



Summary of the Heritage Visioning Exercise

November 18th, 2006 • Edmonton City Hall



The exercise was created to develop visions of where the City could be in a 20 year time frame and determine what would ideally be in place to protect and advocate for heritage resources in the wider context of future development in Edmonton.

The groups were asked to come up with a series of ‘vision statements’ under five topic areas of activity that the current Heritage Management Plan deals with; Register, Incentives, Promotion, Monitoring and Other. These vision statements were summarized and the groups further developed a series of ‘objective statements’ on how each vision may be achieved. The groups were asked to prioritize what areas were more important to them and these have been arranged accordingly with the most important always being at the top of each list.

The results below have been further summarized and key areas of activity identified. We would appreciate any feedback or further comments on the results below and it is also an opportunity to identify areas that may have been missed or need re-emphasizing.

Comments should be back by February 16, 2007.

These will be considered and a further summary will be posted and circulated. A simplified electronic version is available on the City Web site. (see contact information at back of this handout)

For the sake of this exercise the Inventory is the City’s list of all identified historic resources, whether protected or not. Those buildings that are protected will be specifically mentioned as Municipal Historic Resources and are to be listed on the Register.



Participants at the November 18th, 2006 Visioning Exercise at Edmonton City Hall

You are invited to Heritage Plan Workshop II

February 24, 2007,

10 am - 1 pm

Location to be Announced.

Workshop to translate heritage visions into City Council policy and heritage business plan. Please RSVP to LiAnne Horne at 496-6109 or lianne.horne@edmonton.ca by February 16, 2007.





HERITAGE PROGRAM

In 1980 the City established the Historic Resources Management Plan and a position for a Heritage Officer within the Planning and Development Department, to develop an historic building inventory and administer the new preservation program.

The first *Register of Historic Resources in Edmonton* created in 1983, only included buildings in the downtown. However by 1988 it was recognised the Inventory should cover the whole City and by 1993 it was completed. The inventory has continues to grow since.

Also in 1988 the City adopted a policy to encourage the designation of historic resources which allowed the provision of tax and grant incentives. In 1995 a Historic Resources Reserve Fund Account was created to ensure that a secure source of funding would be available and in 2002 this fund was increased substantially and another heritage Officer was hired. There are now over 470 buildings on the Register of which 67 are designated as Municipal historic Resources, the largest number of designated buildings in any municipality in Alberta.

REGISTER

Summary of findings under the Register heading which deals with maintaining and developing the City's Register and building Inventory.

VISION STATEMENT

1. The 'Inventory of Historic Resources in Edmonton' is a comprehensive document that identifies all heritage resources in the City that are of architectural, social, historic and environmental merit/value.

Objective Statements

- a) The City will develop a comprehensive Inventory of all historic resources.
- b) The ranking system (A, B etc.) will be reassessed to determine if all resources should have an equal ranking or not.
- c) The City should develop an assessment process that evaluates resources on their merits, not age, which includes architectural, social and historical significance, community values and aesthetic values.
- d) The City will include heritage areas, neighbourhoods and urban and natural landscapes etc. in the Inventory
- e) The Inventory is to be regularly updated.

2. Legislation and policies at all Government levels have been modified or changed to allow proactive heritage programming and afford resources greater protection.

- a) The City will work with and lobby the Provincial Government to amend the Historic Resources Act to

Plan and Policy Revision Process





enable municipalities to be more proactive and remove the compensation clause.

b) The City and other municipalities will work with and lobby the Provincial Government to address any matters in the MGA that may enable municipalities to deal with heritage in proactive manners.

c) The City will review its policies to determine what proactive incentives can be put in place.

d) The City will explore what legislative ‘teeth’ can be used to enforce non compliance issues or prevent demolition of historic resources.

e) The City through its various associations will lobby for Federal incentives and initiatives.

f) The City administration will conduct research and benchmark best practices for heritage preservation in other provinces and countries, then lobby and work with the provincial and Federal government levels to change the legislation to reflect and implement (or to allow municipalities to reflect and implement) the best practices.

g) Other city stakeholders should act as advocates and develop a strategy to impact/influence Provincial and Federal legislation that affects the Historic Resources.

3. The interiors of resources are an integral part of those buildings identified on the inventory.

a) The City will evaluate the interiors of all built resources that are reviewed.

b) The City will develop assessment criteria and a process to include building interiors.

c) Identified interior features will be recorded and documented as part of Character Defining Elements.

d) Explore methods to encourage buildings to be opened up occasionally so that interior elements can be recognized or viewed.

4. All resources of architectural, historic and social significance in the city have been inventoried and continued to be assessed

a) The City will develop comprehensive inventories and surveys of all its neighbourhoods.

b) The City will develop partnerships with communities, individuals, etc. to carry out historic inventories and surveys.

c) The City will carry out periodic reviews of its Inventory to capture key periods in time and provide reasonable updates.

d) The Inventory should be searchable by certain categories (names, dates, types, etc).

5. There are adequate legislative means in place to prevent demolition of historic resources.

a) The City will look at policies to prevent those buildings on the Inventory from being demolished.

b) The Administration will explore if Demolition permits for those buildings on the Inventory can be required to have adequate justification and/or new development permits in place prior to issuance.

6. The City’s Heritage Program is aligned with Federal and Provincial standards.

a) The City will amend its policies, standards and terminology to conform to National and Provincial standards.

7. The City has recognised heritage areas and associated regulations in place

a) The City and Communities will identify those areas worthy of heritage area classification.

b) The City and communities will develop appropriate zoning, guidelines or overlays to identify, guide and protect the character of heritage areas.

8. The process to research and nominate heritage resources is clear and proactive

a) The City will work with all groups involved to develop aids to assist those researching heritage resources.

b) The City will investigate what incentives could be available to enable appropriate research be done.

c) Investigate how other heritage ‘agencies’ can assist in the collection of relevant heritage information.

d) All owners of buildings being considered for the Inventory are to be notified.

9. The Inventory is a known and readily available document and resource.

a) The Inventory is to be made readily available in paper or electronic format.

b) Identify target audiences who need to be aware of the Inventory.

INCENTIVES

Summary of findings under the Incentives heading which deals with providing incentives, assistance and advice and penalties.

1. Federal/Provincial/Municipal Programs exist and work together to offer a variety of incentives to assist with the preservation and adaptive reuse of historic resources.

a) Develop working partnerships with the three levels of government to review, develop and increase appropriate incentive and disincentive programs/legislation that work together.





b) The City will work with and lobby the Provincial Government to amend the Historic Resources Act to enable municipalities to be more proactive and remove the compensation clause.(copy)

c) The City and other municipalities will lobby the Provincial Government to increase its annual heritage budget.

d) Explore what forums exist to enable Municipalities and the Provincial Government to lobby the Federal Government to develop a Federal Heritage Incentive Program.

e) The City will work to ensure that its own heritage budget is adequately funded with inflationary considerations and explore possible other funding sources.

f) The City will develop a tax credit system to account for restoration and maintenance work to heritage resources. (Also applies to Provincial and Federal programs)

g) The City will explore the use of other planning tools and services to make preservation enticing and feasible.

h) Develop an advocacy group that represents owners of heritage resources.

i) The City will explore Best Practices of the variety of incentive programs and apply the appropriate ones that will help achieve the City's heritage goals.

2. Policies and guidelines are in place to ensure that heritage resources are an integral consideration in any development considerations that directly affect the resource or its surrounds.

a) Develop guidelines and policies in statutory plans, zoning and overlays that promote heritage and offer incentives to do so.

b) Develop design regulations for heritage areas to ensure infill development is sensitive and in character.

c) Develop guidelines or processes for surrounding non-heritage resources to account for neighbouring heritage values.

d) Develop partnerships with other programs that allow upgrades to heritage homes to make them more livable and to modern standards.

e) The City should develop more/new community and strategic development partnerships within the private sector to achieve heritage preservation objectives.

f) Develop a 'heritage checklist' for Planners and Development Officers as part of the evaluation process.

3. There are greater 'disincentives' in place to prevent demolition or inappropriate work to heritage resources.

a) City to investigate what stronger penalties or consequences are available to prevent demolition occurring.

b) City to investigate if any financial penalties can be levered if resources are destroyed.

c) City to investigate possibility of requiring justifications, new development permits and time lines prior to demolition permits being issued for heritage resources, to ensure land does not remain vacant.

d) Investigate the option of increasing taxes on vacant sites where heritage resources once stood or down zoning options.

e) Develop stronger maintenance regulations to enable the City to enforce repairs on heritage resources.

f) Investigate penalties and consequences to willful vandalism and graffiti.

4. There are funds available to heritage advocacy groups that directly lead to research, promotion and preservation of historical resources.

a) Develop grant programs, relevant criteria and guidelines and for communities, groups, individuals or organizations that wish to conduct new research on historic resources.

b) Develop grants to enable architectural/engineering/building studies to be done for heritage resources, which help determine/guide future work on specific resources.

5. The City's heritage areas have unique and distinct heritage neighbourhoods.

a) Investigate what incentives may be available to develop or encourage greater urban design guidelines or landscaping features in identified heritage areas.

6. Applications dealing with heritage resources are streamlined and treated on their merits.

a) Investigate what options are available for streamlining applications related to heritage resources and what latitude can be given for variances.

b) Develop pre-consultation processes or warnings for owners of heritage resources.

7. All heritage resources are officially recognised and identified.

a) Develop plaques for all designated resources.

b) Develop formal recognition events for owners of resources.

8. Incentives are graded on the level of preservation proposed.

a) Investigate appropriate levels of support for different standards, from facadism to pure restoration.



PROMOTION

Summary of findings under the Promotion heading, which deals with developing an increased awareness of the City’s heritage program & resources and the benefits of heritage preservation.

1. Edmonton is a leader in heritage advocacy and promotion

- a) City and heritage groups to define what heritage, preservation etc. should be in the Edmonton context, from individual buildings to cultural landscapes.
- b) Investigate what other municipalities do/best practices to promote heritage locally.
- c) Develop partnerships with economic, social and cultural groups to promote heritage.
- d) City to promote stewardship of its own historic resources and integrate heritage into processes.
- e) Develop a heritage Image/brand for Edmonton to promote and market.



2. Heritage is well promoted and communicated in Edmonton.

- a) Develop an integrated heritage communications plan at the municipal level.
- b) Develop heritage tours (walking, self guided, driving, etc).
- c) Develop promotional material on heritage programs in the City.
- d) Identify resources and advocates to promote heritage.
- e) Develop regular media (e.g., Edmonton Journal/Sun, television/radio media) reports to promote heritage preservation.
- f) Develop a Heritage Awards Program to recognize various aspects of heritage work in the City, not limited to designated/recognized Heritage resources, but also more broad based.

3. Heritage Education, documentation and research material is readily available.

- a) Develop a variety of heritage talks and promotional materials dealing with heritage to educate the public and identified groups (e.g. realtors and developers, etc.). This could also involve partnerships.
- b) Develop ‘heritage brochures’ for realtors or owners selling/buying heritage resources.
- c) Develop leaflets/templates for planning and restoration tasks pertaining to heritage matters, processes, etc.
- d) Carry out surveys or research on best practices related to heritage matters.
- e) Develop annual heritage workshops to promote heritage preservation.
- f) Identify social, economic and community benefits of heritage preservation.
- g) Develop materials that could be implemented in EPSB curriculum and various City outreach programs.
- h) Include Heritage as part of the City’s Planning Academy.

4. Heritage areas have guidelines to ensure future development conforms to period or a particular theme.

- a) Review all heritage areas and potential areas to develop themes and possible guidelines.

5. Heritage is integrated into the administrative and Council related processes

- a) Develop a heritage resource checklist for administrators who deal with development processes.
- b) Promote heritage partnerships that help identify and recognize new heritage resources/districts.

6. Information is readily available to the public or interested parties.

- a) Put information on the web and/or in easily accessible printed format.
- b) Develop a list of pro-heritage clients/ services.

7. Historic resources and places are easily identifiable.

- a) Develop a plaque system for all recognised buildings.
- b) Develop historic interpretation mediums for historic districts.

8. Other agencies and groups actively promote heritage in the City.

- a) Explore potential partnerships with other heritage groups to promote various heritage interests.
- b) Explore the possibility of providing funds for partnerships that promote various aspects of heritage in the City.





MONITORING

Summary of findings under the Monitoring heading which deals with monitoring the development application process and looking at planning policies that impact heritage resources.

1. Heritage is an integral consideration in policy development and in other City incentives/ programs

- a) Explore and develop triggers in the planning process to ensure heritage resources are identified and relevant processes to protect them are instigated. From individual permits to ASPs.
- b) Determine what other City ‘incentives’ and programs in other departments serve as “disincentives” for heritage projects.
- c) Update City heritage policies and initiatives to align with current accepted conservation principles.
- d) Explore what legislation (with teeth) is available to affect the zoning and permitting processes to elevate heritage recognition/status.
- e) Identify other City incentives, programs that could be partnered with to promote heritage.
- f) Ensure heritage planners / heritage board are circulated when the civic administration develop new policies which affecting heritage resources.
- g) Evaluate and inventory all City owned buildings to determine which ones have heritage merit.



2. An effective notification and circulation process is in place when heritage resources are affected by development issues.

- a) Develop a relationship with the media (TV, Newspaper, Internet) to publicize heritage issues as they arise.
- b) Identify a comprehensive notification list for circulation for applications that affect major heritage resources.
- c) Explore a notification process for properties immediately surrounding heritage resources and appropriate time lines for comment/response.
- d) Explore how heritage resources could be ‘zoned’ to trigger automatic notification processes
- e) Investigate if demolition applications can be circulated through community groups and the Edmonton Historical Board, etc. for consultation prior to issuance.

3. There are strong penalties for non compliance issues

- a) Explore what avenues are available to enforce financial penalties and/or jail time for wilful neglect of historic resources.
- b) Explore what avenues are available to enforce appropriate heritage standards on non complying heritage resources.
- c) Explore processes to create longer timelines or delays in the process for non-compliers, or conversely, fast-track those that do comply through the process.

4. The Planning Department has pro-active monitoring and maintenance processes in place

- a) Develop a heritage resource checklist for administrators dealing with development processes.
- b) Develop a regular monitoring schedule for owners and heritage planners to review all heritage resources.

5. The City has working relationships with external Heritage Groups to consult or assist in monitoring heritage matters.

- a) Explore ways in which civic agencies, advisory panels and EFCL should be used more effectively in heritage resource management.
- b) Investigate the possibility of creating an ombudsman outside of the civic administration that can provide legal advice to address SDAB appeals and other development issues.
- c) Investigate the possibility of developing or using an existing non-profit board assist in monitoring and managing historic preservation issues.





OTHER

Summary of findings under the Other heading which deals with all heritage matters that are not necessary physical buildings.

1. Heritage in Edmonton is not limited to buildings

- a) Create an inventory of all possible natural landscapes and trees and set up an appropriate methodology to review them.
- b) Create an inventory of all possible significant historic cultural icons/ landscapes / corridors / activities or locations and set up an appropriate methodology to review them.
- c) The City in consultation with stakeholders should define its definition what Heritage Resources and values are.

2. A healthy museum culture exists in the City.

- a) Investigate the option of developing an arms length body with adequate resources to develop a local museum network.
- b) Develop an advisory group to investigate the options available related to creating a Civic Museum.
- c) Develop a museum network that would collaborate on how to best promote themselves.

3. The city and other government/civic bodies are leaders in preserving their own heritage resources.

- a) Investigate how the City could carry out an inventory its building stock to determine their heritage values and put a high priority on their preservation.
- b) Investigate how other Government and Civic Agencies (Edmonton Catholic and Public School Boards, Capital Health, EPCOR, University of Alberta, Provincial Departments, etc) could carry out an inventory their building stock to determine their heritage values and put a high priority on their preservation.

- c) Encourage the City other Civic Agencies to designate their identified historic resources.

4. Heritage as a 'value' is integrated into the City's consciousness

- a) Heritage issues and statements should be incorporated into Focus Edmonton to ensure that it influences all subsequent plans.
- b) Develop relationships with the development and investment groups to promote heritage ideals.

5. Cultural events and Festivals are part of the city's cultural heritage

- a) Investigate the possibility of creating an advocacy group(s) that promotes arts and cultural activity collectively in the City and elsewhere
- b) Develop a cultural plan (being done) and ensure that heritage is a component of it.
- c) Encourage Economic Development Edmonton and other agencies to promote all aspects of Edmonton's heritage resources.

AWARD WINNING

CITY OF EDMONTON HERITAGE PROGRAM HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING AWARDS

- 1990 – Canadian Institute of Planner's Award for Planning Excellence for City Council Heritage Policy C-450
- 1991 – Alberta Historical Resources Foundation, Community Heritage Award for the Historic Resource Management Program's contribution to Alberta heritage
- 1996 – Heritage Canada Achievement Award for the Historic Resource Management Program
- 2006 – Provincial Municipal Heritage Preservation Award for best heritage program in Alberta





Process

A. Workshop I

Visioning Workshop – November 18, 2006 - Completed
All day workshop working with core heritage groups and stakeholders to develop overall visions and directions of where heritage issues in the City should be directed. A summary of the visioning exercise will be circulated to all heritage groups and stakeholders for further comment, and to capture comments from those who were not able to attend workshop I.

B. Workshop II

Translating Visions into City Council policy and business plan – February 24, 2007
Workshop will review existing City Council Heritage policies (C450A + A 1426) and business plan in light of the new vision developed on November 18, 2006, for their revision.

C. Review of Documents

Circulation of draft revised heritage business plan, policies and directions to selected heritage groups and organisations for comment and to capture comments from those who were not able to attend workshop II.

D. Open House

Display proposed new heritage business plan, policies and directions – April/May
Summary of Workshops and new heritage business plan, policies and directions put public display to allow for final public comments. Open House open to public

E. Preparation of Final Documents and Council Adoption

August/September 2007
Historic Resource Management Plan, policies etc. taken to Executive Committee and City Council for consideration to adopt or modify for approval and forward to staff to implement.

Contact information

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Website

Edmonton.ca – go to
'Infrastructure and Planning' –
'Historic Resources' – 'Other' –
and click on 'what's new'.

ATTENDEES AT THE NOVEMBER 18TH, 2006 VISIONING EXERCISE AT EDMONTON CITY HALL

Councillor Jane Batty,
City of Edmonton

Councillor Janice Melnychuk,
City of Edmonton

Councillor Michael Phair,
City of Edmonton

Larry Pearson, Manager,
Protection and Stewardship
Section,
Alberta Community Development
Dorothy Field, Heritage Survey
Program, Alberta Community
Development

Scott Barrett,
Municipal Heritage Partnership
Program, Alberta Community
Development

Michael Payne, City Archivist,
City of Edmonton

Kulbir Singh, Director Strategic
Areas Services, Planning and
Development Department

Marianne Fedori, Chair,
Edmonton Historical Board

Joe Friedel, Edmonton
Historical Board

Lynn Penrod, Edmonton
Historical Board

Catherine Cole, Edmonton
Historical Board

Robert Thirlwell,
Edmonton Historical Board

Bradley McGonald, President,
Edmonton & District Historical
Society

G. HartlandFoley,
Edmonton Catholic School Board

Bev Campbell, 124 Street BRZ

Shirley Lowe, Old Strathcona
BRZ

Dolores Nord, Oliver
Community League/Community
of Oliver Group

Shirleen Smith,
Community of Oliver Group

Laura Sharen,
Harvard Property Management
Inc.

Kathryn Ivany,
Ivany Heritage Consulting

John Mahon,
Edmonton Arts Council

Hu Young, MHR owner

Michael Abbott, MHR owner

Brenda Higham, MHR owner

James Feeney, MHR owner

Wendy Luther, MHR owner

Kathleen Moran, MHR owner

Bob Dawe, MHR owner

FACILITATORS

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Dnyanesh Deshpande

Myron Belej

Jeremy Schiff

Hilary Janzen

Jillian Savage