

May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Kreg Harley

[REDACTED]  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
[REDACTED]

**Governance & Priorities Committee**

City of Saskatoon  
222 3rd Avenue North  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
S7K 0J5

Attn: Mayor C. Clark and City Council

**Re: Governance Review – Other Bodies – Municipal Planning Commission**

I am writing in response to the report of the City Solicitor tabled at the City Council's Governance and Priorities Committee's meeting held on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024, and submitted to the Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) for feedback at their regular meeting held on April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

I have served as the Chair of the MPC since January 2023. I thoroughly enjoy volunteering my time serving the community in this role and understand more every day how important the MPC is with its current mandate to advise and assist City Council with respect to all matters pertaining to community planning and development within the city.

Regarding the report of the City Solicitor, I do have the following comments/feedback:

**2.4 City of Saskatoon's Current Approach - Municipal Planning Commission**

*"Applicants willing to commit time to attend meetings on a regular basis are eligible to sit on the MPC"*

Currently, the preferred meeting format is hybrid (virtual or in-person) attendance for meetings of the MPC. The ability of Commission members to attend meetings virtually makes it easier for them to commit time to attend meetings but does not encourage active participation in discussions. It would be beneficial if the city could consider that in-person attendance be mandatory for commission members unless prior arrangements are made.

**Appendix 3 – Jurisdictional Scan – Municipal Planning Commissions**

Calgary's Planning Commission "*Qualifications/Expectations*" are very well thought-out. Appendix 3 of the report states, "*of the 6 public member positions on the Calgary Planning Commission, at least 2 positions are filled from amongst citizens-at-large who apply through a public recruitment campaign. Up to 4 of the 6 public member positions on the Commission may*

*be filled either from the public recruitment campaign or from non-binding nominees solicited from professional organizations.*" - I believe it would be a great idea to consider non-binding nominations solicited from Professional Organizations for the City of Saskatoon's Municipal Planning Commission.

Edmonton's Design Committee's "*Expectations of members*" in Appendix 3 of the report is also very well worded. The expectations regarding participation, collaboration, and feedback are key factors in a well functioning committee. Similar wording included in the application information section for the City of Saskatoon's Municipal Planning Commission could be beneficial.

The Municipal Planning Commission (MPC) has been in existence since 1958. Administration has reported that there are no existing concerns and that the MPC appears to be functioning well in its current format and mandate. I agree with Administration's rationale.

In summary, I am supporting the Governance and Priorities Committee's recommendation to City Council that no changes be made to the Municipal Planning Commission in accordance with Option 2, Maintain the Status Quo.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kreg Harley', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Kreg Harley**

Chair, Municipal Planning Commission