



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

**HERITAGE COMMITTEE**  
**Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.**  
Via Video / Teleconference

**MINUTES**

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Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. via video / teleconference.

The following Committee members called into the meeting:

Chair: Councillor J. Morse,  
Mayor R. Alty, (ex-officio),  
S. Allerston,  
G. Cochrane,  
L. Gordon,  
C. Routery,  
N. Santos, and  
K. Weaver.

The following members of Administration called into the meeting:

R. Lok,  
D. Lucas,  
B. Poeschek, and  
A. Colasuonno.

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**Call to Order**

1. The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

**Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest**

2. There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

**Approval of the Agenda**

3. Committee approved the Agenda as presented.

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

4. K. Weaver moved,  
L. Gordon seconded,

**That the Minutes of the meeting held on April 30, 2020 be approved.**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**



### Membership Update

5. The Chair provided an update to Committee on the recommendation that City Council (“Council”) appoint Ms. Johanne Black, member at large to serve on the Heritage Committee, with her appointment being effective May 26, 2020.

### Administration Update

6. Administration provided an update on the following items:
  - a. Intercultural Placemaking Plan & Wayfinding Strategy Celebrations; and
  - b. Back Bay Cemetery.
- a. Administration provided an update on the Intercultural Placemaking Plan (“IPP”) and Wayfinding Strategy (“WFS”) kiosk installations to be completed this year. Committee heard that June 21 was no longer attainable for planned celebrations and discussed fall 2020 as the new target.

***Action Item: Administration is to present a preview of the kiosks to Committee prior to installation, for the purpose of informing event planning for IPP & WFS celebrations at a future Heritage Committee meeting.***

- b. Committee heard a presentation from Administration regarding Back Bay Cemetery and the Ice Caves, including observations from site visits during the winter. Entry and exit points as well as common trails to and from both sites were identified and a report on their general conditions was provided. Administration also provided clarity on the lease and sub-lease for the land.

***Action Item: Administration will undertake another site visit in the summer to assess concerns not present in winter months.***

### Back Bay Cemetery – Discussion

7. A discussion took place regarding concerns with Back Bay Cemetery, including erosion of graves, unmarked plots, destruction by animals and the need for fencing. Overall protection and preservation of the site was identified as the main priority, and jurisdiction between the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre/GNWT and the City of Yellowknife (the “City”) needs to be clarified. True North Rotary Club’s (the “Rotary Club”) unofficial caretaker role and bridge installation were noted, as were Yellowknives Dene First Nation’s (“YKDFN”) ties to the site.

Administration indicated that Community Services has overseen disinterment of eroding graves for reinterment at Lakeview Cemetery in the past. Committee determined that a Back Bay Cemetery preservation project could be brought forth to Council in 2021 for consideration.

Committee discussed the need for development of a framework regarding custodianship and maintenance for burial grounds which predate the incorporation of the Municipal Corporation of the City of Yellowknife. It was determined that preliminary roundtable meetings between the City, GNWT, Rotary Club and YKDFN should be the starting point for this project, with involvement of concerned citizens and/or the Yellowknife Community Foundation in later stages. Mayor R. Alty indicated she would include the matter in an upcoming meeting with MLA R. Johnson to set this in motion.



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***Action Item: The Chair and Mayor R. Alty will hold preliminary discussions with members of Administration regarding preservation of Back Bay Cemetery.***

***Action Item: Committee is to bring suggested recommendations for addressing the protection and preservation concerns to the next Heritage Committee meeting.***

**Recognizing Indigenous Heritage – Discussion**

8. A discussion on Recognizing Indigenous Heritage was deferred until the next Heritage Committee meeting.

**Next Scheduled Meeting**

9. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. via video / teleconference.

**Adjournment**

10. The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.

Prepared: May 25, 2020; BP