

# MINUTES



## Edmonton Heritage Council Society (EHC) Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 23 September 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.  
Zoom Technology

**Note:** Due to the Covid-19 global health pandemic, the 2020 AGM had been postponed from its originally scheduled date of 27 May 2020. It was later determined that the AGM would need to proceed but would be conducted online (not in-person) because of health protocol restrictions for the continuing pandemic.

### 1. Welcome and Announcements

Board of Directors' Chair, Martin Kennedy, welcomed attendees and expressed the Board of Directors' gratitude for being able to connect with the society's members in a safe way during a global health pandemic. He acknowledged that virtual meetings have potential drawbacks, including the fact that the required technology is not universally accessible.

Mr. Kennedy noted that even though the gathering was virtual, we are still bound together by the common space we share, acknowledging that amiskwacîwâskahikan is the traditional meeting ground, gathering place, and travelling route of the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene, and Nakota Sioux, whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to enrich our heritage.

Acknowledgements were made to:

- Wendy Birch, Chair of the Board of Directors 2019-2020, for her leadership and ongoing contributions as Past Chair.
- David Ridley, Executive Director, EHC staff, and community volunteers for their work to implement strategies through program delivery, noting the nimbleness to adapt program delivery amidst the challenges of the pandemic and serve heritage practitioners and the broader heritage community during a critical time.
- City of Edmonton for their steadfast support
- Edmonton Community Foundation and its funders for funding from their Covid-19 Rapid Response Fund

### 2. Online Meeting Protocol, Voting Instructions

Mr. Kennedy expressed thanks to members, attending and in absentia, for their commitment and contributions to the important place of heritage in Edmonton.

He reviewed the meeting protocols, meeting support mechanisms, and voting instructions for this online meeting.

### 3. Greetings from Edmonton City Council

Councilor Ben Henderson of Ward 8, newly named Ward papastew, was introduced. Delighted to bring greetings on behalf of the City, he recalled the beginnings of EHC and the conversations of the past, and how we think in a more diverse way about heritage now. He

talked about how the renaming of the City's electoral wards, and the changing the names from numbers to something that recognizes our past and helps us understand our heritage, is much broader and richer. There have been new, profound lessons. He commented how, in the future, these things may be looked back on as being historic at the time. Councilor Henderson extended congratulations to EHC for the good work, stating that he looks forward to what happens next.

Councilor Henderson was thanked for his greetings and comments.

#### **4. Guest Presentation**

Stating that one of the rewarding partnerships that EHC enjoys through the City of Edmonton is with the Edmonton Historical Board, with whom we worked on many initiatives, including the Historian Laureate program.

Mr. Kennedy welcomed Amber Paquette, Edmonton's sixth and current Historian Laureate. Ms. Paquette spoke of her work at Fort Edmonton Park, mentioning how she often plays family members in her role as an interpreter. She is currently working on a 5-part series of history documentaries to share history through a creative experience that has not yet been brought out into the community. She shared a video teaser of her upcoming work titled *miskamowin* which means *the act of discovery*.

#### **5. Business Meeting**

Quorum was confirmed.

Martin Kennedy called the annual general meeting to order at 6:19 p.m..

##### **i. Approval of the Agenda – Martin Kennedy**

###### **Motion 2020 AGM-01**

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

Moved: Cathy Roy

Seconded: Emma Banfield

Motion carried unanimously.

##### **ii. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 29 May 2019 – Martin Kennedy on behalf of Robert Hobson**

###### **Motion 2020 AGM-02**

THAT the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Edmonton Heritage Council Society held on 29 May 2019 be accepted as an accurate record of the business conducted at the meeting.

Moved: Robert Hobson

Seconded: Satya Das

Motion carried unanimously.

**iii. Special Resolution – Henry Maisonneuve**

Henry Maisonneuve, Chair of the Governance & Policy Committee, was called upon to provide a summary of the proposed changes to the Bylaws and the rationales for them. The proposed changes are attached to these minutes.

**Motion 2020 AGM-03**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the existing Bylaws of Edmonton Heritage Council Society be repealed and replaced with the proposed Bylaws, as presented.

Moved: Henry Maisonneuve

Seconded: Anthony Owalabi

Motion carried unanimously.

**iv. Chair’s Report – Martin Kennedy on behalf of Wendy Birch**

It was noted that the Chair’s written report is contained in the 2019 Annual Report. The report was summarized by stating that of the eight Aims in *Connections & Exchanges: A 10-Year Plan to Transform Arts and Heritage in Edmonton*, EHC’s board has identified the following four as the highest priorities:

- Aim 1: Edmonton’s neighborhoods come alive with meaningful and relevant opportunities for participation and engagement.
- Aim 2: Edmontonians feel a sense of belonging and connectedness to peoples, place and stories.
- Aim 4: Conditions in are in place to remove barriers for all Edmontonians to participate in cultural experiences.
- Aim 7: (Arts and) heritage practitioners are economically resilient.

Mr. Kennedy quoted Ms. Birch from her Chair’s Report in the Annual Report, “The need to remove barriers for all Edmontonians to participate in cultural experiences has never been more compelling or more clear.”

Mr. Kennedy mentioned that the board continues to work to strengthen its governance of EHC:

- through ongoing board education
- ensuring a wide range of perspectives and experiences around the board table, including specific heritage experience
- ensuring transparency and accountability

A call was made for questions from the floor to be asked through the chat feature or at any time in the future.

**v. Executive Director’s Report – David Ridley**

David Ridley, Executive Director provided a verbal report, summarizing his written report in the 2019 Annual Report. The PowerPoint slides used to support the verbal report are attached to these minutes.

A call was made for questions from the floor to be asked through the chat feature or at any time in the future.

**vi. Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ending 31 December 2019 – Jean-Louis Zokpe**

Mr. Zokpe informed the membership that Accountability & Audit Committee of the Board of Directors works with an external auditor to review EHC's financial statements. Metrix Group LLP has been the auditor for EHC for the past three years.

The verbal report was supported by PowerPoint slides which are attached to these minutes. Some highlights are:

- no significant findings or issues were identified in the audit regarding EHC's processes and practices
- improvements to policies and practices over 2018 were noted, such as additional financial policy
- no material issues arising from the audit

**Motion 2020 AGM-04**

THAT the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2019, as prepared by Metrix Group LLP be accepted as presented.

Moved: Jean-Louis Zokpe

Seconded: Mack Male

Motion carried unanimously.

**vii. Appointment of Auditors for the 2020 Fiscal Year – Martin Kennedy**

It was noted that EHC adopted a policy in 2017 that the Board of Directors will issue a Request for Proposal at least every five years for external audit services. Metrix Group LLP has provided audit services from 2017 to 2019 inclusive. The motion to recommend the same firm for the 2020 fiscal year is moved by the Chair of the Accountability & Audit Committee.

**Motion 2020 AGM-05**

THAT Metrix Group LLP be appointed as auditor for Edmonton Heritage Council Society for the fiscal year ending 31 December 2020.

Moved: Emma Banfield

Seconded: Crystal Willie

Motion carried unanimously.

**viii. Introduction of Nominees and Election of Directors – Wendy Birch**

EHC's bylaws currently permit twenty (20) directors. Directors can serve a maximum of two consecutive 3-year terms. The proposed slate, if elected, will bring the total to fifteen (15) directors.

Two board members were appointed by the Board at its regular meeting on 3 June 2020 (the meeting following the originally scheduled date for the AGM) who are now standing for election are:

- Greg Cardinal
- Elenora Sermoneta

Also standing for election as first-term directors, following a continued search through the summer months, are:

- Paul Bujold
- Jessica Burylo
- Tim Gilchrist

A Director seeking re-election for a second term is:

- Robert Hobson, Vice-chair

**Motion 2020 AGM-06**

THAT Greg Cardinal and Eleaonora Sermoneta; Paul Bujold, Jessica Burylo, and Tim Gilchrist each be elected for a three-year term to the EHC Board of Directors of Edmonton Heritage Council Society.

Moved: Wendy Birch  
Seconded: Sally Scott  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Motion 2020 AGM-07**

THAT Robert Hobson be re-elected for a second three-year term to the EHC Board of Directors of Edmonton Heritage Council Society.

Moved: Wendy Birch  
Seconded: Greg Cardinal  
Motion carried unanimously.

Congratulations were offered to the new and re-elected board members.

The Officers for the 2020-2021 year were elected by the Board of Directors at the 3 June 2020 regular meeting of the Board (the first regular meeting after the originally scheduled date for the AGM). Identified below.

The new Board of Directors were introduced by being spotlighted on screen. The directors for the 2020-2021 service year are as follows:

- Martin Kennedy, Chair
- Robert Hobson, Vice-chair
- Jean-Louis Zokpe, Treasurer
- Cathy Roy, Secretary
- Wendy Birch, Past Chair
- Emma Banfield
- Paul Bujold
- Jessica Burylo
- Greg Cardinal
- Andrea Diamond
- Tim Gilchrist
- Jeanne Lehman
- Henry Maisonneuve
- Sarah (Sally) Scott

- Eleonora Sermoneta

The advisors to the board, who are appointed by the City of Edmonton, were acknowledged and thanked for their support and guidance, namely:

- Roger Jevne, Branch Manager of Community and Recreation Facilities
- Kathryn Ivany, City Archivist and Supervisor of Heritage Facilities
- Scott Ashe, Principal Heritage Planner, Urban Design

The departing board members were recognized for their service to the board. Namely:

- Alex Abboud, Past Chair
- Angelina Bakshi
- Leylene Mayes
- Arundeeep S. Sandhu, Treasurer
- Brad Seneca
- Christina Williamson, Secretary

**ix. Adjournment – Martin Kennedy**

**Motion 2020 AGM-08**

THAT this Annual General Meeting of Edmonton Heritage Council Society be adjourned.

Moved: Paul Bujold  
Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:59p.m.

**6. Chat**

The meeting platform remained open for five minutes following the close of the business meeting so that members could have the opportunity to interact via public and private chat.

Minutes recorded by Mary R.S. Schuurman