



Edmonton Design Committee 2019-2020 Annual Report

May 26 2020



EDMONTON
DESIGN
COMMITTEE



EDMONTON DESIGN COMMITTEE 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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1. INTRODUCTION

The Edmonton Design Committee (EDC) was established by City Council in 2005. EDC operates under City of Edmonton Bylaw 14054 with the mandate to "...improve the quality of Urban Design in the city of Edmonton".

2. POLICIES, PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES

In addition to the direction outlined in Bylaw 14054, EDC has established its own internal processes and procedures, including the establishment of the EDC Principles of Urban Design to evaluate development and rezoning applications. These processes and principles continue to serve the EDC well and provide for a consistent review and evaluation process.

The EDC operating under Bylaw 14054 will continue to:

- Provide input to the City with respect to urban design principles, guidelines, and policies;
- Accept submissions and provide recommendations to Administration on development permit and comprehensive rezoning applications, including Direct Control Provisions, Special Areas Zoning, Major Commercial Corridor Overlays, Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and Large-Site Infill, within the Committee's geographic boundary (See Appendix 1);
- Review and provide recommendations on development applications, public projects or special projects in the City of Edmonton at the request of Council or the City Manager;
- Review pre-applications and provide recommendations to the Applicant;
- Make recommendations to Council as to changes to this bylaw; and
- Make recommendations to Council as to changes to other existing bylaws and City policies relevant to Urban Design.



EDC Principles of Urban Design

The EDC Principles of Urban Design were developed to express the aspirations of the Committee and facilitate a meaningful conversation with Applicants to support exemplary urban design in Edmonton. The three overarching principles relate to urbanism, design excellence, and scale, connections and context.

Interacting with Applicants

The Committee interacts with Applicants in two main ways:

Formal Submissions coincide with Development Permit and Rezoning Applications. These are required of all projects which fall within the geographic boundary (See Appendix 1), as well as all City projects. Formal submissions are open to the public and generally occur as follows:

- EDC Members receive submissions 1-2 weeks prior to the meeting date in order to become familiarized with the proposal;
- The Applicant makes a 10-15 minute presentation to the Committee summarizing the project and its response to the Principles of Urban Design;
- Committee members are given the opportunity to ask questions for clarification purposes;
- Following the presentation the Committee deliberates in-camera on the merits of the submission. The outcome of this deliberation is a motion of “support”, “support with conditions”, or “non-support”. In some cases, the Committee tables the submission until further information is made available.
- These and other motions are recorded and written recommendations are forwarded to the Applicant within 48 hours.

Applicants can also opt for an **Informal Pre-consultation** prior to a Formal Submission. These presentations, which are not open to the public, allow an



applicant to come to EDC for preliminary advice with respect to a development that is being considered. These presentations are not part of the formal meeting; therefore, no written record of this portion of the meeting is kept.

In an Informal Pre-consultation, the Applicant and EDC can have an open dialogue, allowing Committee members to speak more informally, offer suggestions to improve the project, and clarify the principles and standards that will be expected during a Formal Submission.

In the opinion of the Committee, the Informal Pre-consultation process is extremely valuable. The conversations better prepare Applicants for Formal Submissions. Applicants who attend a Pre-consultation are typically more successful at gaining approval at the Formal Submission.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The EDC consists of eleven members appointed by City Council representing various environmental design professions, the Edmonton Arts Council, the University of Alberta, the development industry, and the community at large. More than half of the current committee members have served three terms or more, the effect of their combined expertise has added an undeniable wealth of knowledge and depth of experience to our efforts. Listed from most recently appointed to longest serving, the current EDC is comprised of the following members:

Adrian Benoit

Alberta Association of Architects

Member since 2019

Adrian is a registered architect and Associate with GEC Architecture with over 10 years of architectural and urban design experience in Alberta and Manitoba. He holds a Master of Architecture and a Bachelor of Environmental Design degrees from the University of Manitoba. Adrian's



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experience ranges from large-scale mixed-use developments, to affordable and permanent supportive housing, to major recreation and civic improvement projects.

David Brown

Alberta Association of Landscape Architects

Member since 2018

David is currently the Landscape Architecture - Division Manager for McElhanney Consulting Services Ltd., (Edmonton). David has close to 30 years of public and private landscape architectural experience in both Ontario and throughout Western Canada. David has been a full member of the Alberta Association of Landscape Architects since 1992, and in 2010 was made a Fellow Landscape Architect in the Canadian Society of Landscape Architects - the highest honour for a professional Landscape Architect in Canada. David has undertaken a broad range of planning, design and implementation assignments as a professional landscape architect. His project experiences are multi-disciplinary, including urban planning and design; recreation, open space and tourism; environmental planning; institutional; industrial; commercial and LEED™ building and sustainable/Low Impact Development projects.

Carma Holmes (Vice-Chair)

Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta

Member since 2018

Carma is the Division Manager of the Buildings Engineering Division in Associated Engineering's Edmonton Office. She is a structural engineer and her 20 years of experience have primarily focused on projects for the public sector. Carma has participated in the design and construction of municipal facilities in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and British Columbia. Carma is also a past Director of Construction Specifications Canada and a member of the Canada Green Building Council.



Janice Mills (Vice-Chair)

Edmonton Arts Council

Member since 2018

Janice is an Associate and an Architectural Contract Administrator with DIALOG and holds a Masters of Structural Engineering from the University of Alberta. Janice possesses an enthusiastic drive to meaningfully improve the wellbeing of our communities and the environment that we all share by upholding the integrity of design. Janice holds a position on the Edmonton Public Arts Committee which develops visions and objectives for the Percent for Art program and makes recommendations regarding the City of Edmonton Public Art Collection. She holds a position on the 104th Street Steering Committee which provides a mechanism for residents and businesses along 104th Street to build a great community and advocate for the community they want.

Brian Nolan

Alberta Association of Landscape Architects

Member since 2018

Brian has practiced as a built environment professional for over a decade in Canada, Australia and Ireland. He has worked in public and private organizations, collaborating within and leading multi-disciplinary teams to deliver projects of varying scale and complexity. These projects provided opportunities to develop his skills in landscape and urban design, project management, and sustainable development. As a Downtown resident, Brian has great admiration of the transformation and city building underway in Edmonton. He is excited and committed to play a greater role in the design of the city as an Alberta Association of Landscape Architects (AALA) Representative Member of the Edmonton Design Committee.



Tim Antoniuk
University of Alberta
Member since 2017

Tim is an Associate Professor in the Industrial Design Program at the University of Alberta teaching classes in emerging design and business models, design for sustainability and materials and manufacturing processes. Initiating his design career three decades ago as a professional windsurfer, he formed one of Canada's most winning windsurf sail manufacturing companies, Whirlwind Sails; then in 1992, went on to co-found one of Canada's most recognized furniture design/retail groups, Hothouse Design Studio. Most recently, Tim has developed the Micro Habitation Lab (mHLab) at the UofA where he is exploring transformability, expandability, modularity and movability of products and architectural elements in micro suites (230 sq ft).

Adam Zepp
Citizen-at-Large / Development Industry Representative
Member since 2017

Adam is a lifelong Edmontonian and new resident of downtown who is extremely passionate about the city he lives in. He graduated from the University of Alberta with a civil engineering degree in 2011 and is currently working at Stantec as a Land Development Engineer. His strong belief in the importance of integrating environmental oversight with planning, led him to complete his LEED certification. Recently, Adam became a Stantec Brand Ambassador and frequently attends community events as a representative of the company.



Dnyanesh Deshpande

Alberta Professional Planners Institute

Member since 2016

Dnyanesh holds a Bachelor of Architecture from Pune University, a Master of Urban Design from the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology, Ahmedabad and a Master of Urban Planning from McGill University, Montreal. He has also served as Principal Urban Designer for the City of Edmonton from 2006 to 2010. His diverse experience and passion for planning affords him a unique understanding of all aspects of urban development, from architecture to urban design to land use policy planning.

Marcelo Figueira

Citizen-at-Large

Member since 2016

Marcelo has a Masters in Environmental Design (Planning) and a B.A. in Urban Studies from the University of Calgary, and a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from FAAP, Sao Paulo - Brazil. Having lived and worked in Alberta for 13 years, he has obtained a working knowledge of the local context and an understanding of political sensitivities in urban design and planning.

Svetlana Kaznacheeva

Alberta Association of Architects

Member since 2016

Svetlana is an architect with over 20 years of experience in designing buildings of different types and scales including urban development, site analysis, and masterplan. Her passion is in the quality of architecture and its future impact on the environment and its inhabitants. Trained internationally, she made her career twice: initially in Europe and the second time in Canada.



Wes Sims (Chair)

Alberta Association of Architects

Member since 2014

Wes was educated at the Faculty of Environment Design at the University of Calgary and studied urban design at the Kunst Academy in Copenhagen. Shortly thereafter he moved to Edmonton to practice Architecture. He has practiced here for 20 years, having worked on numerous civic and private development projects of various scale and typology.

Succession Planning

There were no immediate succession issues in the current EDC term. The upcoming 2020-21 will see the end of Wes Sims' appointment. Beginning in later 2020 Administration will reach out to the Alberta Association of Architects (AAA) to initiate a search for a new representative to be appointed in May 2021.

4. ACTIVITIES

Meetings and Presentations

Presently, EDC meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month, typically reviewing three to five applications at each meeting. Periodically, an extra meeting will be scheduled to review applications in a timely manner and reduce any backlog. Additional time is required by Committee members to review the development packages prior to the meeting.

During the 2019 - 2020 term, EDC reviewed **53** Formal Applications and **22** Informal Pre-Consultations, for a total of **75** presentations.

Of the 53 Formal Applications reviewed:



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- **15** received a motion of support (28%)
- **23** received a motion of support with conditions (43%)
- **3** received a motion of support with administrative walk-on (6%)
- **8** received a motion of non-support (15%)
- **4** were tabled (i.e. were deemed incomplete) (8%)

Of the 8 Formal Applications which did not receive support, all but 1 proceeded directly without an Informal Pre-Consultation.

Over the course of the term, EDC met **22** times with the average meeting being approximately **4.5 hours** in duration.

5. ANNUAL WORKPLAN

The 2019-2020 EDC Annual Workplan was largely focused on the Edmonton Design Committee Policies and Procedures Review, a project undertaken by Administration in partnership with EDC. Other activities typically include advocacy and outreach, as well as an annual Committee Retreat.

The ongoing work of the Committee, and the implementation of the Annual Workplan, is supported by the EDC Intern.

Policies and Procedures Review

The review of the EDC policies and procedures is to ensure the continued efficiency, effectiveness and relevance of the Committee. The project kicked off in Q3 2018, and in March 2020 a draft report was finalized reflecting ongoing internal engagement with both the EDC Subcommittee and Administration. Engagement with the design and development community has begun with the interest of reporting to Urban Planning Committee late in 2020. The implementation of recommendations and actions identified in the Policies and Procedures Review is scheduled to begin during the upcoming 2020-21 term.



Advocacy and Outreach Activities

The primary advocacy and outreach activity of the Edmonton Design Committee is the Annual Council Luncheon. This year's luncheon, which is typically held in spring, has been postponed due to issues related to COVID-19.

Committee Retreat

The Committee held an all-day retreat on July 20, 2019, to both provide an orientation to new members, and discuss the Policies and Procedures Review project. The following key actions were identified that could be undertaken immediately:

- Ensuring motions provide additional information and insight to provide a more balanced review of projects;
- Recording informal comments (by Administration) to ensure greater continuity at subsequent formal presentations; and
- Engaging in more fulsome conversations with Administration at the beginning of each meeting to better understand each project and the potential scope of the Committee's influence, and at the same time clarify any specific design guidance needed by the File Planner / Development Officer.

These actions have been incorporated into the day-to-day functioning of the EDC, and have improved the overall effectiveness of the Committee.

EDC Intern

During the 2019-20 term the Committee initiated a program to host an internship program in conjunction with the University of Alberta. The role of the intern is to undertake research and gather information which supports



the day-to-day functioning of the Committee, and assists in the implementation of the Annual Workplan.

Over the course of this past term, EDC has hosted three successive interns. The program has been viewed positively by the Committee and is scheduled to continue in the 2020-21 term.

6. BUDGET INFORMATION

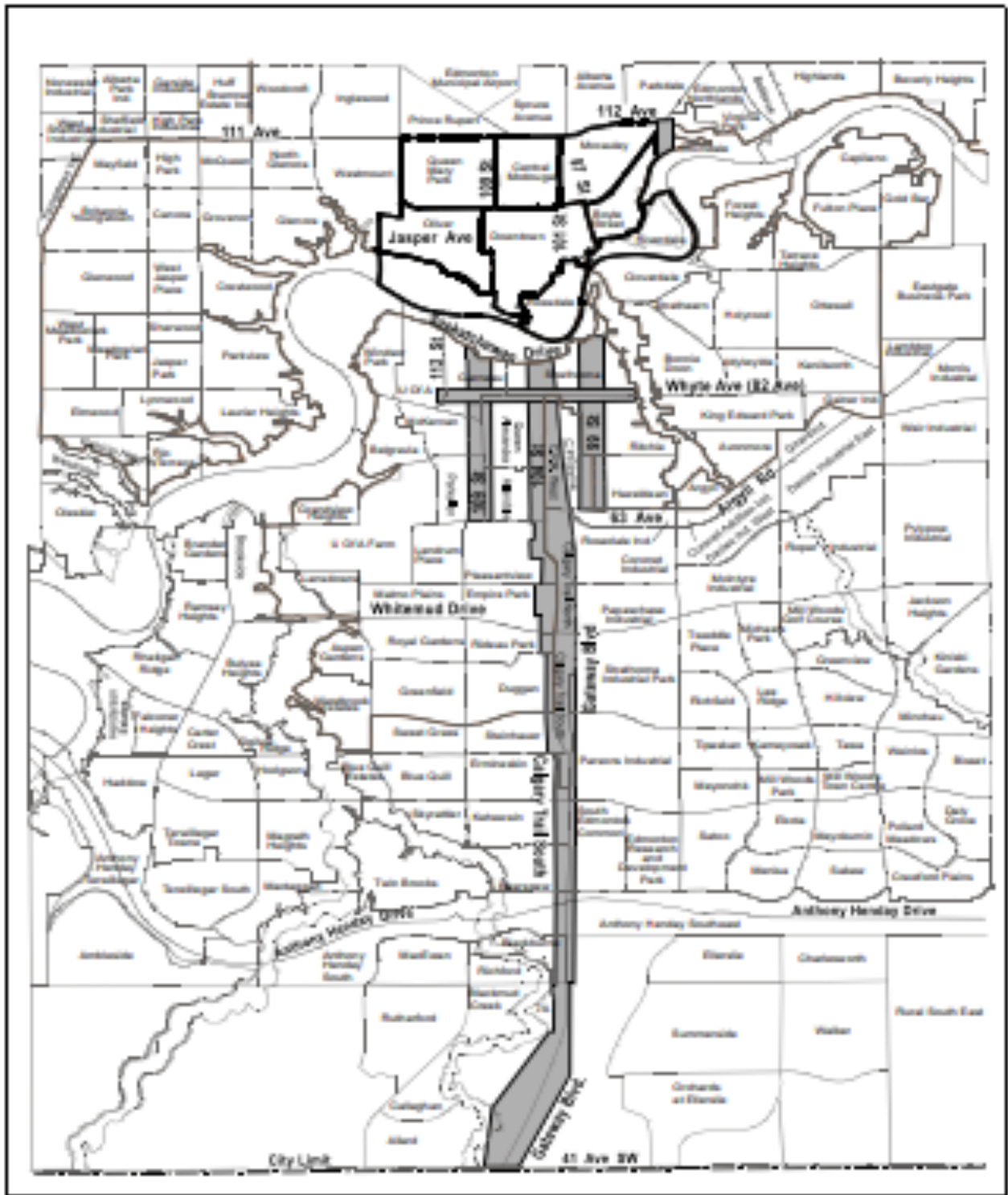
Administration is primarily responsible for managing the budget of the Edmonton Design Committee, including requirements for hosting, recognition and other general expenses.

The 2020 EDC budget allocation is included in Appendix 2.



End of report

Appendix 1 / EDC Geographical Boundary



Appendix 2 / 2020 EDC Budget

The annual budget for the Edmonton Design Committee is as follows:

Item	2020 Budget (1)	Description / Note
Honoraria	\$49,102.00	24 meetings / year (2) (3)
Hosting	\$7,850.00	24 meetings / year (2), annual Council Luncheon
Courier	\$3,250.00	Couriering EDC submission packages to Members
Volunteer Recognition	\$500.00	Certificates, etc., for outgoing Members
Printing	\$1000.00	Printing expenses related to EDC Policies and Procedures Review project

Notes

- (1) This is the approved operating budget which represents the 12 month period beginning January 1, 2020.
- (2) 24 meetings are typically scheduled per year. In the 2019-2020 term, EDC held 22 meetings.
- (3) Costs for honoraria vary depending on the number of Members in attendance and the length of meetings. Committee Members receive a \$100.00 honorarium per meeting. For meetings that exceed 5.0 hours in duration, members receive a \$200.00 honorarium.