

REPORT*DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT*

To: Mayor W. Wright and Members of Council in Committee of the Whole Date: November 4, 2013

From: Beverly Grieve, Director of Development Services File: 13.2606.03

Subject: Queen's Park Neighbourhood Heritage Working Group – Work Plan and Process

RECOMMENDATION

THAT Council direct staff to implement the work program and process as proposed in this report.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with a work plan for the creation of a Queen's Park neighbourhood heritage working group in response to a delegation received by Council from two Queen's Park neighbourhood groups.

BACKGROUND

On June 6, 2013, a demolition permit was issued for 221 Third Avenue. On June 24, 2013, Council received a delegation from representatives of the New Westminister Heritage Preservation Society and the Queen's Park Residents' Association, identifying concerns about the loss of historic houses in Queen's Park.

City Council subsequently passed the following motion:

THAT City Staff prepare a work program for Council's consideration to initiate a dialogue with the Queen's Park Residents' Association and the New West Heritage Preservation Society regarding options to support heritage conservation values in the Queen's Park neighbourhood.

ANALYSIS

A delegation that was comprised of representatives from the New Westminster Heritage Preservation Society (NWHPS) and the Queen's Park Residents' Association (QPRA) made a presentation to Council on June 24, 2013. They requested that Council consider the creation of a forum so that the NWHPS and QPRA could work with City staff and Council in identifying potential initiatives and solutions related to the objective of retaining heritage resources and preventing demolition of houses in the Queens Park neighbourhood.

Staff is proposing the creation of a Queen's Park neighbourhood working group as an opportunity for addressing concerns about the retention of buildings with heritage value in Queen's Park. The proposed mandate of the working group is based on the comments from the delegation and may include the following:

- Compile information regarding the risks to the existing housing stock in Queens Park.
- Identify the legal framework for potential City initiatives to encourage retention of houses in Queens Park.
- Identify heritage retention options that are suitable for the Queen's Park neighbourhood.
- Engage with residents in the neighbourhood to determine the level of support for the options.
- Work with the City to implement option(s).
- Work with the City to develop a monitoring program.

A neighbourhood working group is suggested as the appropriate forum as it would have a particular mandate and could be disbanded upon conclusion of its work. Legislative Services would assist in crafting the Terms of Reference and the recruitment. It is proposed that the working group be appointed by Council for a two year term and that the working group would have a code of conduct consistent with other Council appointed committees and working groups.

It is proposed that the neighbourhood working group would have a balanced representation from the neighbourhood and include a representative from each of the following:

- QPRA
- NWHPS

- Community Heritage Commission
- Representation from other City Committees where suitable
- Builder with experience building in Queen's Park
- Real Estate agent with experience in Queen's Park
- Landscaper or person with an interest in the natural environment of Queen's Park
- Queen's Park resident(s)-at-large

The QPRA and the NWHPS would be asked to provide a list of people to consider for inclusion on the working group. In addition, the City would do a 'mail drop' in the Queen's Park neighbourhood to invite people who may be interested in joining the working group.

Staff recommend a professional facilitator be retained for the first few working group meetings in order to establish the work program and code of conduct for the working group.

It is understood that the proposed working group model may be of interest to other neighbourhoods in the City which have concerns about the loss of old buildings in their neighbourhoods. Staff is available to discuss this with any other interested neighbourhoods and will bring forward to Council any requests for other working groups.

PROPOSED WORK PLAN AND PROCESS

Staff propose the following work plan and process:

- 1) Direction from Council to establish a Queen's Park neighbourhood working group as outlined in this report.
- 2) Meet with the QPRA and the NWHPS executives in order to share the proposed idea of a neighbourhood working group and to seek input on the terms of reference and membership.
- 3) Work with Legislative Services to refine the terms of reference for the working group.
- 4) Provide a report to Council detailing the working group terms of reference and seek approval of a budget for a professional facilitator.
- 5) Send out invitations to the Queen's Park neighbourhood and other potential members with information on the proposed initiative and the membership opportunities on the working group.
- 6) Request specific groups such as CHC, QPRA and the NWHPS to nominate members for the working group.

- 7) Legislative Services to develop list of potential working group members and follow normal procedures for the appointments by Council.
- 8) Call first neighbourhood working group meeting.
- 9) Report to Council on the results of the first meeting and provide details on the next steps.
- 10) Provide updates to Council every two months or when necessary.

OPTIONS

Council has the following options to consider:

- 1) Direct staff to implement the work plan and process as proposed in this report;
- 2) Give staff other direction.

Staff recommend Option #1.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON

Legislative Services has reviewed this report.

CONCLUSION

Through a delegation to Council that was comprised of representatives from the New Westminster Heritage Preservation Society and the Queen's Park Residents' Association, concerns regarding the loss of historic homes in the Queen's Park neighbourhood were brought forward with the request to begin a dialogue with the City on heritage retention options that focussed on that neighbourhood. City staff has developed a proposed work plan and process to address these concerns.

Report Author



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Approved for Presentation to Council



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