

# Inventory & Research Working Group (IRWG) Meeting Notes

January 30, 2024 (2:30pm – 3:30pm)  
City of Hamilton WebEx Virtual Meeting

**Present:** Alissa Denham-Robinson; Lyn Lunsted, Andy MacLaren

**Staff Present:** Alissa Golden, Cultural Heritage Program Lead  
Meg Oldfield, Cultural Heritage Planner  
Scott Dickinson, Planning Technician II - Cultural Heritage

**Regrets:** N/A

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

None.

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## **NOTES**

### **1. Staff Overview and Discussion on Role of the Working Group**

Alissa Golden, Cultural Heritage Program Lead, gave an overview of the projects and priorities of the previous term of the Inventory and Research Working Group.

#### City-led Work

Alissa G. discussed the changes to the role of the Working Group in light of the recent Bill 23 legislative amendments to the *Ontario Heritage Act* and subsequent changes to the City's heritage designation and listing processes. There is no longer a need for the Working Group to meet regularly to review staff-presented material, as was previously the case. There may still be larger heritage inventory and assessment projects that would be worthwhile to bring forward to the Group for more detailed review and feedback, like future phases of Built Heritage Inventory work or Heritage Conservation District Studies.

#### IRWG Projects

Alissa G. led a discussion of the projects that were underway by the previous term of the Working Group, including the:

- **Places of Worship Inventory Review** – an initiative to screen all of the inventoried places of worship across the City to proactively flag properties of heritage interest worthy of listing and of potential designation. This work is approximately 80% complete and, in light of the Bill 23 changes to the *Ontario Heritage Act*, has pivoted to only identifying those properties that may be under immediate threat and should be listed, and those that may be candidates for designation to add to the City's list for review.
- **Places of Education Inventory** – an initiative to inventory all places of education across the City and compile information and research to help evaluate their potential

heritage value or interest. This project was put on hold in 2018 when a previous term of the Working Group decided to shift its focus on Places of Worship.

#### Next Steps

Through consensus, the Working Group members decided to continue to meet regularly (monthly) in order to complete the Places of Worship Inventory Review project, with the assistance of staff. Once complete, the Group may re-evaluate its role and meeting schedule. Staff agreed to reach out to the volunteer members of the previous term to determine if they are interested in continuing to participate. The members indicated they are willing to meet during the day, instead of having an evening meeting, moving forward. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:30pm, at which staff will present an overview of work done to date on the Places of Worship Inventory Review for discussion and to determine the required steps to complete the project. The Working Group chair will also be appointed at the next meeting.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 3:30pm

**Next Meeting:** Monday, March 11, 2024 at 2:30pm