

**City Hall Square Plaza Project Steering Committee**  
**Meeting held April 21, 2023**

A meeting of the City Hall Square Plaza Project Steering Committee is held this day commencing at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in Room 522b, there being present the following members:

Councillor Renaldo Agostino, Chair  
Councillor Angelo Marignani  
Councillor Jim Morrison

***Guests in attendance***

Cindi Rowan, Director Landscape Architecture Studio – FORREC regarding *Item 5.0*  
Caroline Taylor, member of the public

***Also present are the following resource personnel:***

Jelena Payne, Commissioner, Economic Development & Innovation  
Ray Mensour, Commissioner Community Services  
Stefan Fediuk, Project Administrator  
Onorio Colucci, Acting Chief Administrative Officer  
France Isabelle-Tunks, Executive Director Engineer, Deputy City Engineer  
Natalie Gabbana, Senior Manager of Asset Planning  
Michelle Staadegaard, Manager Culture & Events  
Mary Rodgers, Corporate Marketing & Communications Marketing  
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

**1. Call to Order**

The Committee Coordinator calls the meeting to order at 10:03 o'clock a.m. and the Committee considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

**2. Election of Chair**

The Committee Coordinator calls for nominations from the floor for the position of Chair. Councillor Angelo Marignani nominates Councillor Renaldo Agostino, seconded by Councillor Jim Morrison. The Committee Coordinator calls for further nominations from the floor. Seeing none, the Committee Coordinator asks Councillor Renaldo Agostino if

he accepts the position of Chair. Councillor Renaldo Agostino accepts and assumes the Chair.

**3. Declaration of Conflict**

None disclosed.

**4. Adoption of the Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Councillor Jim Morrison,  
That the minutes of the City Hall Square Plaza Project Steering Committee of its  
meeting held August 12, 2021 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.  
Carried.

**5. Presentation – Windsor Civic Esplanade Final Report – Volume 2  
Concept Master Plan – April, 2023 (attached as Appendix A)**

Cindi Rowan, Director Landscape Architecture Studio – FORREC provides an  
overview of the Concept Master Plan for the Windsor Civic Esplanade as follows:

- FORREC Vision – A new Place for Civic Life in the City of Windsor
- Analysis and studies
- Public and stakeholder engagement
- Site history and inspiration
- Indigenous history
- The Underground Railroad
- Colonial and military history
- Design considerations and key design elements
- *Preferred Option – “Light the Path”*
- *Sections 4&5: City Beacon & Riverside Drive Crossing* – Two options in the Light the Path concept create a new City Beacon. One as a bridge and the second as a grade-level crossing. Both offer a dramatic overlook that enjoys the spectacular view of the river and Detroit skyline, accessed by grand stairways and glass elevators for a fully accessible route across Riverside Drive, presented as a gateway between the Esplanade and to the Windsor Riverfront Trail including, Rotary Plaza and Festival Plaza.

*Tower of Freedom monument in Riverside Plaza* – The monument commemorates the Underground Railroad link between Windsor and Detroit. The Light the Path concept depicts the outline of the former barracks in its original location as the central feature of City Hall Square, illuminating the role of the Underground Railroad and Black Freedom Seekers in the history of the site and the development of the City.

- *Section 3: Arts Park* – Offers a series of flexible spaces that can be used individually to display permanent or evolving art installations.
- *Section 2: Charles Clark Square* – A small stage with a canopy and tiered planters invite performances while providing sheltered seating. A food truck area features covered seating and cafe tables. Outdoor workspaces with solar canopies serve employees, entrepreneurs and students alike.
- *Section 1: City Hall Square* – In the forefront of City Hall, the outline of the former military barracks and Black Refugee housing continue the story of the Underground Railroad. Provided are an event space, which holds a video screen to display community events, a pavilion for food, greenspace, as well as a splash pad to encourage interactivity and help cool the area. Also located in this section are the Francophone Monument, the facade of the former city hall which will hold up the video screen.

*A Temporary Ice Rink* relocates the former Charles Clark Square rink, will be in the form of a skate trail with a center island to allow for a seasonal winter display. *South side of City Hall* – will be transformed into a pedestrian-oriented area with a common grade. The south side will also find accommodation for a relocated Councillor parking area.

A question and answer period follows the presentation.

In response to a question asked by Councillor Jim Morrison regarding if the ice feature will be a short term goal, Jelena Payne responds that two projects have been merged together as directed by Council and Administration and recommending the option to place the ice feature in front of City Hall.

Councillor Jim Morrison asks if the ice feature will run a longer season. Ray Mensour responds that it will be similar to what is done in Charles Clark Square, i.e. mid-December to mid-March.

The Chair inquires if the temporary rink will be flexible in the future and will the building provide a substantial amount of shade.

Cindi Rowan responds that they do ice rinks in a number of their global projects and discovered that artificial ice has made extraordinary strides in the quality and skate ability of it. She adds that there is a substantial investment required to put in “real” ice and reiterates that artificial ice has been improved a great deal.

In response to a question asked by the Chair regarding if a switch to real ice can be considered in the future, Cindi Rowan responds she will take this to Custom Ice and will report back.

Ray Mensour concurs with Cindi Rowan that it will be a significant investment to have a refrigerated ice surface. It is not practical to put synthetic ice over what is refrigerated, but adds they could expand the overall area with synthetic ice.

Councillor Jim Morrison refers to the pathway down to the riverfront and asks if there are any recommendations at this stage, i.e. a bridge.

Jelena Payne responds that they are not recommending anything at this time, and adds that future decisions will be brought back to Council as opportunities and funding presents themselves.

Councillor Angelo Marignani alludes to the Tower of Freedom monument and the Gateway to Freedom monument (in Detroit) and suggests that when this project is complete, to have a celebration with the City of Detroit.

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Councillor Morrison,  
That the Presentation provided by Cindi Rowan, Director Landscape Architecture Studio – FORREC entitled “Windsor Civic Esplanade Final Report – Volume 2, Concept Master Plan – April 2023 **BE RECEIVED.**  
Carried.

Ray Mensour reports that the tentative date for the temporary ice rink will be October 2024.

Councillor Angelo Marignani asks if any Federal or Provincial grants are available for the Plaza Project. Jelena Payne responds that it depends upon what aspect of the Plan that is being implemented.

## 6.1 Project Update

Moved by Councillor Jim Morrison, seconded by Councillor Angelo Marignani,  
That Items I., III., IV., V. and VI. noted as recommendations in the Report of the Project Manager dated April 21, 2023 entitled “City Hall Square Plaza and Civic Esplanade Project” **BE RECEIVED**, and further that Item II: *Light The Path Concept* **BE APPROVED.**  
Carried.

## 6.2 City Hall Square Plaza

Moved by Councillor Angelo Marignani, seconded by Councillor Jim Morrison,  
That the minutes of the City Hall Square Plaza Project Executive Committee of its meetings held April 14, 2022, October 13, 2022, November 10, 2022, January 11, 2023 and February 8, 2023 **BE RECEIVED.**  
Carried.

Stefan Fediuk advises that a final stakeholder meeting will be held in early May, 2023. A summary of the responses from the stakeholders will be provided to City Council.

Jelena Payne adds that an update to close the loop will be provided at the stakeholders meeting.

**7. Other Business**

None.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

Jelena Payne states that the Steering Committee was struck to bring this work to fruition in terms of the Concept Plan and recommends this proceed to Council. She adds that one more meeting of the Steering Committee will be held and following that will be disbanded.

**9. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 10:56 o'clock a.m.