

Edmonton Historical Board

COUNCIL MEMBER APPOINTMENT REPORTING

Appointment:	Edmonton Historical Board
Classification:	Advisory Committee
Councillor(s):	Councillor Anne Stevenson
Reporting Period:	November 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023

Mandate

The Edmonton Historical Board (EHB) is an advisory board to City Council. It advises City Council on historical issues and heritage policy, liaises with Administration (primarily the Heritage Conservation Unit in Urban Planning & Economy) and community groups involved with heritage issues, and works to educate citizens on the history of Edmonton. The Board also has a mandate to encourage, promote and advocate for the preservation and safeguarding of historical properties, resources, communities, and documentary heritage.

Background

The Edmonton Historical Board has its origins in the establishment of the Archives Committee of the City of Edmonton in 1938. Originally focused on managing the City archives, the organization evolved into the Archives and Landmarks Committee in 1947, adding the marking of historical sites to their mandate. In 1966, the Archives and Landmarks Committee became the Edmonton Historical Board, with the City Archives becoming a separate unit. EHB was established as an official advisory board to City Council in 2005.

The Edmonton Historical Board, through its subcommittee, the Historic Resources Review Panel, undertakes evaluations of buildings being proposed for addition to the City's Inventory of Historic Resources, and manages the Historic Plaques Committee. The Board also has an Engagement Committee focused on communication and external relations, and the Policy and Planning Committee that conducts research and reviews City policies and reports for alignment with the Historic Resource Management Plan.

Shared priorities and advocacy areas

The work of EHB aligns with the City Plan guiding value of 'Preserve' by working on the preservation and commemoration of Edmonton's built form. While not a directly

participating agency, the EHB's work is also aligned with Connections and Exchanges.

The Policy & Planning Committee has begun focusing on the relationship between built heritage and climate change and will be bringing this forward to Council later in 2023, which presents an opportunity for collaboration on this topic of mutual interest.

Report on activities, projects, and outcomes

The Board has continued to administer the Historic Plaques program, with seven plaques being completed in 2022 for buildings that were designated as Municipal Historic Resources by City Council in 2021. The Historic Resources Review Panel has also been actively reviewing properties for inclusion on the Inventory of Historic Resources, adding 11 to the Inventory in 2022.

The Board held a strategic planning session on March 15, 2023.

In January 2023, EHB took part in a tour of the City of Edmonton's Artifacts Centre.

Upcoming events and milestones

May 24th will be the first meeting of the new term. EHB will be discussing the outcomes of their Strategic Planning session, welcoming new members, and establishing their work plan for the upcoming year.

EHB will be hosting an event on July 5th as part of the Edmonton & District Historical Society's Historic Festival and Doors Open. EHB and a member of the City's Heritage Conservation Unit will provide information on their work, designation process and financial incentives that are available, and present and display plaques for recently designated Municipal Historic Resources and historically-significant sites to the public.

Evaluation

It is recommended that the City of Edmonton continue to work with the Edmonton Historical Board to advance City Plan and Connections and Exchanges, and work to build further collaboration between EHB and organizations like the Edmonton Heritage Council.