



COMMITTEE REPORT TO COUNCIL

1100 Patricia Blvd. | Prince George, BC, Canada V2L 3V9 | www.princegeorge.ca

DATE: February 17, 2021

TO: MAYOR AND COUNCIL

NAME AND TITLE: Advisory Committee on Development Design

SUBJECT: Advisory Committee on Development Design 2020 Annual Report

ATTACHMENT(S): 2020 Workplan
2021 Workplan
Terms of Reference for Advisory Committee on Development Design

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Council APPROVES the 2021 Workplan as attached to the report dated February 17, 2021, from the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Development Design, titled “Advisory Committee on Development Design 2020 Annual Report.”

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Council on the progress of the City of Prince George Advisory Committee on Development Design (ACDD) for the year 2020.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

The Advisory Committee on Development Design’s goals and purpose align with Council’s strategic priorities to collaborate with partners to enhance the quality of life in Prince George, to advance progress in the downtown, and to celebrate success of citizens and community partners in promoting civic pride through development design.

As stated in the Terms of Reference, the purpose of the ACDD is to advise Mayor, Council and City Staff on matters respecting policies and guidelines affecting the City’s physical environment, as well as applications for development permits. Further, the ACDD endeavors to promote the best possible urban design and well-planned development in the City. To this end, the Committee shall have due regard to public health, safety, convenience, climate, accessibility, and aesthetics, not only in respect of any proposed development, but also in the context of surrounding development and the total built environment. The Committee’s role is restricted by the scope of the proposal under review and recommendations or suggestions are limited to the exterior form and character of the proposed development.

The Committee consists of nine members that are appointed by Council and is currently comprised of members with representatives from:

- Architecture or Design;
- Northern Regional Construction Association;
- Housing Industry Representative from the Canadian Home Builders Association of Northern BC;
- Landscape Professional;
- Prince George Advisory Committee on Accessibility;
- Prince George Council of Seniors; and
- Professional Engineering.

ACDD meetings are tentatively scheduled every Wednesday from 12 noon to 1 pm. Members are advised in advance if there is a project to review, and if not, the meeting is cancelled. The ACDD reviews up to two projects during a scheduled meeting.

At this time, the ACDD does not recommend any changes to its current Terms of Reference.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Projects are brought forward to the ACDD as part of the referral process for Development Permit and Design Review Applications. The ACDD provides recommendations and suggestions respecting a proposal in accordance with the mandate of the Committee. Therefore, the ACDD supports Administration in meeting Policy 8.2.10 of the City of Prince George Official Community Plan (2011):

Through development permit guidelines, the City should ensure that all new development is compatible with existing neighbourhoods, promotes community goals, reflects local identity, aligns with design guidelines and recommendations within Neighbourhood and Area Plans, and enhances the built environment.

WORK OF THE COMMITTEE DURING 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, on March 24, 2020 all council committees were suspended from meeting. This suspension was in place until Council approved the use of electronic participation in council committee meetings at their December 7, 2020 regular Council meeting. Thusly, the Advisory Committee on Development Design did not review any projects during their 2020 term which commenced on April 1, 2020.

Annually, the Advisory Committee on Development Design rates the projects reviewed in that year. Given that the committee was not accessible for project reviews throughout 2020, the committee will not be recommending any projects for the 2020 Project Recognition Certificate.

2021 GOALS AND WORKPLAN:

The Advisory Committee on Development Design looks forward to accomplishing the following goals and work plan over the 2021 term. One such goal will be the review and potential recommendation to change the process in which Certificates of Project Recognition are awarded. Currently, these certificates are awarded based on projects that were reviewed during the previous term, however, the adjudication process does not account for whether or not that project has been developed. The result of this gap has yielded certificates being awarded for project designs that were never fulfilled.

In addition to the aforementioned goal, the committee will continue to respond to projects referred for review, update the projects reviewed by the committee on the annual workplan, and look for educational opportunities, including the sharing of information from other Council Committees, to further develop knowledge on quality urban design.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION:

The Advisory Committee on Development Design continues to fulfill its role in promoting high quality development within the City of Prince George and looks forward to a busy year of development review in 2021.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Bruce Johnston, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Development Design

APPROVED:

Walter Babicz, Acting City Manager

Meeting Date: 2021/03/08