

MINUTES



Edmonton Heritage Council Society (EHC)
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday, 25 May 2022 @ 5:30 p.m.
Zoom Technology

1. Welcome and Announcements

The Board of Directors' Chair, Robert Hobson, welcomed attendees and indicated that EHC is pleased to safely connect with the society's members through a virtual platform following the current protocols for the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Hobson acknowledged that the meeting is taking place in Treaty 6 and that amiskwaciwâskahikan is a 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 shared heritage.

A reminder was offered that we are *all* treaty people. In its work, EHC is committed to living in Treaty 6 and contributing to reconciliation through:

- the diverse, meaningful, and honest stories we share about the past, this place, and ourselves.
- through the uplifting and resourcing of voices less heard; and
- supporting the autonomy of Indigenous peoples in revitalizing and participating in traditional, contemporary, and future manifestations of their heritage and culture.

2. Greetings from Edmonton City Council

Councilor Keren Tang, who represents Ward Karhiio, greeted on behalf of Edmonton's City Council, thanking EHC for the opportunity to address the audience. She mentioned how the new Indigenous ward names are very meaningful for the city. Councilor Tang explained Karhiio means tall, beautiful forest, and she indicated learning the Wards' Indigenous names has helped her to create a new connection to the land and learn more about Indigenous history in their place of origin. Councilor Tang hopes that the renaming of the Ward will also serve as a learning guide to other Edmontonians. She reminded attendees that if we are to successfully move forward, we must understand our past and indicated that the partnership between the City of Edmonton and EHC is valuable, it aligns with the City's plan for progress to honor those who have come before us and helped form our amazing community. Councilor Tang exemplified the contributions of builders, Elders, and city advocates. She accredited EHC members for knowing the importance that history can teach us and that by sharing our stories, we reveal our interconnected past and the role we must play in creating our future.

Speaking from personal experience, Councillor Tang told of how she has appreciated and benefitted from participating in an EHC-funded podcast about stories on Treaty 6 territory generated from diverse ethnocultural communities.

She indicated that the current City plan can be seen as the guiding north star in the sky. She spoke of how it works in relation to *Connections & Exchanges: A 10-Year Plan for Arts and Heritage in Edmonton (C&E)* to transform arts and Heritage in Edmonton now and for the fast-approaching future. She stated that it remains a priority of the City to celebrate our unique heritage.

In regard to the city's recovery from the pandemic, she spoke of how the preservation of our city's stories of resilience and passion has the potential to guide future generations in their own unique challenges and to show what is possible when 1 million people band together to overcome seemingly insurmountable crises.

To close her presentation, Councilor Tang congratulated the Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, and community members for everything that has been accomplished in the past year. She extended her gratitude to the community for sharing our city's collective stories with people today and for those to come.

Chair, Robert Hobson thanked Councillor Tang for her message and presence.

3. Online Meeting Protocol, Voting Instructions

Robert Hobson thanked attendees for participating, and for their interest, commitment, and contributions to the important place of heritage in Edmonton and EHC's role in this work.

Guidelines for the online meeting were provided.

4. Business Meeting

Robert Hobson called the annual general meeting to order at 5:45 p.m. Quorum was confirmed.

i. Approval of the Agenda

Motion 2022 AGM-01

THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

Moved: Eleonora Sermonetta

Seconded: Sally Scott

Motion carried.

ii. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 26 May 2021

Motion 2022 AGM-02

THAT the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Edmonton Heritage Council Society held on 26 May 2021 be accepted as an accurate record of the business conducted at the meeting.

Moved: Jessica Burylo
Seconded: Paulette Briand
Motion carried.

iii. Chair's Report

Robert Hobson directed members to review his contribution to the annual report. He noted how the pandemic has caused a period of adjustment. However, he is pleased to note how responsive the community has been to initiatives during the over-two-year-long pandemic.

It was noted that EHC has reached the mid-point of C&E, with its rightly ambitious Ambitions and Aims.

Robert Hobson stated that City Council has received heritage-related reports with an increased understanding of the importance of heritage work in the city and region. EHC is pleased to work with many individuals and organizations, including the City of Edmonton's administration to raise the profile and place of heritage with the city, the region, and Treaty 6 territory.

iv. Executive Director's Report

David Ridley thanked the Board of Directors for the insight, wisdom, and guidance in their governing role, and to EHC's staff and members for their attendance.

He encouraged members to read the annual report to have an insight into the work done last year, as well as the ongoing work of EHC, noting the gripping work and response from the broader community, with its energy and talent.

David Ridley's introductory remarks included:

- Thank you to EHC's staff, both front-line program and operational.
- The challenge of C&E and its highly aspirational approach. (Noting the three Ambitions of the plan, he indicated that one of the challenges is to set the benchmarks and to determine what can be achieved with the available resources.)
- The work achieved by the community through the ongoing pandemic period says much about the adaptability and resiliency of the people and organizations involved.

PowerPoint slides, highlighting EHC's programs were used to support the verbal reports attached to these minutes.

Mentioning the ongoing support of the City Council, David Ridley indicated that even though the City is entering a tight budget environment, EHC is preparing for the next 4-year budget cycle and planning for more investment into EHC to increase its impact within the boundaries of C&E.

David Ridley acknowledged frequent reminders of the difficulties it represents in history and heritage when they are not fully present in the community – from the legacy of residential schools, colonialism for the Indigenous community,

consequences of war, from the communities that have come and will come here, to racism towards many Edmontonians and their communities with the limitations, fear, and difficulty it places on those communities.

Heritage work is not typically regarded as being at the forefront of community safety or for creating social change. Members and the heritage community are working with things that need to be known, remembered, understood, and grappled with by the current community and future generations. David Ridley noted how EHC is working with the members of (the community) on ongoing discernment on experience about living in this City and what it means to be in this place together. D. Ridley commented on the essential work that is shaping a more inclusive and empathetic set of stories that we share with each other now and in the future.

D. Ridley thanked the audience for their attendance, and the staff for their work in the past year, highlighting the importance of their efforts and service as remarkable and inspiring to the community.

Robert Hobson called for questions.

v. Presentation of 2021 Audited Financial Statements

Martin Kennedy, speaking on behalf of Wendy Birch, Chair of the Accountability & Audit Committee, presented highlights of the financial audit conducted by Metrix Group LLP, stating:

- EHC is in a sound financial position with the City of Edmonton being essential to this but with new funding sources being sought.
- No significant findings or issues were identified in the audit regarding EHC's processes and practices.
- No material issues arose from the audit and the audit report has no reservations in this respect
- In 2021, EHC ran an overall shortage – planned and addressed by surplus from previous years.
- Revenues and expenses for programs indicate EHC's significant program activity.

Members were referred to pie charts in the annual report and to the financial statements available online.

EHC strives to improve its practices in planning, managing, administering, and disbursing financial resources through grants and other programs, as well as meeting its obligations for reporting to its funders, primarily the City of Edmonton.

Call for questions.

A question was raised about what is encompassed by honorariums.

Response:

- Community members who serve on juries

- Support and recognition for protocol coming from Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and Elders who ground the beginning of work with ceremony.
- Recognition to contributors to The Beacon (FIRE program newsletter)
- Panelists and guest speakers

Motion 2022 AGM-03

THAT the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending 31 December 2021, as prepared by Metrix Group LLP, be accepted as presented.

Moved: Tim Gilchrist

Seconded: Henri Maisonneuve

Motion carried.

vi. Appointment of Auditors for the 2022 Fiscal Year

A question was raised about whether other groups would come forward regarding the appointment of auditors.

Response:

The Board of Directors will take the audit process to tender in the next year and return to the membership at the next AGM with a recommendation.

Motion 2022 AGM-04

THAT Metrix Group LLP be appointed as auditor for Edmonton Heritage Council Society for the fiscal year ending 31 December 2022.

Moved: Tim Gilchrist

Seconded: Wesley Andreas

Motion carried.

Thanks were expressed to the Accountability & Audit Committee for its work with the auditor.

vii. Introduction of Nominees and Election of Directors – Martin Kennedy

Martin presented this report.

Motion 2022 AGM-05

THAT James Lamouche, Kathryn Gwun-Yeen Lennon, Abbey Preston, Rahil Verma, and Geoff Wagner be elected for a first three-year term to the Board of Directors of Edmonton Heritage Council Society.

THAT Jean-Lous Zokpe be elected for a second three-year term to the Board of Directors of Edmonton Heritage Council Society.

Moved: Martin Kennedy

Seconded: Crystal Willie

Motion carried.

The new Board of Directors was introduced by being spotlighted on screen. The directors for the 2022-2023 service year are:

- Abbey Preston
- Eleonora Sermoneta
- Geoff Wagner
- Greg Cardinal
- Henry Maisonneuve
- James Lamouche
- Jean-Louis Zokpe
- Jeanne Lehman
- Jessica Burylo
- Kathryn Gwun-Yeen Lennon
- Rahil Verma
- Robert Hobson
- Tim Gilchrist

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

- Andrea Diamond
- Catherine Roy
- Martin Kennedy
- Sally Scott
- Wendy Birch

viii. Adjournment – Robert Hobson

Motion 2022 AGM-06

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

Moved: Kerry Atkinson

Seconded: Eleonora Sermonetta

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.

5. Special Presentation

Omar Mouallem multidiscipline artist is mostly recognized for journalism.

He presented his documentary "The Lebanese Burger Mafia" which depicts the Connections between peddling enterprises in Edmonton and their correlation with the origins of The Burger Baron restaurants in Alberta.

A trailer of the documentary was played for the audience.

6. Thank you and Close.

Thanks, Omar, staff, and members.

Minutes recorded by Mary R.S. Schuurman