



Edmonton Design Committee 2020-2021 Annual Report

April 15, 2021



EDMONTON
DESIGN
COMMITTEE



EDMONTON DESIGN COMMITTEE 2020-21 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 (Vice Chair)

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



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.



Carma will be leaving the Committee at the end of the 2020-21 term.

Janice Mills (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.



Brian will be leaving the Committee at the end of the 2020-21 term.

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

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

Wes Sims, representing the Alberta Association of Architects (AAA) has reached the maximum term of serving 6 consecutive years on the committee at the end of the 2020-21. The Chair and Vice-Chairs have worked diligently with the Office of the City Clerk to recruit a new member representing the AAA. As a result of this recruitment, Tai Ziola (AAA) will be joining EDC commencing May 2021.

Also leaving the Committee at the end of the 2020-21 term are:

- Brian Nolan, representing Alberta Association of Landscape Architects (AALA). Brian has been successfully voted to President of the 2021-2022 AALA Board of Directors and noted that he could no longer accommodate the time commitment required to be an active member of the Edmonton Design Committee. Recruitment for the AALA position will be carried out externally by the AALA.
- Carma Homes, representing the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA). Time commitment and alignment of skill sets were noted as reasons for her departure. Recruitment for the APEGA position will be carried out externally by APEGA.



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At the end of the 2021-22 term, three positions will become vacant, including Svetlana Kaznacheeva (AAA), Dnyanesh Deshpande (APPI) and Marcelo Figueira (Citizen-at-Large).

Due to the increasing number of rezoning submissions coming to EDC, it has been previously identified in the 2019-20 and 2020-21 membership reports that having only one member representing the Alberta Professional Planners Institute (APPI) is a weakness of the committee. Currently one of our Citizen-at-Large positions is filled with a Planner, Marcelo Figueira, but with him reaching his maximum term in 2021-22 the committee will lose a critical planning perspective - unless the Citizen-at-Large position is filled by another Planner or another Planner position is added.

Therefore, it remains the recommendation of the Chair to add another designated Planning position to the committee and that this be a priority for Council.

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 **42** Formal Submissions (compared to 53 in the previous term). Of these submissions:

- **14** received a motion of support (34%)
- **21** received a motion of support with conditions (50%)
- **7** received a motion of non-support (16%)



Of the 7 Formal Submissions which did not receive support, **only 1** was previously reviewed by EDC as an Informal Pre-Consultation.

The Committee also reviewed **10** Informal Pre-Consultations.

Over the course of the term, EDC met **23 times** with the average meeting being approximately **4.0 hours** in duration (compared to 4.5 hours in the previous term).

5. ANNUAL WORKPLAN

The 2020-21 EDC Annual Workplan continued to be focused on the Edmonton Design Committee Policies and Procedures Review, a project undertaken by Administration in partnership with EDC. Other initiatives such as the Annual Council Luncheon were paused in 2020 due to COVID-19.

Policies and Procedures Review

The review of the EDC policies and procedures is to ensure the continued efficiency, effectiveness and relevance of the Committee. With the valued input of the EDC Subcommittee, in March 2020 a draft report was prepared and engagement with industry was conducted in July 2020. Administration presented an update on the work to Urban Planning Committee in February 2021 and embarked, with the support of the Subcommittee, to prepare new EDC procedures. These procedures will be completed in early summer 2021 when a Bylaw amendment will also be prepared and advanced to Council.

6. BUDGET INFORMATION

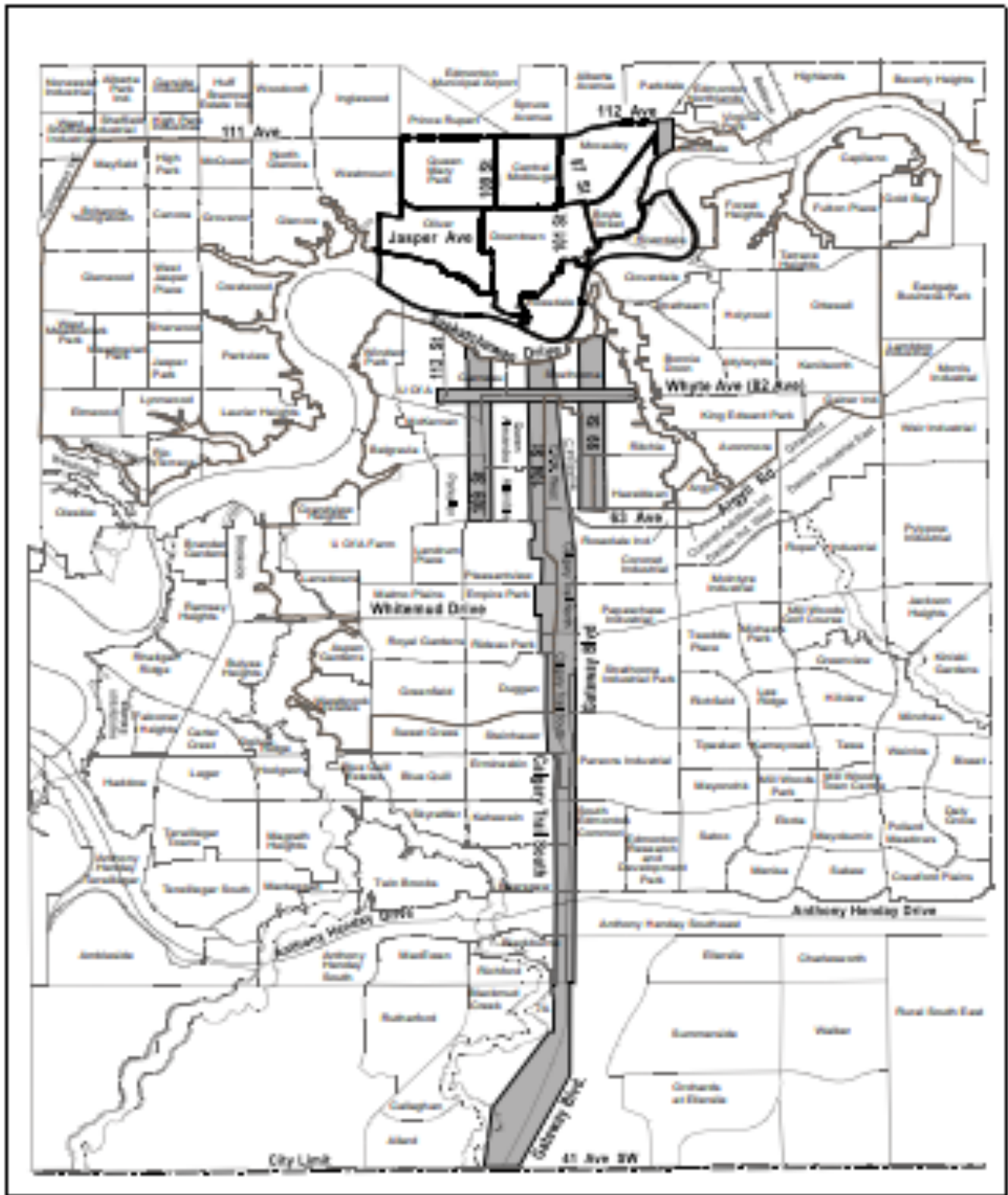
Administration is primarily responsible for managing the budget of the Edmonton Design Committee, including requirements for hosting, recognition and other general expenses.

The 2020 EDC budget allocation is included in Appendix 2.



End of report

Appendix 1 / EDC Geographical Boundary



Appendix 2 / 2021 EDC Budget

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

Item	2021 Budget (1)	Notes
Honoraria	\$84,400.00 (2)	
Hosting	\$785.00	
Courier	\$3,250.00	
Volunteer Recognition	\$500.00	
Printing	\$1000.00	

Notes

- (1) This is the approved operating budget which represents the 12 month period beginning January 1, 2021.
- (2) 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.

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