HAMILTON LACAC (Municipal Heritage Committee)

Thursday, January 24, 2008
12:00 p.m., Room 207
Hamilton Convention Centre, 2nd Floor
1 Summers Lane, Hamilton

Present:
A. French (Chair), A. Denham-Robinson (Vice Chair), D. Dent (Past Chair) Councillor B. Bratina and, M. Adkins, L. Brown, A. Charlton, M. Kirk, B. Manson, F. Thorp-Neufeld, K. Wakeman, and S. Wray

Absent with Regrets:
Councillor, B. McHattie, medical reasons
Councillor M. Pearson, City Business
P. Hartnett, vacation
S. Stewart-Greene, medical reasons

Also Present:
P. Mallard, Director of Planning
D. Cuming, Acting Manager, Community Planning & Design
S. Vattay, Cultural Heritage Planner, Community Planning & Design
M. House, Cultural Heritage Planner, Community Planning & Design
T. Bradt, Assistant Cultural Heritage Planner
A. Fletcher, Manager, Strategic Services, Special Projects
J. Thompson, Acting Senior Project Manager
C. Connor, Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment
L. Brooks, Development Planner II
D. Fisher, Assistant City Solicitor
I. Bedioui, Legislative Assistant, Clerk’s Office

THE HAMILTON LACAC (MUNICIPAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE) PRESENTS REPORT 08-001 TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE AND RESPECTFULLY ADVISES:

1. Saving the Lister Block

The Hamilton LACAC (Municipal Heritage Committee) requests as follows:

Economic Development and Planning Committee – February 19, 2008
(a) That Council use the funds granted by the Ministry of Culture in April 2007 for what they were intended which is to appoint a qualified, highly-experienced Heritage Conservation Architect and a similarly experienced cost consultant to safeguard the stewardship of the Lister Block implied by its designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act;

(b) That Council make a clear and public commitment to the design guidelines in the *Heritage Report* by Julian Smith & Associates, Architects and Clinton Brown Company Architecture, dated September 23, 2006 which recognized the Provincial Significance of the interior mall and of the James and King William facades of the building;

(c) That Council ensure that the development of the Lister Block proceed according to the project management plan provided by the said *Heritage Report*, Items 5.16 to 5.20 in order that effective cost control is implemented;

(d) That a delegation from Hamilton LACAC (Municipal Heritage Committee) be made at the Economic Development and Planning Committee requesting that Council direct staff to investigate the feasibility of designating the buildings adjacent to the Lister Block located at 15-21 King William Street and 45-53 James Street North.

2. Hamilton Wentworth District School Board Education Centre, 100 Main Street West, Hamilton

The Hamilton LACAC (Municipal Heritage Committee) requests that Council include consideration of the heritage value in any future deliberations regarding the Hamilton Public School Board property.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE

(a) Election of Chair for 2008

Art French was elected Chair of the Hamilton LACAC (Municipal Heritage Committee) for 2008.
(b) **Election of Vice-Chair for 2008**

Alissa Denham-Robinson was elected Vice Chair of the Hamilton LACAC (Municipal Heritage Committee) for 2008.

(c) **Delegation request from Grant Head respecting the Lister Block**

Grant Head addressed the Committee with respect to his concerns regarding the Lister Block and a copy of his submission is attached hereto as Appendix A. Based on his submission, the Committee presents its advice as outlined in Item 1 of this Report.

(d) **Memo from Messrs. Robert Philip, George Kobllyk, Robert Fedak, and Ben Palmer respecting Campaign to Save Hamilton’s Education Centre (Item 9.5)**

The Hamilton LACAC (Municipal Heritage Committee) debated the issue outlined in the memo attached hereto as Appendix B and decided to support the request made by the writers.

Respectfully submitted,

Art French, Chair
Hamilton LACAC
(Municipal Heritage Committee)

Ida Bedioui
Legislative Assistant
Hamilton LACAC
(Municipal Heritage Committee)
January 24, 2008

Economic Development and Planning Committee – February 19, 2008
Delegation of C.G. Head to the LACAC 24 January 2008 re Lister Block

As one of the roles of the Municipal Heritage Committee is to act as a conduit of community concerns to the Council, I am asking that the LACAC consider and communicate to the Council of the City of Hamilton the following concerns relative to the Lister Block.

1. **The Need for a Clear and Public Statement of the State of Demolition Permission.**
   
   Is the permission for demolition, granted by Council on 12 June, 2006, still valid? Yes, or No.
   
   If yes, by what process and when will it be officially rescinded?
   
   The LACAC is requested to ask Council for clear and public answers to these questions.

2. **The Appointment by the City of a Qualified, highly-experienced Heritage Conservation architect and a similarly experienced cost consultant to safeguard the stewardship of the Lister Block implied by its designation under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act.**

   Funds to do so were granted by the Ministry of Culture to the City in April 2007 for these tasks. Although officially the City in consultation with the LACAC need not consider the plans for alteration of the Lister Block until presented with them in detail in a heritage permit application by the owners of the building, in the interests of expediency in the circumstances it would be wise, one would think, to begin consultations with the owner before and during his design work. This was indeed the course suggested by the City’s heritage staff before the debacle of 2006: we do not want, I suggest, a re-run of these last two years.

   The LACAC is requested to ask Council for a clear and public commitment to the design guidelines in the *Heritage Report* by Julian Smith & Associates, Architects and Clinton Brown Company Architecture, dated 23 September 2006. This report recognized the Provincial Significance of the interior mall and of the James and King William facades of the building.

   The LACAC is also requested to ask Council for its commitment, for the purposes both of quality heritage conservation and effective cost control, that the development of the Lister Block proceed according to the project management plan provided by the said *Heritage Report*, items 5.16 to 5.20.
3. **Designation by the City of Hamilton under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act of 15-21 King William Street and 45-53 James Street North.**

These buildings, adjacent to the Lister Block proper, and part of the Lister development parcel, are significant to the streetscapes of their neighbourhood and have historical and architectural significance in their own right. They were recognized by the Planning Department as important in the local design plan for King William Street.

The Provincial Working Group, for the sake of expediency, concentrated on the Lister Block proper, but it recognized the significance of these adjacent buildings, and the above-mentioned Heritage Report made suggestions for their further study and incorporation into the broader Lister development.

The LACAC is requested to immediately recommend these buildings for designation by Council under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act via the next Economic Development and Planning meeting.

*Thank you for your immediate and careful consideration of these most pressing and important matters.*

C. Grant Head.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Hamilton LACAC (Municipal Heritage Committee)

FROM: Messrs. Philip, Koblyk, Fedak and Palmer, Concerned Public Citizens

DATE: January 11, 2008

SUBJECT: Campaign to Save Hamilton's Education Centre

We would like to draw to the attention of your Committee that Hamilton's Education Centre at 100 Main Street West is in danger of disappearing from the City's downtown streetscape. Built in 1967, this building is one of the few unique examples of modernist architecture within the City and should play an important role in the City's Downtown Renewal Plans. The building was designed by Hamilton architect Joseph Singer, who designed many schools in his career, such as Crestwood Vocational School on the mountain. This is a rare example of a building completely designed by the architect, who selected the materials, finishes and furnishings; designing every architectural element.

We understand that, even though the Education Centre was listed as a building of architectural and historical significance by the City of Hamilton under the Ontario Heritage Act, the building is not protected against demolition as designated properties are. We therefore respectfully request that:

1. The Board of Education Building be added to the Municipal Registry of Historically and Architecturally Significant Buildings;
2. The Board of Education be designated as an historic property.

Would you please bring this request to the attention of Mrs. Anne Charlton, Chair and Mr. Art French, Vice Chair of your Committee. We have copied David Cumming, Senior Project Manager, Heritage and Urban Planning and Sharon Vittay, Cultural Heritage Planner on this e-mail. We will mail a copy to Heritage and Urban Design, Community Planning and Design Section, Development and Real Estate Division, Planning and Economic Development Department at the City of Hamilton.

We would appreciate it if LACAC would request that the City's Heritage Planning staff research the Building in question and investigate the seriousness of this threat to the destruction of this architectural landmark and the loss of 40 years of Hamilton's education heritage.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Philip        George Koblyk        Robert Fedak        Ben Palmer