

.To: Chief Administrative Officer **Date:** June 17, 2024
From: Mike Dickinson, Manager of Long Range Planning and Special Projects
Subject: **Mission Heritage Advisory Committee Recommendations to Council**

Recommendation(s)

1. That a maximum of \$10,000 from the Unappropriated Surplus Account be allocated to a videographer project to document historical aspects of the previously demolished Japanese School as per the Manager of Long Range Planning and Special Projects report dated June 17, 2024; and
2. That the City's Financial Plan be amended accordingly.

Purpose

This report presents recommendations to the Council from the Mission Heritage Advisory Committee (MHAC) and provides an update on the status of these recommendations.

Background

At the November 15, 2023, Mission Heritage Advisory Committee meeting, the Committee made the following recommendations:

1. *That the Mission Heritage Advisory Committee ask Council to have a Heritage review of all properties 50 years or older before demolition at the cost of the developer.*
2. *That the Mission Heritage Advisory Committee recommend that Council consider Mary Agnes Giesbrecht for a 2024 Heritage Award.*
3. *That the Mission Heritage Advisory Committee recommend that Council ask staff to determine if there is anything of value at the St Anthony's Church building that can be preserved prior to demolition.*
4. *That the Mission Heritage Advisory Committee appoint a person to acquire information from the Silverdale Community with regards to St. Anthony's Church.*
5. *That the Mission Heritage Advisory Committee recommend that Council consider a proposal to complete the project and obtain the rights to the video and photos of the Japanese Language School.*

Discussion and Analysis

This report provides the Council with background information on each of the above noted MHAC recommendations to assist Council with responding to each recommendation.

1. *That the Mission Heritage Advisory Committee ask Council to have a Heritage review of all properties 50 years or older before demolition at the cost of the developer.*

In 2023, staff conducted an interim review process for demolition permit applications for buildings having a construction age of 50 or more years and are considered to have potential heritage value. Staff are bringing a report to Council on June 17, 2024 that will outline a recommended permanent demolition permit review process for buildings with a construction age of 50 or older.

2. *That the Mission Heritage Advisory Committee recommend that Council consider Mary Agnes Giesbrecht for a 2024 Heritage Award.*

Council acknowledged the contributions by Mary Agnes Giesbrecht for heritage education at the Heritage Awards ceremony on February 20th, when Mayor Horn awarded a certificate to her family members, honouring her valuable contributions to heritage education in the City.

3. *That the Mission Heritage Advisory Committee recommend that Council ask staff to determine if there is anything of value at the St Anthony's Church building that can be preserved prior to demolition.*

A Parks, Recreation & Culture department staff member was contacted to determine if there are artifacts from the St. Anthony's Church building that can be preserved prior to demolition. Based on information shared by the Manager of Parks and Facilities, the remaining church structure is in fragile condition, and it could be challenging to preserve artifacts from a safety perspective. However, attempts will be made to retain artifacts such as a door or window if this can be done safely when demolition occurs. Demolition is expected to occur shortly and the presence of someone from the Mission Archives or the Mission District Historical Society will be asked to attend the site during demolition.

4. *That the Mission Heritage Advisory Committee appoint a person to acquire information from the Silverdale Community with regards to St. Anthony's Church.*

Mr. Ken Hood, a former Chair of the MHAC will be asked to contact local residents who may possess items of interest regarding the church, as well as the Mission Museum concerning types of items the museum could be interested in storing and displaying.

5. *That the Mission Heritage Advisory Committee recommend that Council consider a proposal to complete the project and obtain the rights to the video and photos of the Japanese Language School.*

Prior to the demolition of the Japanese Language School, members of the MHAC and the staff liaison visited the school and took photos of the building's exterior and interior. A videographer also attended and videotaped the school. The MHAC supported the objective for the City to be in possession of this video work.

The videographer was contacted, and discussion held regarding formats on how the whole project could look with video work and a voiceover including rare photographs. No work has been conducted to date. A dedicated volunteer could compile information for editing by the videographer who would then complete the project.

Council is requested to decide whether this project should be pursued. A budget of up to \$10,000.00 would be required and could be taken from the Unappropriated Surplus Account. This funding would include \$1,000.00 for the city to secure possession and rights of this video work created by Mr. Chris Lindgren (Spider broadcasting) and the remaining amount would be allocated for the production of a short video (5 – 10 minutes) to include voice-over and other photos and graphic. The

project would include the City securing the rights to the video. and photos of the Japanese Language School. This would include discussions with the videographer to determine the project cost, timeline and other matters. Ultimately, this videographic information could be available to the public in the City archives and on the City's website.

An alternative solution could include a similar project using materials held by the City at this time. This would likely not consist of any video but rather a series of still photographs with voice over completed at much less cost.

Financial Implications

No financial implications are associated with this report.

Communication

The MHAC staff liaison representative consulted with staff members from other city departments when developing the above noted recommended actions.

Summary and Conclusion

This report provides Council with recommendations from the MHAC and background information about each of the recommendations. Council is requested to suggest any modifications to the recommended actions it would like to see.

Report Prepared by: Mike Dickinson, Manager of Long Range Planning & Special Projects
Reviewed by: Dan Sommer, Director of Development Services
Approved for Inclusion: Mike Younie, Chief Administrative Officer