

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING COMMENTS

3.4 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION MEETING – Application – Heritage Places 2.0: A Description of Potential Heritage Conservation Districts in the City of London

- *(Councillor S. Turner doing the math, it would be about twenty-five years since the last Heritage Places was put forward and there is now a list of fourteen; thinking that the life of this document may be twenty-five years and the assessment of a candidate potential Heritage Conservation District and the work associated with that, it has typically been in the two to three year range he thinks; wondering if this list outspan the life of this document or do you see it as something that would continue on to a successor document in the future.);* Ms. L. Dent, Heritage Planner, responding that she understands that the document is a living document and it is projecting far into the future; requesting clarification of the Councillor's question; *(Councillor S. Turner indicating that looking at fourteen areas, at two years roughly, optimistically, to assess each one, it is about twenty-eight years' worth of work and the past document is about twenty-five years old; wondering if that is why fourteen was chosen as a number, because it represents the amount of work over what you might anticipate to be the life of this work or do you see this as something that carries over into future revisions of the document, and it keeps growing and being reassessed; believing Ms. L. Dent, Heritage Planner, said 'living document' in her response there.);* Ms. L. Dent, Heritage Planner, responding that the identification of fourteen areas was not guided by any length of time in terms of two years or twenty-five years into the future, to assess these areas and to create any potential Heritage Conservation District plans; Mr. J.M. Fleming, Managing Director, Planning and City Planner, advising that the real purpose of this document is to give neighbourhoods a sense of the order that they can expect their own neighborhood to be studied and potentially designated as a Heritage Conservation District; noting that is the primary purpose, and it also allows them to plan out their work based on the resources they have, the budget, as you know that we have established through Council for Heritage Conservation Districts, while they are not necessarily looking at the full length of time in a focused way as has been asked, he thinks they are looking at what is reasonable in terms of seeking out Heritage Conservation Districts and really trying to align the public expectation with what is possible with their resources; *(Councillor S. Turner following up to that though, as an estimate of about a couple years to do a Heritage Conservation District study, which he thinks is in my experience of watching it, is that an appropriate amount and if you were to apply that to this list, would that give you some sort of anticipation of when that might pop up in terms of a time line; giving his neighborhood as an example, being located as number seven, Old South number two, would be about fourteen years from now or is there any expectation that there would be concurrence of studies going on, or simultaneousness of those studies or are they going to be sequenced one after another.);* Mr. G. Barrett, Manager, Long Range Planning and Sustainability, responding yes and no; yes, if you are using our current resources and our ability to do the studies, you are right, it is usually two years; you do one year normally, as you know, they go to the neighbourhood, there is a discussion, you refine the boundaries, you determine what the objectives of that area would be, and then the second year you actually prepare the plan; generally it is a two year process, but again it would be based on our staff availability and whether or not we have the staff to ramp that program up or whether or not we have staff who are working on other things that might actually slow that process down, but it certainly, as Mr. J.M. Fleming, Managing Director, Planning and City Planner, said, it is to give an indication as to the priority for looking at these areas as opposed to a priority of their heritage value, and then secondly it is to give some sense as to how long it would be down the road; yes, using two years as a rule of thumb it would be fourteen years before we got to that neighbourhood.

- (Councillor A. Hopkins following up on Councillor S. Turner's questions; having a better understanding on how we came up with these fourteen areas, and wondering if the whole city was looked at; and then, if, in a few years' time there may be an area that is not on this list, can that area come forward for evaluation.); Ms. L. Dent, Heritage Planner, directing this question to the Consultants; Chris Uchiyama of Letourneau Heritage Consulting, and she was involved in the study; advising that they started with a list of approximately fifty neighbourhoods to study, and through our consultation with the heritage community and with specific individuals who had a lot of knowledge on local history, that number actually at one point grew to almost seventy areas, and then we sort of narrowed it down using a number of different criteria; indicating that the ability to potentially meet those criteria for evaluation, potential for change in the area, the community readiness, a number of external factors were looked at, and then we narrowed it down to fourteen as a manageable number with the idea always being that it is a forward-looking, living document; periodically, just as this review happened, it would have to be reviewed again and potentially a neighbourhood may come forward nominating an area as a Heritage Conservation District, and chances are we did look at it, it just may not have met enough of those criteria for us to prioritize it up near the top of the list; (Councillor A. Hopkins following up on her comments, going back to staff, will this be reviewed every so many years or is that still to be determined.); Ms. L. Dent, Heritage Planner, responding that the document did not stipulate that this would be reviewed at any time in the future, any periodic time, but certainly that would be something that could be considered and would be something that Municipal Council could ask staff to review; (Councillor A. Hopkins enquiring about how these fourteen that have been identified for evaluation, how do they come forward to be designated, what is the process, is it the same or how do we move forward with the designation if there is a request.); Mr. G. Barrett, Manager, Long Range Planning and Sustainability, responding that there are two processes; the actual process for designation under the *Ontario Heritage Act* which we would follow, and there is a set of criteria that are used in the evaluation to determine its level of significance and whether or not it meets those criteria; advising that before you get to that stage, he believes is what Councillor A. Hopkins is asking, as Mr. J.M. Fleming, Managing Director, Planning and City Planner, indicated, they have a work program that covers Heritage Conservation Districts; advising that there are two now in the pipe from the previous work that has been done, both of those, the Great Talbot and then the Gibbons one when the Talbot neighbourhood was broken into the two, those two are in the pipe and then if this is the document that they will be following, then the next one that we would be working on after that would be North Talbot and then we would just go down the list; turning to page 152 in your Agenda, just to build on some of the comments that were provided by the Consultant; in undertaking this evaluation, it was a values based assessment, so these are the values that were looked at to determine their priority; certainly, things like the community readiness to actually undertake this very often, as the Committee will recall, their priorities have been driven by neighbourhoods coming forward and identifying, and Council has said 'yes there is a neighbourhood desire' and that moved communities up the list; very often those are driven by other external forces, for example, if it is a neighborhood that's seen a large amount of change in the community, all of these criteria are there and so that would provide Council the opportunity to revisit the list and revisit the priorities; based on the values and based on the assessment that was undertaken, this is the list that would establish those priorities now for you, and they would just fall into our work plan.
- (Councillor M. Cassidy indicating that there are a couple of areas on this list that are going through other processes right now, so the East Village and Lambeth with she believes a *Secondary Plan* in one and the *Community Improvement Plan* process going through; will there be any sort of, not necessarily crossover, but how will these work together, if at all.); Mr. G. Barrett, Manager, Long Range Planning and Sustainability, responding that they work together but they all work together for different purposes; they are all around community building and ensuring the communities are strong; through community improvement plans, those kinds of

things, those are plans that deal with improvements that can be undertaken municipally or through the community in order to bring improvement to the community based on what values were established in that particular Community Improvement Plan; through a Heritage Conservation District study in the Heritage Conservation District plan, the focus is on those requirements under the *Ontario Heritage Act* and describes those attributes that will be determined to be important in the community, and then the plan for preserving those attributes and how you would deal with change from a heritage perspective using that Plan as your lens.

- Patricia Cullimore, 156 Central Avenue – advising that she lives at the corner of Central Avenue and Saint George Street; indicating that she strongly encourages Council to please expedite, where she lives is in the North Talbot area, and she would strongly encourage Council to expedite the heritage designation for the North Talbot area; indicating that there is a contractor in their area who is extremely active right now; pointing out that within the past, less than five years, he probably has snapped up roughly twenty properties in the area, and his sole priority is strictly to increase the density, with the obvious financial benefit to him, with absolutely no consideration whatsoever for heritage; pointing out that she did have a chance to look at the report over the weekend, and there were a number of key properties that are in North Talbot that were listed why it should be number one for designation and a very important one that was left off that list was 172 Central Avenue which was the residence of Dr. Arenya Dega; indicating that is all the more reason to designate it, but in all honesty and she would encourage Council to visit 5 St George Street if Council would like to see what this contractor is doing; believing, in all honesty, if Council waits two years to designate our area, within maybe even a year, there will be very little heritage left to designate.