

OLD STRATHCONA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Recommendation

1. That the appointments to the Old Strathcona Business Association Board of Directors, as set out in Attachment 1 of the August 19, 2025, Urban Planning and Economy report UPE03149, be approved, and that the term of appointment be August 19, 2025, to December 31, 2025.
2. That Attachment 1 of the August 19, 2025, Urban Planning and Economy report UPE03149 remain private pursuant to section 34 (information that is or will be available to the public within 60 days) of the *Access to Information Act*.
3. That Attachment 2 of the August 19, 2025, Urban Planning and Economy report UPE03149 remain private pursuant to sections 20 (disclosure harmful to personal privacy) and 29 (advice from officials) of the *Access to Information Act*.

Requested Council Action		Decision Required	
ConnectEdmonton’s Guiding Principle		ConnectEdmonton Strategic Goals	
CONNECTED This unifies our work to achieve our strategic goals.		Regional Prosperity	
City Plan Values	THRIVE		
City Plan Big City Move(s)	Catalyze and Converge	Relationship to Council’s Strategic Priorities	Economic Growth
Corporate Business Plan	Serving Edmontonians		
Council Policy, Program or Project Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">City Policy C462B – Business Revitalization Zone Establishment and OperationBylaw 10454 - Edmonton Old Strathcona Business Improvement Area Bylaw		
Related Council Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">UPE02299 Edmonton Business Improvement Areas 2025 Boards of Directors		

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Executive Summary

- The Old Strathcona Business Association submitted a letter (Attachment 2) requesting that City Council appoint five new Directors to the Association's Board.

REPORT

On December 10, 2024, City Council appointed 11 members to the 2025 Board of Directors of the Old Strathcona Business Association.

All board members must be appointed by City Council pursuant to the *Municipal Government Act* and Bylaw 10454 - Edmonton Old Strathcona Business Improvement Area Bylaw. Individuals are qualified to be a Director on the Board if they have been nominated in writing by any person in the Edmonton Old Strathcona Business Improvement Area who is shown on the current assessment roll of the City as being assessed for business taxes with respect to a business carried on within the Edmonton Old Strathcona Business Improvement Area. They must also have consented to act as a Director, in writing submitted to the Board prior to their appointment.

The five individuals identified in Attachment 1 were nominated as new Directors to the Old Strathcona Business Association on July 9, 2025, accepted the nomination and indicated their willingness to serve on the Board (Attachment 2) and, if approved by Council, will result in 11 total Directors on the Board. Subject to Council approval, these new Directors will fill vacancies left by five outgoing Directors who were unable to complete their 2025 terms due to voluntary resignation. The new Directors will be appointed as of August 19, 2025 until December 31, 2025. Administration has confirmed that all of these individuals identified in Attachment 1 have met all of the provincial and municipal requirements for appointment by Council.

Filling these vacancies on the Board is necessary because the association needs to begin working on setting its 2026 budget. A full roster of board members ensures it is representative of the association and community and that governance decisions are being made by a full Board.

This approach to replace vacant board seats follows precedents set in similar past situations where Business Improvement Area board members had been unable to complete their term. Business Improvement Area associations can choose to hold the positions vacant until the new board slate is moved at the Annual General Meeting held each fall. However, for situations where there is an urgent need to replace a member(s) to maintain board quorum or to backfill important positions on the board, reports have been brought forward to Council seeking the appointment(s).

Bylaw 10454 - Edmonton Old Strathcona Business Improvement Area Bylaw does not specifically outline a process for mid-term replacement of Directors due to vacancies. To address this, Administration is recommending amendments to this bylaw and the bylaws relating to the other 12 Business Improvement Areas, as well as Policy C462B, for Council approval in September 2025.

Community Insight

Administration continues to work in close partnership with Business Improvement Area associations. Administration's participation in the Business Improvement Area associations' annual general meetings ensures compliance with governance and legislative requirements. In

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addition, participation in monthly Business Improvement Area Council meetings, a regular meeting of Business Improvement Area Executive Directors, aids in best practice sharing, issue resolution and project and initiative prioritization. Additional support is provided in the areas of infrastructure upkeep, business-focused advocacy support, marketing and communications and other initiatives aimed at capacity building for boards and executive directors.

Administration further supports Business Improvement Area member businesses (and businesses across the city) through its Business Friendly services, including targeted grants, one-on-one business support and championing business friendly initiatives. Administration strives to strengthen its relationships with the Business Improvement Area associations and members to support economic success throughout Edmonton. Public engagement was not completed for this private report. The updates to the Business Improvement Area bylaws and Policy C462B reference above are informed by engagement with the Business Improvement Area associations, which included the identification of mid-term board member replacements.

GBA+

Business Improvement Area associations are independent, board-governed entities with their own procedures and operating guidelines. Administration's role is to:

- Collaborate with the 13 Business Improvement Area associations to ensure they can integrate GBA+ processes that contribute to the accessibility and equity of services they provide, and that help to inform the updating of association bylaws, policies and procedures.
- Provide support in determining and setting the budgets that fund the operations and events of the associations.

Environment and Climate Review

This report was reviewed for environment and climate risks. Based on the review completed no significant interactions with the City's environmental and climate goals were identified within the scope of this report.

Attachments

1. PRIVATE - Old Strathcona Business Association Board of Directors - Appointment Recommendations
2. PRIVATE - Letter of Appointment and Nomination Letters on behalf of the board of the Old Strathcona Business Association - dated July 9, 2025