

Stephanie Bergman
Chair, Community Advisory Committee on Planning

RE: Revised CACP Terms of Reference

Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee

Dear Chair Lewis,

As current Chair of the Community Advisory Committee on Planning, I wanted to share a few thoughts on the current discussion surrounding the CACP's Terms of Reference, including the addition of urban design.

With the establishment of the CACP, replacing the former London Advisory Committee on Heritage (LACH), agricultural and rural matters were added to our Terms of Reference, along with references to "various planning and development applications and/or proposals". The mandate of the former LACH was relatively clear - planning and development applications that included heritage impacts/reports were forwarded to the committee for review and comment, along with city-initiated heritage studies/initiatives and certain Heritage Alteration Permit applications.

The mandate of the CACP, however, is not so clear. Outside of heritage matters, it is not clear how the committee is expected to comment on agricultural, rural, other various planning and development matters, and now potentially urban design matters as identified in our revised terms of reference. For example, when/how will agricultural, rural, or urban design matters be referred to the committee?

It is very important to us as a committee that we are effectively and meaningfully contributing to the decision making process. We would appreciate the opportunity to provide input into the Terms of Reference, or otherwise a policy/guideline which will outline when/why/how items will be referred to our committee. This could be a collaborative process - since we are a community advisory committee which provides recommendations, advice, and information to Council, we want to ensure that we focus our time and energy on those matters which Council feels they can benefit from our input. Direction from Council on those matters would be immensely helpful in understanding how we can best achieve our mandate.

The CACP will be discussing this item at our upcoming meeting, and look forward to working together on a revised Terms of Reference/Policy that helps to clarify our mandate.

Thank you,

Stephanie Bergman
Chair, Community Advisory Committee on Planning