

DESIGNATION OF FIRE HALL NO. 6 AS A MUNICIPAL HISTORIC RESOURCE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report recommends designation of Fire Hall No. 6 as a Municipal Historic Resource under Section 26 of the *Alberta Historical Resources Act*. The City of Calgary Parks business unit, which is the steward, has formally requested Municipal Historic Resource Designation.

The property was built in 1909 and is an example of Edwardian Classicism style applied to a relatively small and utilitarian public building in Calgary. It is also significant as the hall provided vital fire protection for the new communities north of the Bow River during Calgary's rapid expansion before World War One.



Fire Hall No. 6; Memorial DR NW adjacent to Louise Bridge

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the SPC on Planning and Urban Development recommends that Council give three readings to the proposed bylaw to designate Fire Hall No. 6 as a Municipal Historic Resource.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPC ON PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, DATED 2015 DECEMBER 09:

That Council give three readings to **Proposed Bylaw 6M2016**.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

No previous Council Direction / Policy

BACKGROUND

Fire Hall No. 6, situated along Memorial Dr. NW adjacent to the Louise Bridge (10 St. NW), is listed as having "City-wide" significance on Calgary's Inventory of Evaluated Historic Resources. Fire Hall No. 6 merits protection due to its heritage value as outlined in Attachment 1.

As part of an initiative to recognize and honour its history as a Calgary institution, The City of Calgary Fire Department initially requested designation as outlined in Attachment 2. Subsequently, the City of Calgary Parks business unit, as owner and steward of the site, requested designation as outlined in Attachment 3.

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Designation of Fire Hall No. 6 legally protects the building and ensures that any future changes and conservation work aligns with best practices in heritage conservation. The proposed bylaw can be found in Attachment 1. The bylaw identifies the elements that contribute to its heritage value and that must be treated appropriately in any future changes or conservation work.

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Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

The City of Calgary Parks business unit, as the steward of this building, agrees with the contents of the proposed bylaw.

Strategic Alignment

The City of Calgary *Municipal Development Plan* supports the conservation and protection of Calgary's historic resources.

The City of Calgary *2020 Sustainability Direction* sets forth an objective for Calgary to become a "diverse and socially inclusive city that respects its heritage and the arts," as well as a strategy to "support the preservation of Calgary's historic resources".

The City's *Calgary Heritage Strategy* (2008) recommends that identified historic resources should be protected by designation bylaws, when possible, to ensure their preservation. This protection prevents demolition, provides appropriate management of physical interventions and is critical to ensuring effective management of historic resources.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Social

Historic resources connect us to our past, our future, and to each other. They provide places of learning and places of understanding for all Canadians. They are integral to the identity of our community and help to strengthen its distinctiveness. Historic resources add to the beauty, character and visual interest of our urban environment which contributes to the city's liveability and are sources of community pride.

Environmental

The preservation of historic places capitalizes on the energy investment in the original structures, preventing unnecessary resource use and reducing the pressure on landfill sites due to demolition waste.

Economic (External)

Fire Hall No. 6 adds character and visual interest to the streetscape which makes economic investment in the area an attractive prospect. Designation will ensure these attributes are protected and the resulting security will promote high-quality investment. Also tourists and residents are attracted to areas with historic resources.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget:

None

Current and Future Capital Budget:

None

Risk Assessment

There is no risk associated with the designation of this property. However, the risk of not designating the property is that it could potentially be demolished in the future.

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REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

The City of Calgary as owner of the building, and The City of Calgary Parks business unit as its steward, have formally requested Municipal Historic Resource Designation. Protecting Calgary's historic resources is an identified objective of The City, and is particularly important for City-owned resources.

ATTACHMENT(S)

1. **Proposed Bylaw 6M2016**
2. Request to Designate: Letter from Calgary Fire Department
3. Request to Designate: Letter from Property Owner