

To: Members of the Arts Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee

From: Erik Hanson, Heritage Resources Coordinator

Meeting Date: June 19, 2014

Subject: Report ACHAC14-025

Presentation by ERA Architects

Purpose

A report to receive a presentation from ERA Architects Inc. regarding the current heritage conservation district study and the Crescent Street heritage significance study.

Recommendations

That the Arts Culture & Heritage Advisory Committee approve the recommendations outlined in Report ACHAC14-025 dated June 19, 2014 of the Heritage Resources Coordinator as follows:

- a) That a presentation from Lindsay Reid of ERA Architects Inc. providing an update on the heritage conservation district study in the Avenues neighbourhood, be received for information; and,
- b) That a presentation from Lindsay Reid of ERA Architects Inc. providing an overview of the study on the heritage significance of the Crescent Street neighbourhood, be received for information.

Budget and Financial Implications

There are no direct budget implications in approving this recommendation.

Background

Avenues Heritage Conservation District Study Update

The creation of Heritage Conservation Districts (HCDs) was cited as a signature objective in the City's 2011 Municipal Cultural Plan. In the fall of 2013, after undertaking a process of public consultation, the Avenues neighbourhood was chosen for study as the best choice for pursuing the City's first Heritage Conservation District. ERA Architects Inc. was retained as the consultants for the study and has now completed the research stage of the process. Lindsay Reid from ERA will provide an update on their findings.

Crescent Street Cultural Heritage Assessment

Section 4.3.2.2.9 of the Official Plan recognizes the potential of properties within the Crescent Street area (Special Policy Area) to support a growing tourism industry through the establishment of bed and breakfast establishments, inn accommodations, cafes, tea rooms and boutique retail establishments. The Official Plan calls for the City to undertake a detailed planning analysis, to be adopted by Council, prior to the passage of any Zoning By-law amendments for properties within the Special Policy Area. The following matters are to be addressed in the detailed Planning Analysis:

- The need for certain uses and the corresponding short term to long term geographical limits of the opportunity.
- That Urban Design standards are proposed to ensure new development and that re-development exhibits high aesthetic qualities, is sensitive to the abutting uses, and reinforces the tourism potential of the area.
- That public infrastructure improvements are proposed, necessary to support the recommended commercialization of the Special Policy Area, including the extension of the Otonabee River Trail, lighting and off-street parking opportunities.

The Land Use/Urban Design Study is driven by several inquiries by developers interested in consolidating properties for the purpose of developing higher density residential buildings on Lock Street and Crescent Street, facing the lake.

ERA Architects Inc. was retained to complete a Cultural Heritage Assessment (CHA) of the Crescent Street neighbourhood as part of the detailed planning analysis. The purpose of the HSA is to identify factors that make this neighbourhood unique and identify features of cultural heritage value. It also seeks to identify historic or cultural patterns that should be taken into consideration as this area continues to evolve and change.

Submitted by,

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