

From: [Web NoReply](#)
To: [City Council](#)
Subject: Email - Request to Speak - Peggy Sarjeant - Saskatoon Heritage Society - Official Community Plan - CK 4350-69
Date: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:53:58 AM
Attachments: [city_of_saskatoon_official_community_plan_2020_letter.doc](#)

Submitted on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 - 01:53

Submitted values are:

Date Tuesday, June 23, 2020

To His Worship the Mayor and Members of City Council

First Name Peggy

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City Saskatoon

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Name of the organization or agency you are representing (if applicable) Saskatoon Heritage Society

Subject Official Community Plan

Meeting (if known) City Council Hearing Monday 29th June

Comments

I would like to speak to the attached letter regarding the Official Community Plan, if possible.

Attachments

[city_of_saskatoon_official_community_plan_2020_letter.doc](#)



City of Saskatoon Official Community Plan 2020

Comments from the Saskatoon Heritage Society
submitted by Peggy Sarjeant, President

The Saskatoon Heritage Society presents the following comments on the proposed Official Community Plan. Our comments focus on the Heritage Conservation chapter of the Plan and also on references within other parts of the document which have relevance to our heritage concerns.

First of all we would like to say how much we appreciate the fact that all the policies reflected in previous planning documents have been brought together in one place. It makes it a lot easier to see how our heritage concerns are reflected in the various aspects of City Planning; **however, it would make things even easier if there were links to the various policies mentioned in the document.**

There are many aspects to the Plan which we welcome. We outline them below.

We are pleased to see:

- that one of the Strategic Goals (1.3 Quality of Life) is to “find new and creative ways to showcase our city’s built, natural and cultural heritage”.
- Recognition throughout the document of the importance of our heritage resources when development is being considered
- Encouragement of adaptive re-use of certain buildings: school buildings (*Quality of Life 6. Community Facilities 2 (j)*) ; “repurposing of commercial, heritage and industrial buildings to residential” (*Sustainable Growth 1.1 Downtown 2(f)(i)*). **BUT why is adaptive re-use limited to certain sectors?**
- Support for maintaining the viability of the downtown mentioned throughout the document. This is important to us, since Downtown is home to many of our heritage buildings and reflects the history and identity of our city. We appreciate the recognition of the importance of protecting 21st street downtown **BUT there are many other**

buildings and streets downtown that also need protecting (2nd Avenue; Spadina Crescent churches; the Bessborough Hotel etc).

- Urban design to work in “harmony with our heritage and values” (Quality of Life. 7 Placemaking (1) (b)).
- Recognition of the unique urban form of the commercial streets of 20th Street, Broadway, 33rd Street and Central Avenue, which require special treatment (Sustainable Growth. 4 Employment Areas (e)(iii) Special Area Commercial; Urban Form. 2.2 Land Use Designations. (8) Corridor Main Street.)

COMMENTS ON THE HERITAGE CONSERVATION SECTION

We welcome in particular

- the inclusion of policies related to conservation of Indigenous heritage
- the inclusion of Heritage Districts
- interpretation of heritage resources through design element in the public realm

What is Missing or Lacking

- There is no policy related to our documented/archival resources, despite the fact that these are identified in the preamble! These resources are crucial to any research into the history of our city.
- (2) (i) which is talking about tourism is very confusing to the reader. Can this be re-written?
- The principle Objective under ‘Heritage Conservation’ is to “Identify and **conserve** Saskatoon’s heritage resources”, yet several of the Policies do not align with that conservation objective. ‘Consider’ and ‘maintain’ seem to be the key words. We would welcome a more active role to be expressed throughout and particularly in relation to the Heritage Register. A list of buildings of heritage interest needs to have the goal of conservation attached to it.
- There is no mention of our intangible resources, such as the stories attached to our built heritage.
- Reference is made to the Heritage Policy. Can a link be provided to the document?

COMMENTS ON RIVERBANK STEWARDSHIP

The Saskatoon Heritage Society supports the conservation of our natural resources and supports the work of Meewasin. We are, therefore, surprised and taken aback by the wording of the section on Riverbank Stewardship. The role of Meewasin is barely mentioned. In addition, the major Objective reads as follows: “to facilitate appropriate development, while maintaining the integrity of the riverbank ...”. This is very worrying. Surely the focus should be on “maintaining the integrity of the riverbank”, rather than on facilitating development.

25th May 2020.