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Urban Design Technician: Ryan Nemis

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FROM:	J.M. FLEMING MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLANNING & CITY PLANNER
SUBJECT:	CANDIDATE APPROVAL FOR THE URBAN DESIGN PEER REVIEW PANEL MONDAY DECEMBER 4, 2017

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Planning and City Planner, the following candidates **BE APPROVED** for the positions listed below on the Urban Design Peer Review Panel:

- a. McMichael Ruth– Position of Architect
- b. Steven Cooper – Position of Architect
- c. Heather Price (nee Holbrook) – Position of Senior Planner/Urban Designer

BACKGROUND

On November 26, 2012, Planning and Environment Committee approved a revised Terms of Reference for the Urban Design Peer Review Panel. The revised Terms of Reference outlined the makeup of the Panel with the following positions: three (3) Architects and three (3) other professionals that influence the design of the built environment and are registered in their field; these fields include, in order of preference, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, Planning or other professional fields that influence the design of the built environment. The terms of reference also staggered the terms of Panel appointees to balance the Panel’s representation between a desire for consistency of operation while allowing for fresh perspectives. The Terms of Reference indicates Panel members are to be approved by Council upon the recommendation of administration.

Panel members serve a two (2) year term from the date of their appointment and shall not sit for two consecutive terms. On December 31, 2017 the expiry of these term limits applied to three (3) panelists. At this application cycle, the positions required to be filled are for two (2) architects and one (1) professional that influences the design of the built environment.

Overall, the candidates noted in this report provide a full complement of expertise in the various disciplines. The overall collective experience of the candidates will assist the City as we move forward and continue to elevate the presence of the Panel within the development approvals process.

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PREPARED BY:	SUBMITTED BY:
RYAN NEMIS, URBAN DESIGN TECHNICIAN	SEAN GALLOWAY, MCIP, RPP MANAGER –URBAN DESIGN & GIS
RECOMMENDED BY:	
JOHN M FLEMING, MCIP, RPP MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLANNING & CITY PLANNER	

November 27, 2017
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Attach. Candidate Submissions

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APPENDIX A

Name: McMichael Ruth

Occupation: Architect

Work experience:

I am a Principal with architects Tillmann Ruth Robinson, a leading-edge design focused architectural office with over 30 staff in two locations, London and Toronto. Prior to becoming a Principal 6 years ago, I was an Associate with the firm for 5 years. Before returning to London to assume that role, I was able to expand my experience of practice in Toronto and Holland. While working in Amsterdam, I developed an appreciation for the role of design in influencing everyday life. This perspective, as well as my Toronto experience with Baird Sampson Neuert Architects, creating well crafted buildings, continues to influence my ongoing work in public based architecture. I now focus on a wide range of projects, each influencing the public realm, from work at Universities and Hospitals, to custom infill residential developments. I strive to engage a place, its communities and its future to reveal opportunities that will create meaningful and purposeful spaces that inspire and delight.

Education:

I graduated from the University of Toronto Faculty of Architecture Landscape & Design, with RAIC Honors, in 2002. I am a licenced Architect with the Ontario Association of Architects. I am LEED Accredited Professional, through the Canadian Green Building Council, with a specialty designation in Building Design and Construction.

Skills:

I can offer the UDPRP: my extensive and specialized knowledge within the field of Architecture; my understanding of the City of London, its context, and planning principles; and my communication and collaboration skills honed through professional experience, community volunteer experience, and my experience on this Panel in the past. I am also proud to have won Awards of Excellence in Urban Design from the City of London for the following projects: Western University Faculty of Information and Media Studies and School of Nursing; St. Joseph's Healthcare Milestone 2 Phase 2 restructuring project; The Carpenters Union Training Centre; and Fanshawe College's Centre for Construction Trades and Technology.

Interest reason:

Knowing the importance of Urban Design, and how quality design can positively and dramatically affect those who experience it, I see this an opportunity to contribute to the improvement of Urban Design within our great City. I would like to serve on this body to make London a better place to live, work and play.

Contributions:

I will be able to improve the quality of Urban Design in the City of London through meaningful and constructive comments and conversations with applicants regarding their applications coming forward to the Panel for review.

Past contributions:

I have served on the Urban Design Peer Review Panel in the past, and have acted as Chair to the Panel while serving on it. I have also served as a Board Member for Museum London, and co-founded the Museum London Museum Underground Committee. I also continue to volunteer with the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada's Syllabus Program.

Interpersonal:

I have had the pleasure of serving on the Urban Design Peer Review Panel in the past, as well as acting as a guest critic for the RAIC Syllabus Program, and the Fanshawe College Interior Design Program. In each of these capacities I was able to discuss ideas and provide feedback based on my views in a respectful and positive manner. I understand the importance of communicating professionally and respectfully, allowing each person's perspective to be heard, as a means of fostering constructive conversations.

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Interview interest: Yes

Name: Steven Cooper
Occupation: Architect

Work experience: I have spent a majority of my professional career working on complex healthcare and commercial headquarter new builds. My role for most projects has been working with front line users groups / decision makers to navigate conceptual design and holistic design strategies for said buildings. Most notably I have been involved with the following works: Humber River Hospital, Fort Bliss Replacement Hospital, Owens-Illinois (OI) Headquarters, Delta Dental Headquarters, and the National Steel Car Headquarters/Manufacturing Plant.

Education: Lawrence Technological University Master of Architecture (w/ honors) - 2011
Lawrence Technological University Bachelor of Science in Architecture - 2008
St. Clair College of Applied Arts and Technology Diploma in Architectural Technology - 2003
Professional Credentials: Ontario Association of Architects Licensed Architect - 2015
U.S. Green Building Council LEED Accredited Professional - 2008
LEED Specialty Advancement (BD+C) - 2009

Skills: As a registered LEED AP (BC+C), I take the environmental considerations of any project very seriously. I will certainly be able to examine submissions based on their environmental merits. Also, as a formally educated Technologist and Architect I blend notions of existing context, aesthetics and constructability into each project I touch. This proficiency is something that will benefit those who I may review.

Interest reason: To be brief, I would like to contribute positively to the built environment here in London. I feel confident this is one way to make this happen. I am also interested in gaining new skills and continuing to hone my own personal attributes.

Contributions: I feel my major contribution will be that of an outsiders perspective. I am not originally from the City, therefore my concepts and approach to Architecture will differ to that of contributors who have lived in the City (or practiced in the City) for their lives.

Past contributions: Although I have not made personal contributions to the panel in London my office, Matter Architectural Studio Inc., has been involved directly with creating submissions to the UPRP. We have engaged in conversations with the Panel and understand its relevance / importance to future City planning.

Interpersonal: As previously noted, one of my skill sets prior to starting Matter was working with front end users. Part of this experience was to gather groups of people for workshops to discuss design / building planning. I tend to use active listening during these sessions to make certain the groups feel heard and deal well with keeping conversations on track. Conversely, I am not timid to challenge peoples concepts and propose alternative solutions to large teams or primary users (CEO's, decisions makers, etc.). Lastly, I have been an invited guest on multiple occasions to University undergraduate critiques to review students work and provide insight / direction.

Interview interest: Yes

Name: Heather Price (nee Holbrook)
Occupation: Senior Planner/Urban Designer

Work experience: From 2004-2007 I was employed on a part time and student basis at the Region of Waterloo. When I graduated in 2007 I worked full time as a Planner and Senior Planner in Policy, working on various projects related to the implementation of the Growth Management Strategy at the Region of Waterloo. The role included urban design visualization

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work, including preparing renderings for public consultation on Rapid Transit. From 2009 until 2013 I worked at the City of Kitchener as a Planner (Urban Design), advancing to Senior Planner (Urban Design). In this capacity I was responsible for urban design policy and guideline development and implementation. I also reviewed development applications (site plan, subdivision, condo, severance, minor variance, zone change, official plan amendment) and provided urban design comments. From 2013 to present I have been a Senior Planner / Urban Designer with GSP Group. GSP Group is a planning, urban design and landscape architecture consulting firm. In my role at GSP Group I routinely provide urban design consulting services to public and private sector clients related to development approvals. I regularly prepare Urban Design reports, which involves the review and interpretation of urban design policies, guidelines and regulations in various jurisdictions across southwestern Ontario. I work with various disciplines on a daily basis, including architects, civil engineers, transportation consultants, acoustic engineers and heritage consultants. I work directly with development proponents and municipal staff on a daily basis. As an RPP and MCIP I am qualified to provide professional planning and urban design opinion. I have experience providing my opinion in various forums including membership on municipal working groups, advisory committees, development feasibility analyses, urban design reports and delegations before municipal councils, standing committees, advisory committees and the Ontario Municipal Board.

Education: I have an Honours Undergraduate Degree from the University of Waterloo School of Planning with specializations in Urban Design and Land Development. I also have a minor in Geography. I am a Registered Professional Planner (RPP) with the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI) and Member of the Canadian Institute of Planners (MCIP).

Skills: I have experience in creating, interpreting and implementing urban design policy, guidelines and regulations. I have a full understanding of the legislative authority for urban design per the Planning Act and how these tools fit within the broader context of other regulatory considerations. I am trained and experienced in seeing development through an urban design lens. I regularly work with various design documents, including plans, renderings, digital 3D models, architectural plans and drawings including building elevations, landscape plans, lighting plans and sun/shadow studies. In my experiences in both the public and private side of urban design I have learned skills necessary to balance the many competing interests that apply to land development including working with other disciplines. I have experience sitting on committees, particularly during my time in the public sector and am not shy to voice my opinion and provide constructive feedback. Part of achieving excellence of urban design requires considering unique site attributes. It also sometimes involves considering creative solutions. I have skills in these areas that I believe will assist the Urban Design Peer Review Panel.

Interest reason: The posting for this panel position was recommended to me by a current panelist, Ms. Janine Oosterveld. I am interested in serving the City of London public interest by volunteering my urban design expertise for this panel. I believe that an Urban Design Review Panel can provide valuable assistance to decision makers by providing objective expert opinion to supplement the expertise and knowledge provided by municipal staff and the applicant's project team. I think it adds value to have insights from other jurisdictions. I believe the Urban Design Panel is a unique opportunity to offer my expertise to help move proposals from good to great (and optimally from great to excellent) on the spectrum of quality urban design.

Contributions: I hope to join this panel to assist in creating contextually-sensitive and compatible relationships within the built environment in London. I hope to bring insights from my experience and education and provide objective urban design opinion on the materials provided. I hope to be constructive in my capacity as a panelist; to provide a critique with regard to London's design framework but also to provide creative alternatives and solutions to design issues.

Past contributions: At the Region of Waterloo I was a committee coordinator for the Rapid Transit Public Advisory Committee. I was a member of the Reurbanization Working Group. I was a member of several multidisciplinary project teams, including a team that managed the creation of Region of Waterloo Road Corridor Design Guidelines. At the City of Kitchener I

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participated in numerous internal working groups, including the Station Area Planning team and the New Official Plan working group. I participated in the biannual Urban Design Award program, which involved touring completed development sites and evaluating against urban design criteria. I also participated in the Municipal Urban Design Roundtable, which involved the dissemination of new information and research about urban design initiatives among municipal urban design practitioners in Ontario. I have volunteered my time on numerous occasions, including volunteering to teach classes in Urban Design at the University of Waterloo School of Architecture, the University of Waterloo School of Planning and Fanshawe College. I have been a guest critic at many University of Waterloo Urban Design Charettes and final presentations. I have lead walking tours of urban design, including in the City of Kitchener, City of Waterloo and City of Cambridge core areas. I have previously been asked to participate as a judge in London's Urban Design Award program though regrettably was not able to attend.

Interpersonal: Being part of multidisciplinary project teams is not new to me. I am not shy to share my opinion in a group setting and in my experiences doing so I have developed skills to express myself diplomatically and effectively. I work with other professional disciplines, special interest groups, members of the public, municipal staff, elected officials, development proponents and various other groups in my work. Respect is fundamental to effective communication in all facets of my work. I listen and learn from the knowledge of others and believe effective teams value the inputs of all participants.

Interview interest: Yes