



## CITY OF VANCOUVER

### OTHER REPORT

Report Date: June 27, 2005  
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Meeting Date: July 21, 2005

TO: Standing Committee on Planning and Environment

FROM: Vancouver Heritage Commission

SUBJECT: Heritage Representation to the Advisory Panel for the Development Permit Board

#### RECOMMENDATION

- A. THAT Council appoint a heritage representative to the Advisory Panel to the Development Permit Board as a fixed, separate position, and that this representative be a member of the Vancouver Heritage Commission; and

FURTHER THAT Council make this appointment now, to be effective immediately, or no later than January 1, 2006.

#### CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The Development Permit Board makes decisions about development applications which may have a significant impact on their surroundings. Members of the Development Permit Board Advisory Panel advise the Development Permit Board, bringing varied expertise and interests to the Board's decision making. The Advisory Panel's composition is set out in Development Permit Board and Advisory Panel By-law, No. 5869 and consists of eight members appointed by the City Council to two-year terms:

- two represent the development industry;
- two represent the design professions;
- four represent the general public.

The Vancouver Heritage Commission's recommendation would make it necessary to amend By-law No. 5869. As worded, the recommendation would result in an additional member.

The Board would prefer to require that one of the four positions representing the general public be an individual with heritage expertise, as set out in the following Recommendation B. This appointee would be a full member of the Panel and participate in all meetings.

While appreciating the desire for heritage representation, the City Manager does not agree that the By-law require the heritage representative to be a member of the Heritage Commission for the following reasons:

- Council would have limited choice without the flexibility to appoint other candidates with significant heritage expertise to this position;
- The heritage representative would not be able to function as a representative of the Vancouver Heritage Commission without lengthening the development application process, except when dealing with applications that the Commission has already reviewed and commented upon;
- There would be a significant increase in workload and time demands for the appointed representative.

Therefore, the City Manager **RECOMMENDS** instead of Recommendation A:

- B. THAT the Development Permit Board and Advisory Panel By-law, No. 5869 be amended to require that one of the four Advisory Panel positions "representing the general public" be an individual with heritage expertise, and that the Director of Legal Services be instructed to prepare and bring forward the necessary by-law amendments.

## COUNCIL POLICY

Appointments to the Development Permit Board Advisory Panel are made in accordance with the Development Permit Board and Advisory Panel By-law, No. 5869.

## PURPOSE

The purpose is to request that Council approve appointment of a member of the Vancouver Heritage Commission (VHC) to the Development Permit Board Advisory Panel (DPB). This would ensure that heritage issues, standards, guidelines and programs are considered by the Board and integrate heritage issues within the public approval process. Applicants would be able to integrate heritage aspects into their submissions at an earlier stage and possibly prevent delays when applications are presented to the VHC.

## BACKGROUND

On March 31, 2005, Council approved the following "THAT staff report back on measures required in order to add a Heritage Representative to the Advisory Panel for the Development Permit Board."

Accordingly, the VHC presents the following:

The VHC's mandate is to provide staff and Council with advice on heritage issues. The VHC, in certain cases, has reviewed applications previously seen by the DPB which had substantial heritage issues not addressed in time for the Applicant to make adjustments to their application. Heritage-related comments at an earlier stage would have assisted applicants in

incorporating those concerns into their submission. Earlier integration of heritage-related comments would make the process more efficient for the Applicant, and also allow the Commission to review heritage issues in a more timely and efficient manner to provide Council with relevant comments.

## **DISCUSSION**

Having a member of the VHC on the DPB would provide additional skills to advise on heritage values, both fabric and context, of submitted projects. VHC representation would also bring a familiarity with City policies and processes related to heritage issues, standards, guidelines, and programs, and help inform, integrate, and coordinate the public approval process. As an integral part of the planning and public process, it is critical there be a direct relationship between the VHC and the DPB. This would promote awareness, wholeness, continuity and coordination.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

## **CONCLUSION**

The Commission strongly recommends that the recommendation be approved.

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