



MINUTES

**NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION (NCHC)
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2013-APR-03 AT 5:00 PM
BOARD ROOM, SERVICE & RESOURCE CENTRE (411 DUNSMUIR STREET)**

Members Present:	Diane Brennan, Chair Bill Gard Kerrie Low (arrived 5:38 pm) Christine Meutzner	Jill Stannard John Hofman Charlene Riches (via phone) John Manning
Members Absent:	Geraldine Manson	Loyd Sherry
Staff Present:	Chris Sholberg, Heritage Planner	Rebecca Tubbs, Recording Secretary

1. Call to Order

Chair D. Brennan called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

The agenda was approved as presented with the addition of the following late items:

a) Beban House – Update (W.E. Gard):

W.E. Gard provided an update on Beban House. It is currently occupied the Clippers and appears to be in good condition with repairs completed. The photos that were hung on the wall have been returned to Parks, Recreation & Culture and will be placed back into the building.

b) Free Press Building Grants (C. Meutzner):

At 2013-FEB-06 meeting, the Commission recommended that the Free Press Building be granted a five year tax exemption. In the report to Council, staff recommended that the building be granted a ten year tax exemption, because that was the amount it qualified for. The applicant attended the subsequent Council meeting and made his presentation requesting the ten year exemption. Council granted the ten year tax exemption.

Why did Council go against the Commission's recommendation for a five year exemption? D. Brennan explained that maybe Council thought the Commission was trying to set tax policy, as opposed to strictly determining heritage value.

The Commission thought they made it quite clear that the building did not have significant heritage value. D. Brennan confirmed that they do have a role in the process; to determine the heritage value, and confirm support (or not) for the proposal. Recommending modification of the tax policy portion of the program (in this case) was not considered as part of that role.

C. Sholberg noted that when the program was originally created, the understanding was that its focus would be to encourage heritage conservation as well as economic development.

Based on this discussion, D. Brennan made a notice of motion to review the City's Heritage Tax Exemption programs as follows:

"That Staff be directed to prepare a report providing an assessment of the City's current heritage tax exemption program to ensure it is up to date with current legislative options and to evaluate the processing of these types of applications in terms of equity and efficiency".

The Commission noted that this should make them rethink the buildings that they add to the register. If they are too marginal, don't add them.

The Commission asked if the program review as stated in the notice of motion could be brought back to the Commission for input. Maybe tax exemptions just go directly to Council, or maybe Council asks the Commission to provide comment on heritage detail alone? It would be helpful for Council to have something to look at to determine the results of the heritage evaluation. If Council saw the point evaluation, for example, they would know how the property rates. D. Brennan noted that the Commission will have a chance to review its role in the process when the review is undertaken.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2013-MAR-06)

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes from 2013-MAR-06 be adopted as presented. The motion was carried.

4. Correspondence, Periodicals, & Newsletters

- a) Letter of Support - Morden Colliery Provincial Historic Park:
For information.
- b) Draft Notes - 2013 Heritage Summit Notes:
For information.

The above correspondence was received as presented.

5. New Business

- a) American Association for State & Local History:
W. E. Gard recently read an article about Canada's oldest synagogue (Congregation Emanu-El), located in Victoria BC, who celebrated its 150th anniversary this year. The synagogue was recently awarded a Leadership in History Award by the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH). The AASLH bestows Leadership in History Awards to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all Americans. By publicly recognizing superior and innovative achievements, the Leadership in History Awards serve as an inspiration to others in the field. He thought this information would be useful to staff and the Commission. He requested that the Commission send a letter of introduction and thanks to AASLH (thanks for responding, intro to Commission, etc.)

It was moved and seconded that a letter be sent to the American Association for State & Local History (AASLH), introducing the Commission and thanking AASLH for their response. The motion was carried.

6. Ongoing Business

- a) 2013 Heritage Awards – Review Nominations & Select Recipients:
It was moved and seconded that the meeting be closed to the public in order to deal with agenda items under the Community Charter Section 90(1):
 - (b) personal information about an identifiable individual who is being considered for a municipal award or honour, or who has offered to provide a gift to them municipality on the condition of anonymity.

The motion carried unanimously.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting resume as regular and exit the "in camera" session.

- b) Old City Neighbourhood Area (NOCA) Building Photo Survey – Update:
The association is seeking volunteers to assist with photographing buildings in the old city area. The photo survey will serve as a record of buildings in the area, and could also provide some new possible nominations for the heritage register. Volunteer photographers will be assigned blocks which they are to photograph from two angles (front and side). Photos must be submitted to C. Meutzner/Nanaimo Community Archives by 2013-APR-30.

7. Committee Reports

- a) Snuneymuxw First Nation:
G. Manson was not in attendance.
- b) Nanaimo Community Archives Society:
C. Meutzner is meeting with the Art Gallery and other building tenants to discuss the Art Gallery taking over the whole CIBC Arts Building. The Archives Youtube channel is up to 4,600 views and climbing.
- c) Nanaimo District and Museum:
J. Manning reported business as usual.
- d) Design Advisory Panel:
C. Riches was not in attendance.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 2013-MAY-01 at 5:00 pm in the Board Room of the Service and Resource Centre (411 Dunsmuir Street).

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm.

APPROVED

Chair

Date

File: 0360-20-H02-02