



City of Hamilton
WEST HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT
SUB-COMMITTEE ADDENDUM

Meeting #: 23-002
Date: May 23, 2023
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Location: Room 264, 2nd Floor, City Hall (hybrid) (RM)
71 Main Street West

Tamara Bates, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 4102

	Pages
7. PUBLIC HEARINGS / DELEGATIONS	
*7.1 Dermot Nolan, Hamilton Museum Citizens' Committee, respecting Discovery Centre Strategy Framework	3
14. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL	
*14.1 Discovery Centre Strategy Framework: Preliminary Option for Discovery Centre Site (PED21090(d) (Ward 2) (no copy)	
<p>Pursuant to Section 9.3, Sub-sections (i) of the City's Procedural By-law 21-021, as amended, and Section 239(2), Sub-sections (i) of the Ontario Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, as the subject matter pertains to a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization.</p>	

WEST HARBOUR DEVELOPMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

Submission on behalf of The Hamilton Museum Citizens' Committee

May 22, 2023

Remarkably, Hamilton is one of the only cities in Ontario that does not have a central facility that celebrates its history. It is Ontario's second oldest city, with one of the richest and most important histories in the country. Impressive Civic Museums exist in cities with just a fraction of the story Hamilton has to tell. Here is a sampling of what some of our neighbours have built:



Kitchener/Waterloo



London



St. Catharines



Guelph

The time for a Place to discover Hamilton is long past due.

Hamiltonians are in love with their city – and fiercely proud of its history. From the time when this part of the continent was first inhabited, the land at the head of the big lake we now call Ontario has been a pivotal gathering place, where the DNA of what we now call Hamilton – and indeed, Canada - was formed. And ever since, the people who have lived here have cherished and built it and been nourished and inspired by it. As that journey continues, we need a living space to discover, remember, understand and celebrate all of it.

And there can hardly be a more perfect place to create that space than on the very shore where indigenous people used to meet - where it all started – and where the Hamilton Discovery Centre now stands waiting to be the permanent portal into our past, and a beacon for our future.

The Hamilton Museum Citizens' Committee was established in 2018 with the following mandate:

“We are an ad hoc group of passionate Hamiltonians who recognize the need for a permanent Hamilton Museum to present and preserve local history. Our group offers the perspectives and energies of stakeholders with long-standing and diverse local experience as a friendly resource to help guide the creation of a vibrant, living museum that celebrates the rich history of our region from the beginning. We envision a central facility that strengthens our existing network of regional museums and fosters robust civic engagement, understanding and harmony among all who live, work and visit here.”

Since its formation, the Committee has engaged with City Council and staff with a view to incorporating a central Hamilton Museum in the City's long term museum strategy.

In early 2020, a local planning consulting firm retained by the City in connection with the development of its museum strategy confirmed that public opinion was overwhelmingly (86%) open to the idea of a central Hamilton Museum.

In November 2021, City Council unanimously directed its staff to work with the Hamilton Museum Citizen Committee to explore opportunities to house a Hamilton Museum in a new or existing facility and also to explore opportunities with the federal and provincial governments for cultural funding to support the development of a physical and virtual Hamilton Museum.

On February 9, 2022, Council approved a decision making framework for developing a long-term strategy for the Discovery Centre and in August, 2022, Council directed staff to consult with the Hamilton Public Library and the Hamilton Museum Citizens' Committee (and heritage stakeholders) to study opportunities for co-locating civic uses and providing heritage-based visitor experiences at the site.

We were pleased to work with the HPL and city staff as part of that Opportunity Study in developing the "Preliminary Option" based on the HPL's vision for the Discovery Centre building as contained in Appendix "C" to Report PED21090(d).

In particular, our committee was pleased to lend its support to the Preliminary Option insofar as it recommends that the Discovery Centre building be redesigned to incorporate, as a core component of the HPL's vision for the site, exhibit and gallery space dedicated to showcasing and celebrating Hamilton's history and environment with semi-permanent and short-term exhibits focused on providing heritage-based visitor experiences.

The Preliminary Option based on the HPL's vision is consistent with the Hamilton Museum Citizens' Committee's vision for a central facility that strengthens our existing network of regional museums and fosters robust civic engagement, understanding and harmony among all who live, work and visit here.

As such, we support it and look forward to working with the HPL and City staff in the development of the Proposed Concept. The Strategic Directions for that process as set out in Appendix "F" to Report PED21090 (d) imagine a site that "celebrates heritage by providing visitor experiences that enable deeper understanding of Hamilton."

Adhering to that direction will ensure that Hamilton will have a permanent home to showcase and celebrate its extraordinary story at last.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of The Hamilton Museum Citizen's Committee

May 23, 2023