



MINUTES
NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2011-JAN-05 AT 5:00 PM
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM (455 WALLACE STREET)

Present:	William E. Gard, Chair Joan Perry Lloyd Sherry	Christine Meutzner Jill Stannard
Staff:	Chris Sholberg, Heritage Planner	Rebecca Tubbs, Recording Secretary
Regrets:	Charlene Riches Karen Hovestad	John Hofman John Manning

1. Call to Order

Chair W.E Gard called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

a) Heritage Nanaimo Posters:

Members were presented with copies of the finished poster, as well as small and large-sized postcards. C. Sholberg will send a memo to Mayor and Council as well as copies of the printed materials. The posters will be distributed to local high school history and social studies classes, at Heritage Commission events and through the Mayor's office as gifts for visiting delegations. The postcards will be made available through public distribution points such as the City Hall Annex, Parks facilities, Museum, Archives, Tourism Nanaimo, and the DNBIA office. Commission members were pleased with the final product.

b) Nanaimo Magazine:

Nanaimo Magazine asked C. Sholberg if there was interest to feature a series of columns in the magazine based on Nanaimo's heritage. The magazine is willing to write the information but would like C. Sholberg to review it before publishing. The Commission likes the idea.

Nanaimo Magazine had noted that they are looking for sponsorships from local downtown agencies to help cover the cost of the column (approximately \$75-\$100 per article). The Commission noted that their contribution of research and services should suffice.

3. Adoption of Minutes

MOVED by C. Meutzner, SECONDED by J. Perry, that the Minutes from 2010-DEC-01 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

4. Budget Review: \$2,500

This is a tentative budget which is still subject to Council's approval.

5. Correspondence, Periodicals, & Newsletters

a) Immigrant Welcome Centre – Celebrating our Diverse Community:

Terry Flower of the Immigration Welcome Centre has contacted staff in regards to an initiative called "Celebrating our Diverse Community". She is looking for individuals interested in participating in a photo contest. She had suggested that some local heritage photos be submitted. If Commission members are interested in participating, they should contact C. Sholberg.

- b) Coast FM (91.2) Interested in doing radio spots featuring Nanaimo Heritage (also Nanaimo Magazine):

The Coast FM radio station recently contacted C. Sholberg with the idea of the station featuring a series of radio spots that highlight Nanaimo's heritage.

The Commission noted that it may be difficult to discuss built heritage on the radio, without any visual materials, and that it may create a large workload for the Commission or staff. The Commission suggested that the radio station look at a publication such as Jan Peterson's "*Nanaimo Chronicles*" for some small tidbits of interesting information on people and events (rather than built heritage).

6. New Business

- a) 2011 Heritage Summit, Parks and Cultural Landscapes – 2011-FEB-23:

The 2011 Heritage Summit will be held during heritage week on 2011-FEB-23, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Nanaimo Museum. The theme is "Cultural Parks and Landscapes". A budget of \$500 is available for this event. C. Sholberg suggested that the Commission make a donation to the Museum for the use of the venue.

Gordon Miller of the Historical Society has volunteered to give a presentation on the Pacific Biological Station's history. K. McDonald of the Parks Department may also give a presentation on the City's parks. As a last resort, C. Sholberg will present an update on the City's heritage happenings.

The presentation(s) will be followed by the usual roundtable discussion with the invited heritage associations. C. Sholberg will proceed with sending out invitations, writing a memo to Council and publishing a press release.

7. Ongoing Business

- a) Heritage Action Plan Review & Update– Comment Summary:

Commission members were provided with summaries of the comments gathered at the Heritage Action Plan Review & Update Open House. Many of the ideas and suggestions that were gathered from the public are already in place. In particular, the Commission discussed the following comments:

Are there any policy objectives or actions we should consider to strengthen the City's existing Heritage Conservation Program?

"To strengthen Action #5, I would add agricultural land to conservation as an objective"

The Commission noted that some people want to use heritage designation to simply prevent development of a site - this is not the purpose of heritage policy.

"Archaeological Sites Policy – More information should be conveyed. Better education is needed"

It is up to the Archaeological Society to promote archaeology awareness – not the Commission. The City's role in archaeological matters is more of a protocol to flag issues as they come up with respect to development permits and rezoning. The City does not enforce provincial archaeological policies. It was suggested that the Archaeological Society try to do more promotional efforts such as a series of newspaper ads. J. Stannard volunteered to talk to somebody at the Society in regards to promotion.

"Information on landscape conservation needs to be publicized (what qualifies a designated tree?)"

It was suggested that "updating tree protection bylaw" be added to a future workplan. Trees that are included on the properties containing registered heritage buildings do not have

protection under any tree protection bylaw. The City will soon be updating the Bylaw and the Commission may have a chance to provide input during that time.

“Review Actions 13, 15, 17” to expand the Old City Heritage Conservation Area?

This action never went any further as construction of historical single family dwellings has not been an issue in the Old City area. It would mean that the City would require a Heritage Alteration Permit for any sort of external building alterations to listed single-family dwellings. C. Sholberg noted that often “using a carrot instead of a stick” is a better way to entice people into conserving heritage.

“An anti-neglect bylaw would be a good thing to bring back”

The Commission suggested that instead of adopting an anti-neglect bylaw, that any neglected properties be removed from the heritage register altogether. In many cases, it is too difficult to expect the owner of a neglected building to possess the resources (financially) to return a neglected building to its appropriate condition. Buildings that are awarded City grants or tax exemptions have a covenant placed on title which requires a minimum level of maintenance. At the next meeting, and periodically, the Commission will review the heritage register and remove any inappropriate buildings.

“Each home on the registry should have a plaque”

The City does not have funding to supply a wholesale amount of plaques. Currently, plaques are given to specific homes through the City’s incentive programs. Also, it would be difficult to remove a plaque from a home that is being removed from the register.

Are there any buildings, sites or structures that you would like to nominate for placement on the heritage register or you feel should be removed from the register?

131 Victoria Road

It was suggested that an application be formally submitted for this building.

Judo Club (Machleary Street)

C. Meutzner noted that the Vancouver Island University wants to commemorate the building. She will contact Tony O’Keefe at VIU and ask them to submit an application for this building.

Hydro Dam (Millstone River)

It was suggested that an application be formally submitted for this site.

Red Barn

It was suggested that an application be formally submitted for this building.

Base Hut (Sea Cadets)

It was suggested that an application be formally submitted for this building.

Nanaimo Centre Stage

It was suggested that an application be formally submitted for this building.

“Some of the walking tours should be translated into the most common languages of tourists”

The Commission noted that some of the local cultural societies (Chinese Cultural Society, Francophone Society) may be interested in providing a translation of the heritage walk brochures for free. If agreed, the Commission suggested making the translated versions of the brochures available online.

“I think it may be a good idea to have this display more often and in different parts of the City”

C. Sholberg noted that it is possible for heritage information to be displayed at City recreational facilities. He noted that in the past, materials have been displayed at the Museum for a couple of months at a time. It helps to promote the City’s work in regards to heritage issues. C. Sholberg will look into this more.

In summary, the comments received at the Open House were generally positive. It seems that the Commission has managed to do what the public wants.

The next step will be for staff to draft a Council report that outlines what has been completed, what has not been completed, and what the next steps for the Commission will be. There is not enough material to warrant the creation of a new action plan; it's more about trying to maintain the quality of what we have. The report will be presented to Commission members at the next meeting before being presented to Council at a later date.

- b) Review of Heritage Register - Continued:
Defer until the next meeting. Building reviews still remaining from J. Manning, J. Perry and C. Meutzner.
- c) Meeting with Ladysmith Heritage Advisory Commission (2010-DEC-09) – Debrief:
The Commission noted that the meeting was successful and helpful for both Commissions. The Commission suggested inviting the LHAC back to a future meeting to maintain a strong communication relationship.

The Commission suggested the idea of hosting a “regional heritage summit” which could include heritage commissions from other Vancouver Island communities. C. Sholberg will look into this idea of such an event and will possibly send out a proposal to the Commission via letter or e-mail.
- d) Heritage Networking Conference – Debrief:
To be deferred until the next meeting because K. Hovestad is not in attendance.

8. Committee Reports

- a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee:
J. Hofman not in attendance.
- b) Snuneymuxw First Nation:
No report. Awaiting appointment of new rep.
- c) Nanaimo Community Archives Society:
No report.
- d) Design Advisory Panel:
No report.
- e) Nanaimo District and Museum:
J. Manning not in attendance.

9. Next Meeting

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

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm

APPROVED:

Chair

Date