



**MINUTES**  
**NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2011-FEB-02 AT 5:00 PM**  
**CITY HALL BOARD ROOM (455 WALLACE STREET)**

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<b>Present:</b>	William E. Gard, Chair Joan Perry Lloyd Sherry Christine Meutzner	John Hofman Jill Stannard Charlene Riches Karen Hovestad
<b>Staff:</b>	Chris Sholberg, Heritage Planner	Rebecca Tubbs, Recording Secretary
<b>Regrets:</b>	John Manning	
<b>Guests:</b>	Richard Harding, Director, Parks, Recreation & Culture	Nadine Wiepning, Artist Brett Mark, Nanaimo Entertainment Group

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**1. Call to Order**

Chair W.E. Gard called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items**

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

a) Election of Chair and Co-Chair:

C. Sholberg noted that a new Chair and Co-Chair need to be elected for 2011. W.E. Gard is willing to continue serving as Chair and C. Riches is willing to continue serving as Co-Chair.

MOVED by C. Meutzner, SECONDED by J. Perry, that W.E Gard be elected as Chair for 2011 and that C. Riches be elected as Co-Chair for 2011.

CARRIED.

**3. Adoption of Minutes (2011-JAN-05)**

MOVED by J. Stannard SECONDED by K. Hovestad, that the Minutes from 2011-JAN-05 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

**4. Budget Review: \$2,450**

**5. Correspondence, Periodicals, & Newsletters**

- a) Morden Mine Newsletter
- b) Nanaimo Historical Society Newsletter
- c) Nanaimo Arts Council Newsletter

**6. New Business**

a) Millstone River Trail Heritage Plaque RE: Thompson Lumber:

Richard Harding, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture, attended the meeting to discuss an item that had been brought up a few years ago. Back in 2007, it was requested that the Millstone River Trail (located by the German Culture Centre on the other side of the creek) be named "Thompson Trail", in respect to Mr. Thompson, the owner of a lumber yard in that location. At that time, the Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission discussed the idea and instead recommended installing a series of historical plaques along the trail, one of which would be devoted to the story of Mr. Thompson and the lumber yard and referred to the Heritage Commission for assistance. This was never followed up on until now.

Heritage Commission members wondered if there is enough historical significance with respect to the lumber yard to warrant an interpretive sign. It was suggested that if a sign be installed, that it focus on a broad variety of topics relating to the history of the immediate area. It was suggested that more research be done to determine whether or not a historical sign is warranted. C. Meutzner and J. Stannard will work with C. Sholberg to do some research and develop possible content for the sign. C. Sholberg will provide the results of the research and possible sign content to R. Harding.

W.E. Gard thanked R. Harding for attending the meeting.

b) Proposed China Steps Mural:

N. Wiepning, local artist/muralist, introduced herself to the Commission. She attended the meeting to share her idea of painting a large mural on the Jean Burns building beside the China Steps. She has approached the building manager, Rick Hein, and been given permission and a small budget to complete the project. She provided a mock-up of the final mural to members for information.

The mural will be a historical mural that represent's Nanaimo's third Chinatown and is inspired by traditional Chinese art. All figures are based on historic photos, courtesy of the Nanaimo Archives. She will begin painting in June. The finished product will measure approximately 10x14 feet and will begin 14 feet above street-level.

Although N. Weipning has been provided with a small \$2,500 budget from the building manager, she is looking for additional funding of \$500 from the Commission.

L. Sherry suggested that she also approach the Chinese Cultural Society for funding. He also suggested that she present her plan publicly to Council (for information) at an upcoming televised meeting. She could add that any donations would be appreciated.

W.E. Gard thanked N. Wiepning for her presentation and informed her that she would be soon contacted with the Commission's decision on funding. She left the meeting at 5:35 pm.

The Commission discussed the artistic and historical merits of the proposal and decided it was a good proposal, located in a highly-visible pedestrian area, and a great enhancement to the existing Chinatown interpretive sign.

Funding Request Consideration

MOVED by J. Perry, SECONDED by K. Hovestad, that the Commission grant N. Weipning's funding request of \$500 for the Chinatown Steps mural.

CARRIED.

c) Heritage Façade Grant Application – Palace Hotel (275 Skinner Street):

C. Sholberg noted that a Façade Grant application has been received for the Palace Hotel (275 Skinner Street). B. Mark, building manager for the owner, Nanaimo Entertainment Group, attended the meeting to speak to the application.

The request is for \$10,000 and includes cleaning and repainting the brick exterior, recovering existing awnings, replacing existing fascia signs with projecting signs, installing new floor mounts and flogs, repairing and painting the wood windows and cornices, refreshing the Palace Hotel sign and installing new exterior lighting. The whole project will cost approximately \$37,305.

B. Mark noted that the owner of the building is willing to restore the right side of the exterior by stripping the brick of paint for about \$67,000, if he is able to qualify for a second façade grant. C. Sholberg noted that the awarding of a second façade grant is a decision that would ultimately be left up to Council, as it is out of the scope of the grant program conditions.

W.E. Gard thanked B. Mark for attending the meeting and informed him that he would soon be contacted regarding the Commission's decision.

Application Consideration:

MOVED by J. Stannard, SECONDED by C. Riches, that the Heritage Commission supports the \$10,000 Heritage Facade Grant application for the Palace Hotel (275 Skinner Street) and commends that Council approve the grant.

CARRIED.

d) 2011 Work Plan – review draft report:

C. Sholberg distributed copies of the draft 2011 work plan to the Commission. He noted that last year's work plan was very realistic and was 80-90% completed.

In addition to the annual and ongoing tasks (heritage summit, heritage register, grant programs, etc.), items that remain incomplete and that will be carried over to 2011 include:

- Pioneer Park Bench
- Chinatown Plaque – needs to be upgraded

MOVED by C. Meutzner, SECONDED by K. Hovestad, that C. Sholberg proceed with the 2011 work plan as presented.

CARRIED.

## 7. Ongoing Business

a) Heritage Summit "Parks and Cultural Landscapes" – Status Update:

C. Sholberg noted that invitations have been sent out. Presentations that will be made include the history of the City parks system by Kirsty MacDonald, and a Newcastle Island / BC Parks by Bill Merilees. Presentations will be followed by the usual round-table meeting.

It was noted that the facilities on Newcastle Island are becoming dilapidated and rundown. It was suggested that it be brought up to Bill Merilees (as he sits on the Newcastle Island Pavillion Society).

b) Review of Heritage Register/removal candidates – discussion continued:

The following buildings were noted to be in good condition:

Williams Residence, Schetcky Residence, Five-Acre Farm, Sharpe Residence, Etkins Residence, Bird House, Granby Mine Residence, Queens Hotel, Willard Service Station, City Hall, Brumpton Block, Merchant's Bank, Aldred House.

The following buildings were noted to be in poor condition:

Commercial Building, Pioneer Bakery/Johnson's Hardware (both on Victoria Crescent)

There are many properties along Vancouver Avenue that should be considered for addition to the register. J. Perry provided a list of suggested buildings to C. Sholberg.

c) Heritage Networking Conference- Debrief:

K. Hovestad provided a written summary of the Conference to Commission members for information. She found it very interesting to hear different ways in which heritage is approached in different cities. Topics discussed included The City of Vancouver's process, heritage conservation act, heritage designation, BC Parks Anniversary Program. The Commission thanked K. Hovestad for attending the meeting on their behalf.

## 8. Committee Reports

a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee:

J. Hofman noted that the main topic of conversation is the Newcastle + Brechin Neighbourhood Plan, which has been a controversial planning issue, particularly related to

building height along the waterfront. There is little heritage-related content in the plan (one page). The Plan will be brought back to PNAC at the next meeting for a recommendation.

b) Snuneymuxw First Nation:

No report. Awaiting appointment of new rep. C. Sholberg has followed up a number of times but is still waiting for a response.

c) Nanaimo Community Archives Society:

C. Meutzner provided C. Sholberg with the heritage nominations that were discussed at the last meeting. Information on the nominations was distributed for members to read prior to the next meeting.

C. Meutzner reported that the Archives has lost bingo funding for the next year and are planning on doing some fundraising by producing a book of heritage building photos. They are currently looking for sponsors and will be approaching the Commission with a funding request soon.

d) Design Advisory Panel:

J. Perry noted an application for a small infill fourplex (600 sq ft / unit) proppsal off Kennedy Street. The building will face the laneway. Although she is personally not keen on the design of the building as it does not successfully evoke the built heritage characteristics of the area, the landscaping looks quite interesting.

e) Nanaimo District and Museum:

J. Manning not in attendance.

**9. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for 2011-MAR-02 at 5:00 pm in the City Hall Board Room.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm

APPROVED:

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Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date