

Glenora Heritage Inventory Status Report

Recommendation:

That the May 26, 2015, Sustainable Development report CR_2366, be received for information.

Report Summary

This report updates the status of a historic resources inventory for the Glenora neighbourhood, including information on funding to undertake the project.

Previous Council/Committee Action

At the March 16, 2015, City Council Public Hearing, the following motion was passed:

That Administration provide a status report on the heritage inventory work in Glenora and return to Executive Committee as soon as possible.

Report

Administration undertakes historic resource inventories for individual neighbourhoods as a means of identifying individual heritage properties for possible inclusion on the Inventory of Historic Resources in Edmonton. Inventories also focus on identifying potential areas of historic character, or collections of significant buildings within a neighbourhood. Consultants are typically engaged for inventory projects to undertake the identification and required research on any identified heritage properties or heritage character areas. While inventories are typically undertaken for an entire neighbourhood, the number of properties considered in an inventory is limited by the cost of background research at approximately \$2,000 per property.

For the past ten years, Administration has partnered with the Province through its Municipal Heritage Partnership Program to cost-share neighbourhood historic resource inventory projects on a 50-50 basis. Typically, this provincial program (in partnership with the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation) provides a grant of up to \$30,000 to undertake neighbourhood inventories that in the past have each cost a total of approximately \$60,000.

To date, Administration has surveyed Glenora twice for historic properties; the first in 1993 as part of the original city-wide inventory, and the second in 2008 as part of a city-wide modern inventory. Neither of these city-wide surveys were as comprehensive as other recent neighbourhood inventories. At present, 21 properties are on the inventory of Historic Resources and three properties have been designated in Glenora.

The 2015 operating budget allocated \$60,000 towards the inventory project for Glenora, with \$30,000 expected as a grant from Alberta Culture and Tourism's Municipal Heritage Partnership Program, and the remaining \$30,000 funded from the Heritage

Reserve Fund. On February 2, 2015, Administration applied to Alberta Culture and Tourism's Municipal Heritage Partnership Program for a matching \$30,000 grant to inventory the Glenora Neighbourhood. At the time, Administration anticipated the grant would be in place to initiate an inventory by September 2015.

On March 16, 2015, the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation issued notice that a decision on the Glenora inventory grant application was being deferred until May 23, 2015, pending approval of the Foundation's 2015-2016 budget. On March 26, 2015, the 2015 Provincial budget was released and the Municipal Heritage Partnership Program was discontinued. On March 31, 2015, Administration was notified that the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation would no longer accept applications for grants previously funded through the Municipal Heritage Partnership Program.

Administration has since verbally confirmed that the Alberta Historic Resources Foundation will consider the Glenora inventory grant application on May 23, 2015. The Province also advised that after this date it will confirm whether future grant applications may be funded through other programs. By the time Executive Committee meets to consider this report, Administration may have an update on the status of the matching grant application.

Given the anticipated number and quality of period properties and potential character areas in Glenora, Administration estimates an inventory of the neighbourhood will cost at least \$75,000, and that the previously-identified budget of \$60,000 is inadequate. As such, Administration will consider a number of options to undertake the inventory including:

- potential funding from Alberta Culture and Tourism of up to \$30,000, with the balance of the project cost being funded from the Heritage Reserve
- providing additional funding from the Heritage Reserve to cover the entire \$75,000 budget (should the Province not provide funding)
- staging the inventory over a number of years with supporting annual matching grants from the Province (should these be available)
- obtaining funding from the community.

Any increase in expenditures and revenue amounts for 2015 would require City Council to approve a budget adjustment.

Administration has presented the option of cost sharing the inventory to representatives of the Old Glenora Conservation Association who do not support such an arrangement, and note this was not a requirement of previous inventories.

Next Steps

Administration will continue to liaise with the Province as to the availability of funding to undertake the Glenora inventory in partnership. Administration will also liaise with the Glenora community to review options to advance a comprehensive inventory.

Policy

The Way We Grow, Edmonton's Municipal Development Plan:

- Section 5.2.1: Enhance established neighbourhoods by ensuring the design of new development, infrastructure and community facilities makes a positive contribution to the neighbourhood.
- Section 5.8.1: Encourage a sense of local identity and create connections to the city's cultural and historical roots through the conservation and preservation of significant structures, buildings, district, landscape and archaeological resources.

Historic Resource Management Plan:

- Policy 1 – Register and Inventory of Historic Resources in Edmonton: The City will develop and maintain a comprehensive document, the Register and Inventory of Historic Resources in Edmonton, that identifies all historic resources and areas in the city that are of architectural, social and cultural value.
- Policy 4 – Heritage Areas: The City will recognize, protect, enhance and promote the character of its historic areas.

Budget/Financial Implications

The Glenora historic resources inventory is anticipated to cost a minimum of \$75,000. The following funding sources may be available to undertake the project:

- up \$30,000 from the Province, per year
- up to \$75,000 from the Heritage Reserve per year
- an undetermined amount from the Glenora community per year.

Others Reviewing this Report

- K. Rozmahel, General Manager, Corporate Services
- T. Burge, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer