

City Council

Motion without Notice

MM34.41	ACTION			Ward:30
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Preservation of the Hearn Generating Station at 440 Unwin Avenue - by Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks

** This Motion has been deemed urgent by the Chair.*

** This Motion is not subject to a vote to waive referral. This Motion has been added to the agenda and is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Paula Fletcher, seconded by Councillor Gord Perks, recommends that:

1. City Council reaffirm the City's interest in the protection and preservation of the Hearn Generating Station at 440 Unwin Avenue, Toronto.
2. City Council direct the Senior Manager, Heritage Preservation Services to undertake the evaluation of the property at 440 Unwin Avenue (the Hearn Generating Station) under Ontario Regulation 9/06, the criteria prescribed for municipal designation under Part IV, Section 29 of the Ontario Heritage Act, and to report back to the Toronto Preservation Board and City Council.
3. City Council request the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport, in consultation with the Ontario Heritage Trust, to undertake the evaluation of the property at 440 Unwin Avenue (the Hearn Generating Station) under Ontario Regulation 10/06, the criteria prescribed for provincial designation and share the results of the evaluation with the Senior Manager, Heritage Preservation Services prior to the sale or transfer of the lands.
4. City Council direct the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, in consultation with the Senior Manager, Heritage Preservation Services to advise appropriate officials within the Ontario Power Generation Corporation and the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport on the City's interest in securing the municipal heritage designation of the property at 440 Unwin Avenue (the Hearn Generating Station) prior to its sale or transfer.
5. City Council request the Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport to confirm to the City of Toronto that the Hearn Generating Station will be subject to the Standards and Guidelines for Provincial Heritage Properties should the property be determined to meet Ontario Regulation 10/06.

Summary

At its meeting held on May 21, 22 and 23, 2003, Toronto City Council recommended that the Hearn Generating Station at 440 Unwin Avenue, which is currently owned by Ontario Power Generation, be added to the City's Inventory of Heritage Properties (now known as the Heritage Register) as a significant heritage resource for architectural and contextual reasons. Provincially owned properties and properties owned by prescribed public bodies, including Ontario Power Generation, are exempt from municipal designation so designation was not pursued by City Council at that time.

In July 2010, the Province established its Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties for the identification, maintenance, protection, conservation, use and disposal of provincial heritage properties. The Standards and Guidelines stress the importance of consultation with interested communities and groups when making decisions about provincial heritage properties, and they require all ministries and public bodies that have been prescribed by regulation to identify, protect and care for provincial heritage properties they own and manage.

Examples of provincial heritage properties include:

- courthouses and jails;
- historic gardens and forts;
- provincial parks and cultural heritage landscapes;
- power generating stations and provincial mental health facilities; and
- bridges, museums and historic houses.

Upon receipt of information, which suggested that demolition was being considered for the Hearn, City Council reaffirmed its interest in the protection and preservation of the Hearn Generating Station.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2011.MM2.2>

The Motion requested that the City be consulted by Ontario Power Generation as part any review process, in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for Conservation of Provincial Heritage Properties. Furthermore, City Council requested that prior to exercising its right to demolish the property, the Ontario Power Generation convene a public meeting and consult with the Ward Councillor, the Chief Planner and Executive Director, City Planning, the (Senior) Manager of Heritage Preservation Services, the General Manager of Economic Development and Culture and Waterfront Toronto with respect to alternatives to the demolition of this significant heritage property.

This Motion reaffirms City Council's interest in the protection and long-term conservation of the Hearn Generating Station, and sets out a series of actions that the City would like to see undertaken by the Province, including confirmation that the property will be subject to Provincial Standards and Guidelines. This Motion also directs that staff bring forward recommendations with respect to the municipal heritage designation of the property.

This matter is urgent because the City of Toronto has recently become aware that the Hearn Generating Station at 440 Unwin Avenue may be subject to sale or transfer.

Background Information (City Council)

Member Motion MM34.41

