

Bylaw 19784

Edmonton Design Committee Bylaw

Recommendation

That Urban Planning Committee recommend to City Council:

That Bylaw 19784 be given the appropriate number of readings.

Purpose

To replace Bylaw 14054, Edmonton Design Committee Bylaw.

Readings

Bylaw 19784 is ready for three readings.

A majority vote of City Council on all three readings is required for passage.

If Council wishes to give three readings during a single meeting, then prior to moving third reading, Council must unanimously agree “That Bylaw 19784 be considered for third reading.”

Position of Administration

Administration supports this Bylaw.

Report Summary

The new Edmonton Design Committee Bylaw has been written in alignment with Council Policy C575D, Agencies, Boards, Committees, and Commissions, and the February 2, 2021, Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development report CR_7736, Edmonton Design Committee Policies and Procedures.

Report

The current bylaw was last updated in February 2021 to remove the requirement for members (up to three) representing Alberta architects to be nominated by the Alberta Association of Architects.

The proposed bylaw is an important outcome of the Urban Form and Corporate Strategic Development report CR_7736, Edmonton Design Committee Policies and Procedures, which was presented to Urban Planning Committee on February 2, 2021.

The purpose of the report was to identify changes to Edmonton Design Committee (EDC) standards and procedures to ensure the continued efficiency, effectiveness and relevance of the Committee, leading to good urban design outcomes for both private and publicly funded projects in alignment with ConnectEdmonton and The City Plan.

Proposed bylaw changes include:

Function

The proposed bylaw includes an important change to Committee function:

- The ability for Administration, with the support of the Committee, to exempt certain projects from review. For example, small scale ground oriented residential development, storefront improvement projects approved through the Facade Improvement Program, and new City facility projects of a utilitarian nature that lack a strong public realm interface would not require EDC review. This change is proposed in response to input from the Committee, Administration and industry, to exempt small-scale projects and better focus the Committee's review on projects with high urban design impact.

When the Development Officer, Rezoning Planner or City Project Manager (for City projects) identifies a project which may be considered for exemption, they will prepare a brief recommendation with supporting justification and documentation, for review by the City Manager. Applicants will receive notice of the exemption in writing with the rationale for the decision.

Structure

The proposed bylaw includes two important changes to Committee structure:

- Adding a member to represent the Alberta Professional Planners Institute, bringing the total representatives to two. This change is proposed in response to the Committee's desire to bring greater insight and perspective to the review of projects.
- Changing the criteria for the member who represents academia, to include post-secondary institutions beyond the University of Alberta, and areas of research and teaching beyond the disciplines of industrial design and fine art. This change is proposed in response to the Committee's desire to bring greater insight and perspective to the review of projects.

Public Engagement

This Bylaw was developed with the participation of the Edmonton Design Committee, which passed a motion at their August 3, 2021, meeting in support of this new Bylaw.

Attachments

1. Bylaw 19784 - Edmonton Design Committee Bylaw

Others Reviewing this Report

- S. McCabe, Deputy City Manager, Urban Planning and Economy
- K. Fallis-Howell, Acting City Solicitor