



MINUTES
NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2009-NOV-04 AT 5:00 PM
BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET

Present: William E. Gard, Chair
John Hofman
Joan Perry
Christine Meutzner
Lloyd Sherry
Jill Stannard
Charlene Riches
John Manning
Karen Hovestad

Staff: Chris Sholberg, Heritage Planner
Rebecca Tubbs, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Sandra Penn

1. Call to Order

Chair W.E. Gard called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. in the City Hall Board Room.

2. Approval of Agenda & Late Items

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

- a) E & N Railway Station Update:
C. Sholberg reported that the insurance money has finally been released from VIA Rail and that the building has been temporarily re-tarped. C. Sholberg explained that the Island Corridor Foundation is currently facing a \$400,000 shortfall and will soon be taking steps to find funding.
- b) Heritage BC:
C. Sholberg reported that Heritage BC has been facing financial challenges. Their financial statement to the provincial government requests three things:
- *reinstatement of gaming funding to cultural organizations...*
 - *reinstate funding to Heritage BC...*
 - *reinstate a budget for the Heritage Branch to continue operation...*
- C. Sholberg also noted that the Federal Government's Historic Places Initiative funding will end this year.

3. Adoption of Minutes (2009-Oct-07)

MOVED by K. Hovestad, SECONDED by J. Stannard, that the Minutes of the 2009-Oct-07 meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

4. Budget Review (\$0.00)

5. Correspondence, Periodicals, & Newsletters

- a) Community Heritage Commission Networking Conference:
For information only.
- b) Vancouver Heritage Foundation "Old School" Courses for Building Conservation:
For information only.

6. New Business**7. Old Business**a) Heritage Nanaimo Posters – Update:

Considering suggestions from the last meeting, R. Tubbs provided subtle variations of the posters for the Commission to review. The variations included revised wording on the bottom of the poster, multi-colored headings and category of buildings added.

C. Sholberg noted that the idea behind these posters would be for them to be used as promotional posters. If there is an interest for the posters, a limited publication could be possible. L. Sherry suggested contacting the Nanaimo Restaurant Association and ask if they would like to do some placemats, etc., (as February is Heritage Month). This would bring attention to Nanaimo's heritage without the Commission having to pay the cost. C. Sholberg said that they will start with the promotional posters to test their popularity. Money for this publication would be drawn, subject to approval, from the reserves fund.

The Commission took a chance to each write their variation preferences on the sheet. Pricing and a sample of the final poster will be presented to the Commission for approval before publication.

b) Nomination for Heritage Register - Old Millstone Power Plant (210 Caledonia Ave):

C. Meutzner feels that this is a situation in which the current points system that is used does not work (scored 29/100). The site holds much more importance than shown in the current points system and would be seen as of great importance to the province. The site is a unique site, symbolizing an industrial era of British Columbia. C. Meutzner recalls creating a more contemporary points system and feels the revised system would better reflect the value of this site.

C. Meutzner noted that adding this site to the heritage register would not be an obstacle to anyone (land owner, surrounding residents, etc.), but would work as a negotiating tool for the City in the future. The most that would be done to the site would be to have an interpretive plaque installed. Because of this site's historical significance, any future developers could be asked to build around / incorporate the site's historical aspects. C. Sholberg noted that the current owner of the site favors heritage conservation, and noted that the part of the property containing the ruins is located in an area of the site not likely to be developed.

MOVED by C. Riches, SECONDED by K. Hovestad, that the Old Millstone Power Plant's wooden flume and concrete foundation be added to the heritage register, subject to consent of the owner.

CARRIED.

c) Nomination for Heritage Register - Barn (752 Howard Ave):

This nomination was submitted by a member of the public because it is one of the very few surviving barns in Nanaimo and is a tangible reminder of the area's agricultural buildings.

C. Meutzner feels that although the barn failed with a score of 45/100, it is a rare example of Nanaimo's agriculture and should be added to the register. C. Meutzner feels that the building's score for "Context" should be adjusted to emphasize the historical value of the area's agriculture.

C. Sholberg noted that the owner, the City of Nanaimo, is aware that the site is being considered for addition to the register. They are concerned that if the site receives heritage status, higher expectations may be set and they may receive public pressure to clean up the site.

MOVED by C. Riches, SECONDED by J. Perry, that the Dickinson Barn (752 Howard Avenue) be added to the heritage register, subject to consent of the owner.

CARRIED.

- d) Nomination for Heritage Register - Residence (1421 Cranberry Ave):
C. Sholberg explained that this nomination was submitted by the property owner because it forms part of a concentration of Edwardian era farmhouses in the area. This building passed with a score of 63/100. The owner is currently restoring the exterior by removing the stucco and revealing the original wood. C. Meutzner noted that this building is very representative of an Edwardian farm house and is part of a larger grouping of superior historic homes in the area. Its location, close to a major road, makes this building a neighbourhood landmark. C. Sholberg noted that the building was actually relocated approximately 100-200 yards, but is still located on the same site.

MOVED by C. Meutzner, SECONDED by K. Hovestad, that the Hendrickson/Maunus Residence (1421 Cranberry Avenue) be added to the heritage register.

CARRIED.

C. Sholberg informed the Commission members that these buildings/sites will not be brought to Council for consideration until spring 2010, at the earliest.

- e) Tour of Retired Teachers Association museum at NDSS (2009-Oct-27) – Debrief:
C. Sholberg reported that he, W.E. Gard, and J. Stannard attended a tour at this facility. C. Sholberg recently confirmed with Vicki Harrison to ask if the group was still seeking financial assistance. Vicki Harrison explained that although the group has received enough funding for their computer database, that they are always looking for funding and contributions for other things they are doing.

The museum is only open on Tuesdays, creating limited community access.

MOVED by C. Riches, SECONDED by K. Hovestad, that the Commission respectfully decline the funding request of the Retired Teachers Association.

CARRIED.

- f) Bastion Structural Repair Project – Status:
C. Sholberg noted that the Parks & Rec Department has taken emergency action by adding some props in the basement, but explained that permanent action needs to be taken fairly immediately as the issue is only going to get worse with time. The main obstacle with this repair is funding. The Parks & Rec Department will be requesting funding from the province, as there is no federal funding available.

L. Sherry noted that Council has not yet started the budget process. He suggested that the Commission write a letter to Council outlining the necessity and liability of the damage, and strongly recommending that Council support the suggested repairs. The letter should be submitted as soon as possible so that discussion of the issue can start before adoption of the budget. L. Sherry noted that funds can be released for the work to be done before the budget is adopted. C. Sholberg will draft up a letter.

- g) Council Committee Review – Status:
L. Sherry explained that a complete review of the committees will be made soon. Unless told otherwise, member terms will end in February 2010.

- h) Quick Project Updates:

- Pacific Biological Station:
C. Sholberg reported that he has not yet heard anything from the federal government regarding the National Historic Site application.
- Raines Cabin Relocation:
C. Sholberg reported that the cabin has been relocated to an area in Cedar, near its original location. A family member is rebuilding the cabin as a conservation project.

- Marble Coat-of-arms at City Hall:
C. Sholberg reported that the marble coat-of-arms and interpretive plaque have been installed in the City Hall lobby.
- Entrance Island Lighthouse:
C. Sholberg has not heard anything further on this issue. The lighthouse is outside of our jurisdiction, but is our closest lighthouse.
- Pioneer Cemetery Park Bench and other improvements:
C. Sholberg reported that although the park was landscaped and trees were removed, no improved bench was installed. The Historical Society is looking for a plan that is simple and appropriate for a small cemetery. Due to budget, the park has not been high on the City's priority list. C. Sholberg noted that a bench would cost approximately \$1,500. C. Sholberg will follow up with the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department.
- Oliver Woods Community Centre – Foundry wood usage plaque:
C. Sholberg had previously arranged for Public Works staff to install the plaque. C. Sholberg will follow-up on this item as no plaque has been installed.

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 reported that she spoke with the Gaming Commission today regarding loss of funding. It will be a big deal for organizations if the funding is not available. C. Meutzner was told to reapply for funding today. D. Trueman from the museum will also reapply for funding. C. Meutzner feels it will be difficult at the Archives, as they will lose their only paid archival assistant.
- d) Nanaimo District and Museum:
J. Manning reported that the museum is in the early stages of planning next year's budget. They have drafted two budgets; one with gaming funds, and one without.
- e) Design Advisory Panel:
J. Perry reported that there was a proposed development along Victoria Road (behind Dairy Queen) for low-end condominiums. She suggested to the developer that they take the proposal to a public hearing event and to the neighbourhood association meetings for proper public consultation. Residents of the area will clearly express their opinions about "low-end" development.

J. Perry did not appreciate the fact that the admittedly "North End" developer feels that there is no "flavor" to the South End and feels that there is nothing in the area that can lend itself to the building design.

9. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2009-Dec-02 at the Firehouse Grill (7 Victoria Road) at 5:00 pm.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date