich and irreplaceable built heritage. Mr. Parliament explained the definition of heritage "value" vs. "character", and provided an example of a statement of significance. The following character defining elements are included in the guidelines:

- Name of property with unique identifiers, date of construction and occupation;
- Formal recognition authority, relevant statutes, recognition dates and building type;
- Building description, (i.e., two-storey gabled roof vernacular structure, etc.);
- Heritage value illustrating the continuing viability of its impact on the community; and
- Character defining elements, providing evidence of the exterior, interior and location of the building.

*Certification Process for Financial Incentives:* Two local Certification Agents, through the Federal Heritage Places Program Branch, will review the project. The Historic Place must be listed on the CRHP, owned by a corporation and produce income. The proposed work must be appropriate to the CRHP Statement of Significance and the finished work completed as proposed. The project should respect the Standards and Guidelines and pass a final review by the Heritage Places Program Branch.

Commission expressed concerns relative to the stipulation that qualifying buildings must be income-producing corporations. This presents difficulties for the inclusion of Surrey's other buildings on the national register.

Penalties for inability to adhere to the guidelines and standards would include the subtraction of the portion of the work which was not completed. There followed a general discussion relative to the qualifying criteria for buildings.

### **Financial Incentives**

A conservation incentive distributed through a contribution agreement, between the Federal Heritage Places Program Branch and the corporate property owners, for a certified historic place conservation project. The incentive will be based on a contribution program of \$10 million per year for three years nation-wide. Demonstration projects are currently being developed, which would enable the developers to access approximately \$1 million in grant funding.

Councillor Higginbotham withdrew from the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

### **The Role of Government**

Community heritage registers assist community planning and sustainable development and public appreciation of heritage. Nominations to the BC Register of Historic Places will be drawn from local government community heritage registers. Properties on existing registers will be automatically eligible for BCRPH and CRHP. The Heritage Conservation Act and the Local Government Act require that all municipal heritage assets on the local register, be forwarded to the province.

Councillor Higginbotham returned to the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Some of the community benefits of this project include enhancing local economies, and increasing tourism dollars and overnight stays by leisure travelers.

Funding received through the federal government will thus render applicants ineligible for provincial funding.

### **Community Heritage Planning Program**

The CHPR assists the planning and development of self-sustaining and self-sufficient heritage conservation programs. Awards are for one year, for up to half the total eligible costs.

*Strategic Plans:* supports preparation of a five to ten year plan within which to plan, develop, implement and evaluate a community heritage program. The Province will invest up to an award maximum of \$7,500.

*Implementation Plans:* supports the preparation of detailed plans to achieve strategic objectives. The Province will invest up to an award maximum of \$15,000. An implementation plan provides detailed guidance on how selected elements of the heritage strategy will be achieved.

*Community Heritage Registers:* supports the development of community heritage registers by local governments consistent with the documentation standards of the CRHP for inclusion in the BCRHP. The Province will invest up to an award maximum of \$15,000.

*Conservation and Feasibility Plans:* supports the preparation of a variety of conservation or feasibility plans for historic places included on an official community heritage register. The Province will invest up to an award maximum of \$7,500.

*Applying for Assistance:* proposals may be submitted at any time. Projects must be completed by the Province's fiscal year end.

*Training and Community Development:* a variety of workshops are available through the Heritage Society of BC, at [hsbc@islandnet.com](mailto:hsbc@islandnet.com).

Mr. Parliament distributed a list of URLs for further information and resources. There followed a general discussion relative to heritage programs in various communities.

It was  
Moved by Commissioner Clegg  
Seconded by Commissioner Menun  
That the Heritage Advisory Commission  
receive the Conservation Consultant, Provincial Heritage Programs.  
Carried

## **B. NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Heritage Advisory Commission is scheduled for September 24, 2003 in the Mayor's Executive Boardroom - 9:00 a.m.

## **C. ADJOURNMENT**

The Heritage Advisory Commission adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

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Chair