



MINUTES
NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2010-JAN-06 AT 5:00 PM
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM (455 WALLACE STREET)

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

1. Call to Order

Chair W.E. Gard called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. in the City Hall Board Room.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2009-Nov-04 and 2009-Dec-02)

MOVED by C. Riches, SECONDED by J. Hofman, that the 2009-Nov-04 Minutes be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

MOVED by J. Stannard, SECONDED by C. Riches, that the 2009-Dec-02 Minutes be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

4. Budget Review (\$2,500)

C. Sholberg explained to the Commission that the \$2,500 is a tentative budget amount until Council decides on the final budget. C. Sholberg noted that additional money will be available for brochure printing and plaques under a separate Community Planning Department budget line.

5. Correspondence, Periodicals, & Newsletters

- a) Letter Re: Bastion structural repair
- b) Letter Re: Retired Teachers Association funding request
- c) Heritage BC Quarterly

6. New Business

None.

7. Old Business

a) Heritage Façade Grant Program – update:

C. Sholberg requested that the Commission wait until February to discuss the applications for the Heritage Façade Grant Program due to a Council budget meeting taking place on 2010-Jan-18. This meeting will determine the amount of funds available for the facade grant program (for a total of up to \$20,000). The Commission has the ability to also draw up to \$10,000 for the Façade Program from the Heritage Home Grant Program. C. Sholberg noted that although the DNPS is unable to contribute any funds, M. Hussman will be in attendance to answer questions, etc.

Applications have been submitted for the following properties:

- Nash Hardware (19 Commercial St)
- Harris House (375 Franklyn St)
- Commercial Hotel / Painted Turtle (121 Bastion St)
- Garland Farm House (467 Eighth St) (Heritage Home Grant)

C. Sholberg will prepare the grant applications and invite the applicants to attend the February meeting.

b) Report of state of Piper Park/Old Museum Building Redevelopment:

The removal of this building was recently discussed at a Council meeting. The Commission feels that L. Sherry did a good job in stating his case against the removal of the building. It was explained at the Council meeting that because this property is a designated park, a public process must take place before the building's fate is decided.

C. Sholberg has received nominations to include this building in the heritage register. He has also received an application for nomination of the whole site (artifacts, landscape, buildings) as a historic site. He explained to these applicants that the heritage register does not provide protected status.

C. Sholberg will work with C. Meutzner to create a heritage value statement for consideration by the Commission at the March meeting.

c) 2010-Feb-17 Heritage Summit: The Heritage of Sports & Recreation – update:

C. Sholberg confirmed that the Heritage Summit will be held on 2010-Feb-17 in the Museum from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. C. Sholberg will contact the Museum to see what information they have about sports and recreation. He may ask someone from the Museum to speak as a feature presenter. After the presentation, there will be a roundtable discussion. The Commission is very pleased with this location and asked C. Sholberg to proceed with invitations to local interest groups.

d) Heritage Action Plan Review:

The Commission reviewed their progress on the Heritage Action Plan's recommended actions (see Item7D).

Create Community Heritage Register
Done (2002).

Create Downtown Heritage Conservation Area
Done (1999).

Create Old City Heritage Conservation Area

Did not proceed. The area was predominately single-family residential and heritage conservation areas are usually designated on commercial or mixed-use areas. Designating a single-family neighbourhood with a conservation area would make the City responsible for controlling the development on these dwellings, extensive public education, development of a new set of design guidelines, etc. Because demolition and other risks to single-family

dwellings in the area have not been an issue, creating a conservation area does not seem necessary at this time.

Update Heritage Building Design Guidelines

Although the Downtown Design Guidelines have been adopted, the Heritage Building Design Guidelines (1984) have never been updated. C. Sholberg explained that the update of the Heritage Building Design Guidelines will be addressed in the Official Community Plan (OCP) workplan. J. Hofman suggests that DAP handle this issue. C. Sholberg explained that DAP may recommend the update to NCHC or Community Planning.

Adopt consolidated set of conservation principles and standards

C. Sholberg explained that he currently uses the Federal Government's "Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada" and that some communities have had their Council formally adopt these guidelines as their standard.

Adopt Heritage Procedures Bylaw
Done (2002).

Adopt Anti-Neglect Bylaw

C. Sholberg noted that in the past, the Commission has been divided on this issue. He explained that there are other tools such as Nuisance Property Bylaws and Heritage Conservation Covenants that can be used to address the issue of building neglect. It is difficult to force an owner to make upgrades to a home unless there are life-threatening issues to address.

Heritage Stewardship Policy

C. Sholberg explained that no specific action has been taken to satisfy this policy. The Heritage Stewardship Policy would require the creation of conservation plans for all city-owned, designated buildings (i.e. Beban House, the Bastion). W.E. Gard suggested adding this item to a future agenda.

Zoning Changes to Old City

C. Sholberg noted that there have not been any registered heritage buildings to date that have been impacted by zoning changes in the Old City area. The Old City Neighbourhood Plan was completed in 1992, the zoning in 1994, and the Heritage Action Plan in 1998. C. Sholberg noted that zoning in the Old City area was created through the Old City Neighbourhood Plan process. Changes to the zoning that would better protect the area's heritage buildings would require a significant update to the neighbourhood plan.

Heritage Commission – expanded responsibility...
Ongoing since 2002.

Cemetery Conservation Master Plan

A Cemetery Conservation Master Plan is considered primarily addressed by the City's existing cemetery maintenance policies. C. Sholberg explained that he spoke to the cemetery manager who suggested that this Commission create a heritage walk brochure for cemeteries. The walk would inform people of the cemetery's history in general.

Landscape Conservation Policies

Ongoing through Tree Protection Bylaw. The Parks Department has informed C. Sholberg that the Tree Protection Bylaw is finally starting to move along. J. Hofman feels that tree retention and regulation should be the responsibility of the Parks Department. Although we have some designated heritage trees, the Commission does not have much to do with them. W.E. Gard agrees that this issue should not be the responsibility of the Commission.

J. Perry asked what the status of Robin's Gardens is. C. Sholberg noted that it was recently purchased by a company from Edmonton for over \$1 million. A Development Permit has been issued but construction has not yet proceeded. J. Perry suggested that the City purchase the property and use it as a botanical garden. C. Sholberg explained that it has been a potential acquisition under the Parks Master Plan for many years and that there were

attempts to buy it from the previous owner. The previous owner doubled the price when the City tried to purchase it. C. Sholberg noted that if a development does not take place it is definitely a potential opportunity to be explored again.

Archaeological Sites Policy

Ongoing. J. Hofman does feel that the Commission should address archaeological sites. C. Sholberg explained that he is the staff liaison for this program and that he uses the information quite often to remind people of archaeological sites. W.E. Gard suggested expressing that this issue is a fringe to the NCHC, not a main thrust of operations.

City Records Management Policy

Ongoing.

Heritage Building Documentation and Salvage Policy

Done (2004).

Review of Heritage Program/Policies

Ongoing. This action is addressed yearly through the workplan.

Create Incentive Programs

Done (2000-2003).

Promote Heritage Awareness

Ongoing. The Commission would like to host a public open house to display our progress and hear what types of heritage issues the public would like pursued. C. Sholberg would prefer to hold the public open house in May 2010, as he is in the middle of the Neighbourhood Planning Process for the South End, which is occupying considerable time.

J. Perry suggested holding a garden party at the Brick Cottage. The event could be a drop-in event held from 4:00 – 8:00 pm, with displays inside the cottage. W.E. Gard explained that the event could help us gauge the public's interest in Nanaimo's heritage. If the interest exists, a larger event could be held. J. Perry suggested extending invitations to the neighbourhood associations.

As an aside, C. Sholberg noted that he discussed the landscaping maintenance of the Brick Cottage with Parks. Parks would like to simplify the landscaping. Their reasons include safety and ease of maintenance. The Commission would like to see as much of the character of the existing landscape plan retained as possible.

19. VIU Journalism Student Assignment

Last year, C. Sholberg was approached from a teacher at VIU who was looking for a heritage-related project for his journalism students to tackle. The project for his class included short histories for both the South End and Newcastle + Brechin neighbourhoods. C. Sholberg was asked again this year of any assignments available for the students to tackle, but is not sure what to assign to them. J. Hofman suggested that C. Sholberg refer the students to the Morden Mine for their writing assignment.

e) Heritage Nanaimo Posters – Review quotes:

In response to the Commission's request, C. Sholberg provided a comparison of three cost estimates from local print shops (see item 7E).

The quotes that were given vary greatly and are for different resolutions. The Commission is unable to decide what the best value is without being able to view sample posters of each resolution, paper quality, etc. W.E. Gard suggested that these posters be used to promote the City if Nanaimo secures a spot at the winter Olympic "O Zone" event in Richmond. C. Sholberg will request sample prints from each company and present them to the Commission at the next meeting.

8. Committee Reports

a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee:
No report.

b) Snuneymuxw First Nation:
S. Penn not in attendance.

c) Nanaimo Community Archives Society:
C. Meutzner not in attendance.

d) Nanaimo District and Museum:
J. Manning not in attendance.

e) Design Advisory Panel:
J. Perry reported that proposals for the redevelopment of Port Place Mall were discussed at the 2009-Dec-09 meeting. Although redevelopment of the mall is not a heritage issue, it is a big downtown issue. J. Perry explained some of the proposed ideas for the development.

W.E. Gard asked about the status on the "low-end" development on Victoria Road that J. Perry had mentioned last month. J. Perry said that the developer has not returned to DAP. C. Sholberg noted that the developer met with the South End Community Association and the Association submitted a series of recommendations on the project back to the City.

9. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2010-Feb-03 in the City Hall Board Room at 5:00 pm.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chair

2010-Feb-03

Date