

District of West Vancouver  
**POLICY**

Title: Design Review Committee Terms of Reference

Division: Planning & Development Services

Policy Number: 0105

File Number: 0282-20-0105

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## 1. Mandate

- 1.1. The purpose of the Design Review Committee (the Committee) is an advisory committee of Council that makes representations to staff and Council on matters of design, and physical and aesthetic impact, including the impartial and professional review of development applications, relevant policies and regulations, major infrastructure and capital projects, and other matters that may be referred to the Committee by Council or staff from time to time. The Committee does not approve or reject projects or make policy decisions.

## 2. Role

- 2.1. The Committee will:
- (a) Consider and review projects, proposals, development applications, and other items, including:
    - a. development applications for mixed use, commercial, multiple unit residential, and public buildings, and for institutional buildings if such buildings are subject to municipal review;
    - b. major municipal infrastructure projects, including the design of bridges and new roads;
    - c. proposed policies and regulations affecting the community's physical, built, and/or natural environments; and,
    - d. any other matters referred to the Committee by Council or staff.

## 3. Membership

- 3.1. The Committee consists of nine (9) voting members:
- (a) four (4) architects (AIBC members);
  - (b) two (2) landscape architects (BCSLA members); and
  - (c) three (3) individuals with expertise in one or several of:
    - a. urban design;
    - b. planning;
    - c. development;
    - d. engineering;
    - e. urban land economics;

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- f. public art;
  - g. environmental performance;
  - h. building and construction; or
  - i. project management.
- (d) The membership composition of the Committee may be modified temporarily by Council at the time of member appointments, without need of amending these Terms of Reference, if difficulty is encountered in achieving the standard Committee membership composition described in this section.
- 3.2.** Volunteer members must be appointed or re-appointed to the Committee for a term of two (2) years, except that no person shall serve more than six (6) consecutive years, or as otherwise determined by Council.
- 3.3.** Members may be appointed by any one resolution of Council for any period of up to two (2) years (e.g. six months, one year, or two years) for reasons of filling a vacancy, better aligning with AIBC or BCSLA member term limits, or for any other reason.
- 3.4.** Appointments terminate on December 31 of the following year in which the member's term is scheduled to expire, except as otherwise determined by Council.
- 3.5.** The Chair and Vice-Chair (or co-Chairs, as the case may be) must be voting members of the Committee, and must be selected from amongst the Committee membership at the first meeting of each year.
- 3.6.** The Committee membership includes the following non-voting members:
- (a) One (1) member of Council, appointed annually to serve as the Council representative on the Committee; and
  - (b) One (1) member of Council, appointed annually to serve as the Council alternate representative on the Committee.

## 4. General Terms and Code of Conduct

- 4.1.** Decorum and Debate: Committee members must devote the necessary time and effort to prepare for meetings, arrive at meetings on time, provide feedback in keeping with the Committee's mandate, and be respectful of others' thoughts and opinions.
- 4.2.** Authority and Reporting: The Committee and its members will not represent themselves as having any authority beyond that delegated in the Terms of Reference (ToR) approved by Mayor and Council.
- 4.3.** Media/Social Media: Members of the Committee are not permitted to speak to the media as representatives of the Committee unless authorized to do so by the Director of Community Relations & Communications. Committee members must strive to convey the public interest and remember that they represent the District of West Vancouver; this means that they must be consistent with the District's position on specific issues.
- 4.4.** Professionalism: Committee members who engage in activities regarding the District of West Vancouver or Committee initiatives/projects and promotions are expected to

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maintain a respectful, constructive, professional tone that maintains the brand consistency of the District of West Vancouver.

- 4.5. Confidentiality: All new Committee members are required to sign a copy of the "Volunteer Services Confidentiality Agreement" (the Agreement) as part as their general orientation. All returning Committee members who have previously signed a copy of the Agreement are expected to honour and uphold the provisions as outlined within the Agreement.
- 4.6. West Vancouver Residency Requirement: all Committee volunteers must either reside in, or represent a business that is located in, the District of West Vancouver, except as otherwise determined by Council. With respect to this requirement, if a Committee member's primary place of residence or the location of their business changes to another municipality during the term of an appointment, the member must notify the Chair and staff representative regarding the change of address.  
  
Depending on the length of appointment term remaining, the Committee member may be asked to step down, thus creating a vacancy. Vacancies will be filled through advertisement placed in local newspapers, social media and on the website; applications received will be reviewed by Council.
- 4.7. Conflict of Interest: The conflict of interest provisions contained in the General Council Committees Policy applies to all Committee members.

## 5. Meetings

- 5.1. The Committee must, by resolution, establish an annual meeting schedule, and must hold additional meetings as required to respond in a timely manner to requests from Council:
  - (a) In the interest of regularity, meetings shall generally be held on Thursdays in the latter half of the month.
  - (b) Meetings may be cancelled by the Committee staff liaison if there are no items to be referred to the Committee.
- 5.2. All Committee and subcommittee meetings must be held in a District facility.
- 5.3. A majority of the voting members is required to constitute a quorum. Any member who is absent from three (3) meetings of the Committee without reason satisfactory to the Committee may be removed from the Committee by Council.
- 5.4. Notice of meetings shall be provided on the District of West Vancouver website.

## 6. Rules of Procedure

- 6.1. Meetings must be conducted in accordance with the General Council Committees Policy, the Committee Procedure Bylaw and the *Community Charter*.

## 7. Subcommittees

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- 7.1. Subcommittees may be established by the Committee from among its members for specific tasks or projects identified in the Annual Work Plan.
- 7.2. Subcommittee meetings are subject to the same requirements and rules of procedure as Committee meetings.

## 8. Annual Work Plan

- 8.1. The Committee is expected to identify a concise set of annual targets and objectives for the upcoming calendar year. The Annual Work Plan must be submitted to Council for approval prior to the end of the current year. The Annual Work Plan must be congruent with the ToR and must outline specific targets as to what the Committee plans to achieve while supporting the work, priorities and underlying principles of the District of West Vancouver.
- 8.2. The approved Annual Work Plan will be executed by the Committee, with the reasonable assistance of support staff.

## 9. Amending, Modifying, or Varying Terms of Reference

- 9.1. Any request for amendment, modification or variation to these ToR can be enacted either by way of a Committee recommendation to Council or through specific direction of Mayor and Council.
- 9.2. In the event that Council endorses the requested change, the relevant resolution number and date of amendment will be recorded on the master ToR document.


## 10. Staff Assistance

- 10.1. Staff assistance will be provided to the Committee, as necessary and within reason, by:
  - (a) Staff of the Planning and Development Services division.

## 11. Approval

<b>Approved by</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> CAO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mayor and Council
<b>Approval date</b>	2021/01/25	
<b>Council minutes eDocs # (Council Policies only)</b>	4196414	
<b>Council report eDocs # (Council Policies only)</b>	4139278	

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<b>Signature</b>	
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**12. Additional Information**

<b>Category</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Council	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative
<b>Related procedure</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Date of last review</b>	n/a	