



CATHEDRAL AREA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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July 22, 2020

To: Femi Adegeye, Senior City Planner, City of Regina

AADEGEYE@regina.ca

Re: File No. (56 Angus Crescent)

Dear Mr. Adegeye,

The Cathedral Area Community Association is proud to represent one of the city's most historic neighbourhoods. Our vision statement mandates board members to work with others to "enhance the history, culture and character of the neighbourhood." Therefore, we are pleased to respond to a request for input on the future of the Bagshaw Residence at 56 Angus Crescent, a historic home that has earned a place on the City of Regina's Heritage Inventory.

Among the tens of thousands of buildings in Regina, including over 90,000 private homes, there are just 277 properties listed in the Inventory. These properties are a scarce non-renewable resource of great value to all. This is presumably why the City keeps an inventory, to help ensure the intrinsic and irreplaceable value of historic properties is not overlooked in planning decisions.

A number of inventoried properties are concentrated in our Cathedral neighbourhood, including in the scenic Crescents. These homes make the Crescents attractive to residents and tourists alike. In recent years, the CACA has supported the Cultural Trailway, a project to highlight the history of homes and shops in the neighbourhood with markers and an online walking tour; historic homes are part of our neighbourhood appeal.

The Bagshaw Residence, constructed in 1913, is a prime example of how historic neighbourhood homes are tied to the story of our city and its residents, as well as wider events such as, in this case, Saskatchewan's wartime history. We will not repeat what has been presented to you in the heritage assessment, which makes a clear case for its historic import. The assessment also makes a case for the architectural significance, a Clemesha and Portnall design that is an example of some of the unique personalized residential architecture that defines the Crescents.

Your policy states, "Historic places are integral in providing a sense of identity and place both for tourists and, more importantly, for local citizens." We are very aware of the positive impact to the Cathedral Area. Residents move here to be surrounded by interesting older properties, which do cycle between various states of gradual disrepair, renovation and rejuvenation. Every day we see older properties come alive again with loving care.

Given its significance, the Bagshaw Residence should have this opportunity. At last count there were just 16 listed properties remaining in the Crescents --- already too few, never mind losing one more. In fact, we would like to see this list expanded to be more inclusive of diverse histories, rather than slowly diminishing it.

Regina's Community Plan contains numerous references to heritage preservation throughout the document. The Plan does not stop short at putting properties on a list, but promises to "encourage owners to protect historic ownership through good stewardship" and to "build partnerships and work collaboratively" to protect our city's built heritage.

With this in mind, we recommend the Bagshaw Residence remain on the list and that the promised proactive measures in the Community Plan be instituted with the goal of protecting, preserving and enhancing this property. This course of action will have wider benefit to the historic Crescents streetscape, which is one of the most beautiful and distinctive -- yet also increasingly endangered -- features of the Cathedral Area and City of Regina. Otherwise, there is little point to having a Heritage Inventory, a heritage policy and a Community Plan that set heritage preservation as a goal.

Thank you.

Brad Olson, CACA President