



The Corporation of the City of Stratford
Ad-Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee
MINUTES

Date: September 15, 2025

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Location: City Hall Auditorium

Ad-Hoc Committee Present: Dan Mathieson - Chair Presiding, Mayor Martin Ritsma, Barb Cottle, Franklin Famme, Melanie Hare, Nic Flanagan, Paul Parlee, Trudy Jonkman, Ryen Ropp-Robinson

Regrets: Stephen Mitchell, Mark Vandenbosch, Ron Dodson

Staff Present: Andre Morin - Chief Administrative Officer, Adam Betteridge - Director of Building and Planning Services, Emily Robson - Corporate Initiatives Lead, Tim Wolfe - Director of Community Services, Victoria Trotter - Recording Secretary

Working Group Members Present: Joani Gerber - CEO of investStratford, Melanie Reasbeck - Project Coordinator, investStratford, Working Group Members, Media, Members of the Public

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the Meeting to Order.

Land Acknowledgement.

Moment of Silent Reflection.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

None were declared at the September 15, 2025 Ad-Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee.

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes:

Motion by: Martin Ritsma

Seconded by: Barb Cottle

THAT the Minutes of the Ad-Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee of The Corporation of the City of Stratford dated August 25, 2025 be adopted as printed.

Carried

4. Delegation Requests

None were scheduled.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

5.1 Refreshing the Grand Trunk Master Plan

Melanie Hare noted the requested updates to the Grand Trunk Master Plan (2018) were provided at the August 25, 2025 meeting and members were given an opportunity to provide feedback. The document has been updated to reflect the feedback provided.

Ms. Hare noted the Vision, Planning & Architecture Working Group reviewed the Grand Trunk Master Plan (2018) to identify areas which should be updated to reflect the work of the Ad-Hoc Committee over the last two (2) years.

Paul Parlee questioned the revised language of Community Hub to Community Facility.

Ms. Hare stated the term hub is outdated and was updated to facility to match current provincial wording for projects of this kind.

In response to a question from Mr. Parlee, Ms. Hare confirmed that the Community Facility will still include the YMCA, library and other community partners.

Motion by: Melanie Hare

Seconded by: Franklin Famme

THAT the Ad Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee accept the Master Plan update recommendations outlined in the report of the Vision, Planning and Architecture Working Group;

THAT the Ad Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee accept the implementation recommendations outlined in the report of the Vision, Planning and Architecture Working Group;

AND THAT the Ad Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee direct that the report of the Vision, Planning and Architecture Working Group be forwarded to Stratford City Council for consideration.

Carried

6. New Business

6.1 End-of-Mandate Survey Report

Chair Mathieson noted an executive summary of the End-of-Mandate Survey was circulated to members with the addendum. A further detailed report with specific member comments will be provided to Committee members. Chair Mathieson stated the feedback highlights areas the Committee thought they were effective and others which could have been improved.

Chair Mathieson further noted there were members who felt the Committee was highly effective and others who felt the mandate was not met. He recognized that all members wish that they had shovels in the ground, however, the role of the Committee was to guide Council on the next steps. The report will be beneficial to Council when considering future ad-hoc committees.

Ray Harsant stated he believes it would be beneficial for Council to also receive the detailed report.

Karen Haslam questioned who authorized the survey and report to be completed.

Chair Mathieson responded that Ron Dodson took it upon himself to complete the initiative.

As Mr. Dodson was not present during the item, Chair Mathieson stated the Committee could come back to Item 6.1 at the end of the meeting for potential further discussion and to consider a motion to forward the report to Council.

*Franklin Famme is no longer present at 4:18 p.m.

6.2 Reflection Activity: Committee Timeline

Trudy Jonkman lead the Committee in an exercise. A timeline of accomplishments of the Committee was provided and members were encouraged to apply a sticky note stating what they learned during their time on the committee.

Motion by: Trudy Jonkman

Seconded by: Mayor Ritsma

THAT the reflections of the Ad-Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee be received and forward to Council for their review.

Carried

7. Working Group and Staff Updates

7.1 Partnership

No report provided.

7.2 Vision, Planning & Architecture

Discussion took place under Item 5.1.

7.3 Real Estate, Legal & Finance

7.4 Communications, Advocacy, Civic Engagement

No report provided.

7.5 Infrastructure & Environment

No report provided.

7.6 Working Group Coordinators

No report provided.

7.7 Staff Update

Emily Robson stated an event is scheduled at the beginning of October for the Grand Trunk Site and a committee social will take place on October 20, 2025.

The Committee continued discussion From Item 5.1

Motion by: Paul Parlee

Seconded by: Barb Cottle

THAT the report titled Ad-Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee End-of-Mandate Survey Feedback be provided to Council for their information.

Carried

In response to questions Chair Mathieson stated a paragraph summarizing the comments received was felt to be the best way to broker something that was not authorized and completed through the committee.

John Kastner noted two photographers took photos inside the Grand Trunk building over the past two months and the photos will be made available to the municipality for any use they wish in the future.

In response to questions Dan Mathieson stated staff can confirm if the photos can be released and made available on the City's website.

Ray Harsant requested an update on Indigenous engagement.

Ms. Robson stated they have been connecting with Indigenous groups and are continuing to move forward.

Mayor Ritsma thanked Chair Mathieson and the members of the Committee, working groups and the public for their engagement and insight. He also thanks staff, particularly Emily Robson, who worked to continue to move the Committee forward. Mayor Ritsma noted he is looking forward to seeing the site developed and believes it will be a great source of growth with a tremendous future.

Chair Mathieson thanked the Committee and working groups for their time and gave a brief overview of accomplishments from their term.

8. Date of Next Meeting

This was the final meeting of the Ad Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee. The term of appointment for all members concludes on September 30, 2025.

9. Adjournment

Motion by: Mayor Ritsma

Seconded by: Trudy Jonkman

THAT the September 15, 2025 Ad-Hoc Grand Trunk Renewal Committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 4:01 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 4:44 P.M.