



MINUTES

NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION (NCHC)
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2012-DEC-05 AT 5:00 PM
FIBBER MCGEES, E&N TRAIN STATION (321 SELBY STREET)

Members Present:	Diane Brennan, Chair Bill Gard Kerrie Low Christine Meutzner	Jill Stannard John Hofman Charlene Riches John Manning Lloyd Sherry
Members Absent:	Geraldine Manson	
Guests:	Daphne Patterson	Dan Meutzner
Staff Present:	Chris Sholberg, Heritage Planner Bill Sims, Manager of Water Resources	Rebecca Tubbs, Recording Secretary Kirsty Macdonald, Parks Planner

1. Call to Order

Chair D. Brennan called the meeting to order at 5:11 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

- a) Nash Building Façade:
Owners of the Nash Building (19 Commercial Street) have not yet installed the "Nash Block" signage on the front of the building, as per the façade grant funding. Staff will contact the owners to confirm when signage will be completed.
- b) Joint Meeting with Ladysmith Archives (2012-DEC-06):
The meeting will be held at 7:00 pm at the Ladysmith Museum.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2012-OCT-03)

It was moved and seconded that the Minutes from 2012-OCT-03 be adopted as presented.
The motion was carried.

4. Correspondence, Periodicals, & Newsletters

- a) ASBC: Nanaimo Newsletter:
For information.
- b) Nanaimo Arts Council Newsletter:
For information.

The above correspondence was received as presented.

5. New Business

a) Colliery Dam Park – Issue briefing and park naturalization discussion (Bill Sims, Manager of Water Resources & Kirsty Macdonald, Parks Planner):

D. Brennan welcomed B. Sims and K. Macdonald. They began their presentation (also given to Council 2012-OCT-20) regarding demolition of the Colliery Dams and spillway and park naturalization. B. Sims discussed the dams' history, construction specifics, responsibility of the City, safety risks, existing condition, etc. Options for the dam included (1) to rehabilitate (2) to rebuild (3) to remove. Since the inundation study was completed in September, Council decided to remove the dams. Removing the dams will remove safety risks and will provide an opportunity to renaturalize the park. Removal of the dams will begin in the summer of 2013.

K. Macdonald explained that the park is currently preserved as a nature park and used for recreational swimming, fishing, dog walking and trail use. These uses will not change once the dams are removed. The plan approved by Council will see renaturalization of the park by recreating the river that once flowed through, and replanting the side banks. Public input will be sought for this phase of the plan. As well, there will be opportunity to substantially increase the park area with the upcoming discussions with owner of the neighbouring forested land. There will be opportunity for interpretive heritage displays, retaining remnants of the dam and spillway, etc.

The Commission raised the following questions and concerns:

- Staff does not yet know about all aspects that will be involved in the job (environmental issues, cost to renaturalize, condition of lake bed, etc.) so how can they guarantee something they are not completely sure about?
- Would like Council to get a second opinion and engineering study. There must be some in-between measures that come with a median cost. Would like to hear some innovative solutions.
- Many other buildings and areas are not up to current seismic code.
- Why the panic and rush? Why does staff want to remove the dams in 2013 when all alternatives have not yet been considered? No one disputes the City's obligation, but it should be up to the taxpayer before a decision is made.
- Why is this structure being singled out? There are schools in town that are not up to code.
- Why didn't the City respond to the Province's request for a "plan" by requesting more time to publicly weigh the options and risk?
- Does the \$7 million estimate include park renaturalization?
- Why has the City been approving new multi-family subdivisions that are located within the flood zone.

C. Meutzner noted that the Commission recommended that the dam structures be added to the City's Heritage Register, and therefore must defend it. Saving "pieces" of heritage has no meaning and defies heritage practice (example: wood from the Foundry that was used at Oliver Woods). She asked that the Commission be involved in any and all historical interpretation on the dam site.

D. Brennan thanked B. Sims and K. Macdonald for attending. They left the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Discussion:

C. Meutzner noted that it is the Commission's mandate to provide advice to Council on all heritage-related matters. The Commission must advocate conservation of the dam and spillway, given its listing on the City's heritage register and consequent heritage value. She

drafted a letter to Council that expresses the Commission's concerns regarding removal of the dams. The Commission agreed with the letter and made the following motion:

It was moved and seconded that the letter to be sent to Council to express the Commission's views against removal of the dam and spillway.

Members of the Commission noted concern that such a letter puts D. Brennan in a difficult position, as she is Chair of the Commission but also a member of Council. They reiterated that this motion is coming from a heritage-perspective and that it is important that they provide input to Council on this matter. D. Brennan indicated that she was okay with signing the letter.

The motion was carried.

b) Heritage Week: Heritage Homes & Neighbourhoods

This year's heritage week will take place from February 18 to 24. There are a number of items planned for the week, including:

- Heritage Summit (February 20)
- Tour of Old City residential area (by the Nanaimo Museum – tentative)
- Information Displays (at local malls – tentative)

This item will be discussed further at the January meeting.

6. Ongoing Business

a) 2012 Community Heritage Commission Networking Conference (2012-NOV-24) Debrief:

The event was a success with a good turnout and presentations. Nanaimo was noted by the delegates present as having a comprehensive and progressive heritage conservation program.

b) Pioneer Cemetery Park – Gravestone Condition:

Staff noted that the Ross Bay Cemetery manager recently contacted the City to provide suggestions on how to clean historic grave stones. The manager noted that they simply clean the stones periodically with gentle cleaners. They do not seal or otherwise put a protective coating on the stones, as this often leads to greater damage.

7. Committee Reports

a) Snuneymuxw First Nation:

G. Manson was not in attendance.

b) Nanaimo Community Archives Society:

C. Meutzner had no report.

c) Nanaimo District and Museum:

J. Manning reported that the Nanaimo Museum will soon be the permanent home of the Wally Buono Award, an award given to the top junior football player in Canada. An unveiling ceremony will take place in January and winners of the award will be announced during Grey Cup Week.

d) Design Advisory Panel:

C. Riches had no report, noting that she has not been receiving copies of the agenda. Staff indicated that they would investigate and ensure that C. Riches receives future agendas.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 2013-JAN-02 at 5:00 pm in Conference Room #1 of the City Annex (238 Franklyn Street).

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

APPROVED

Chair

Date

File: 0360-20-H02-02

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