



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED
with Confidential Attachment**

Design Review Panel: Appointment of New Members

Date:	May 22, 2014
To:	Planning and Growth Management Committee
From:	Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning Division
Wards:	all
Reason for Confidential Information:	This report deals with personal matters about an identifiable person.
Reference Number:	P:\2014\Cluster B\PLN\PGMC\PG14074

SUMMARY

The Design Review Panel (DRP) is a Divisional Advisory Body administered by the City Planning Division. The purpose of this report is to recommend approval of three new members to fill vacancies created through the end-of-term of three current members.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Planning Division recommends that:

1. City Council approve the recommended new members for the Design Review Panel listed in Confidential Attachment 1 to serve for a period of two years or until their successors are appointed;
2. City Council approve appointment of the alternate candidate listed on Confidential Attachment 1 in order to fill a mid-term vacancy, if the need arises; and
3. City Council approve the public release of the confidential information contained within Confidential Attachment 1.

Implementation Points

Upon City Council approval, the recommended individuals can serve as members on the Design Review Panel.

Financial Impact

The recommendations in this report have no financial impact.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council approved formation of the Design Review Panel as a Pilot Project, at its meeting of April 23 and 24, 2007. City Council then approved the Design Review Panel as a permanent body at its meeting of November 30, December 1, 2, 4 and 7, 2009. New members are appointed to fill vacancies created through the end-of-term of current Members.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

The Design Review Panel (DRP) is a Divisional Advisory Body coordinated and administered by the City Planning Division. The DRP does not have statutory decision-making powers. The DRP reviews private development proposals and a range of public projects, and provides independent and objective design advice to staff relating to these proposals. Advice is aimed at improving matters of design that affect the public realm, and is based on Members' professional judgment, understanding of design principles, conformance with the Official Plan and other related documents (design guidelines, secondary plans etc.), and the design quality of projects under consideration. Advice from the DRP is used by City staff to help inform decisions and recommendations. The role of the DRP in helping to achieve design excellence both in public works and in new development is recognized in Section 3.1.1 of the City of Toronto Official Plan.

COMMENTS

The current appointment of Members coincides with the end-of-term of three current Members. The selection of new members was conducted with the objective of providing a balance of skills and gender. The process to identify and nominate the new members, described below, is in keeping with the City's Policy for Citizen Appointments for Program Advisory Bodies.

Nomination Process

An open 'Call for Members' inviting qualified individuals to submit an application was released with the assistance of the Professional Engineers of Ontario and the Ontario Association of Architects. Additional outreach was conducted with the assistance of the Toronto Society of Architects (TSA). All information related to the Call was posted on the City's website, and further promoted via twitter and with the assistance of *Novae Res Urbis*, a weekly e-bulletin directed at the target audience. Twelve expressions of interest were received in response to the Call. A nominating panel comprised of senior staff from the City Planning Division was then formed to review the applications and identify preferred candidates.

Nomination Criteria

The criteria for Panel membership places an emphasis on qualified design professionals who are well respected among their peers and who can communicate effectively. The inclusion of professionals with a broad range of expertise including experience with large scale projects is also important, to ensure that the Panel's deliberations have a basis in

practical and economic considerations. Specifically, the nomination panel applied the following criteria to identify preferred candidates:

- a) Membership in a related professional association.
- b) Suitable level of knowledge and experience as indicated by approximately 15-years of practice in a related field.
- c) A broad range of relevant professional experience including:
 - high quality design in the fields of architecture, urban design, green building practices, and/or heritage conservation;
 - range of project scales including small infill and large-scale redevelopment;
 - range of project types including residential, commercial, institutional, parks and public space design; and
 - academic and civic involvement.
- d) Well respected among peers as recognized by awards, publications, teaching appointments and membership of similar peer review bodies.
- e) Articulate in discussing design issues related to their profession, with the ability to communicate complex design issues to a variety of audiences.

Interviews with select applicants were also conducted to help identify preferred candidates. The candidates identified through this process can be found in Confidential Attachment 1. This includes one alternate member candidate, who would fill a mid-term vacancy should the need arise. All recommended Members have all confirmed their interest in participating on the Panel.

CONTACT

Harold Madi
Director, Urban Design
City Planning Division
Tel. No. 416-392-1126
Fax No. 416-392-1744
E-mail: hmadi@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Jennifer Keesmaat, MES, MCIP, RPP
Chief Planner & Executive Director
City Planning Division

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Design Review Panel – Recommended New Members (Confidential)