



MINUTES
NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2009-OCT-07 AT 5:00 PM
BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET

Present: William E. Gard, Chair
John Hofman
Joan Perry
Christine Meutzner
Loyd Sherry
Jill Stannard
Sandra Penn
John Manning
Karen Hovestad

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

Guests: Matt Hussman, Executive Director, DNPS

Regrets: Charlene Riches

1. Call to Order

Chair B. Gard called the meeting to order at 5:05 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) Introduction of Matt Hussman, Executive Director, DNPS:

C. Sholberg introduced Matt Hussman, Executive Director of the Downtown Nanaimo Partnership Society (DNPS) to the Commission.

M. Hussman began his introduction by describing his background in historic preservation, working in small towns until being promoted to Washington's home office, setting up, training, and providing assistance to "Main Street" programs across the country, and working as a public space manager for Washington DC's downtown BIA.

Since starting with the DNPS in January, the Society has been busy with events such as the Multicultural Festival, Canstruction, Halloween and Christmas. There have been many internal changes as well, such as staff cuts (1), previous work being carried out, and agendas and minutes being posted online. He explained that they are looking to become a membership-based organization. With a membership-based organization system, all business and property owners in the area are automatically members, and they elect a board of directors.

M. Hussman also noted that the DNPS is no longer receiving funding for their Downtown Ambassador program, but that they are working with the Bylaw Department and the RCMP to reinstate the program. He is also looking for ways to provide assistance to not only heritage properties in the downtown area, but all properties in the downtown area.

The DNPS needs to build their volunteer base. They are looking to have at least thirty volunteers walking downtown during each cruise ship day. If anyone is interested in volunteering for cruise ship days or for any other effort, please contact 250-714-8141.

J. Hofman suggested that next year's Canstruction event be held during a cruise ship weekend.

B. Gard thanked M. Hussman for introducing himself to the Commission.

M. Hussman excused himself from the meeting (5:27).

- b) Friends of Morden Mine AGM Notice:
J. Hofman provided the notice to the Commission for information (see attached).

3. Adoption of Minutes (2009-Sep-02)

MOVED by J. Stannard, SECONDED by J. Hofman, that the Minutes of the 2009-Sep-02 meeting be adopted as presented.

CARRIED.

4. Budget Review (\$0.31)

C. Sholberg provided an update on the budget.

5. Correspondence, Periodicals, & Newsletters

- a) Nanaimo Arts Council Newsletter

6. New Business

- a) Paperless Agenda:
It was decided by the Commission that agendas and minutes would be distributed only by e-mail from now on. Members will be responsible for bringing any printed documentation they feel may be required. If there is information required on "New Business" items, paper copies will be provided. Paper copies can be supplied if requested prior to the meeting.

- b) Heritage Nanaimo Posters:
C. Sholberg presented three promotional posters containing heritage buildings to the Commission in the categories of commercial, residential, and institutional. He explained that, as there is still some money remaining in the "Columns, Cornices and Coal" book reserve fund, these posters may be a good way to utilize the funds. C. Sholberg suggested that the posters be used for the Commission's events such as the Heritage Summit, or even be sold to the public. C. Meutzner suggested providing the posters to schools. J. Hofman noted that businesses may be interested in purchasing the posters as well (i.e. Nanaimo Museum, featured businesses). J. Perry suggested converting the posters into postcard format.

The Commission agreed that there should be something included on the poster that tells people to look on the website to find out about the buildings' identities. It was also suggested that the poster's headings be made into different colors, or that categories be specified on each poster (i.e. commercial, residential, or institutional).

The Commission supported the poster concept and thanked C. Sholberg and R. Tubbs for putting them together. C. Sholberg will provide refined versions of the posters as well as pricing at the next meeting.

7. Old Business

- a) Statements of Significance Project:
C. Sholberg presented this item to the Commission primarily for information. The City has received \$18,000 to complete twenty Statements of Significance (SOS) to document existing buildings on our Heritage Register, in the format required for the Provincial Heritage Register. C. Meutzner was hired to complete the statements. This is the fourth round of statements. C. Sholberg has submitted the final documentation and is waiting to hear back from the province.

C. Meutzner added that she has submitted a proposal to BC Parks to complete three Statements of Significance for Newcastle Island; one on the pavilion, the bathhouse, and the dam. She explained that these SOS will, to some extent, guide future change on the Island.

b) Heritage Paint Out – Debrief:

C. Sholberg reported that this year's Paint-Out was successful. The weather was nice, and although the number of artists was low (12), the art was of good quality. He provided the Commission with some photos that were taken during the event.

J. Hofman suggested that next year, the Commission partner with the DNPS for this event and hold it in conjunction with another event, such as Mine Tour Days or a day when a cruise ship is docked in the harbour. The event would be more successful if held earlier during the year, such as July or August, and if it was held in a higher-profile location, such as the library.

C. Sholberg will invite the Director of The Nanaimo Arts Council, to speak to the Commission about next year's plans early in 2010.

c) Heritage Register Nomination for Millstone Power Plant (210 Caledonia Ave):

To be discussed at the next meeting.

d) Heritage Register Nomination for Barn (752 Howard Ave):

To be discussed at the next meeting.

C. Meutzner mentioned that she has collected some information for this site, but still needs more information. C. Sholberg will forward her the photos from the site tour.

e) Owner Nomination for Residence (1421 Cranberry Ave):

To be discussed at the next meeting.

C. Sholberg will forward a photo of this property to C. Meutzner.

f) Tour of Retired Teachers Association museum at NDSS (requesting \$250):

C. Sholberg reported that as this item is quite dated, he left them a message to ask them if they are still interested in receiving funding. He mentioned in the message that the Commission would be interested in touring their facility before considering funding. This request is now harder to deal with as we have no existing budget. C. Sholberg is still waiting to hear back from them.

g) Bastion Structural Repair Project – Status:

C. Sholberg reported that the Bastion has tilted further in the last few weeks. He is hoping that the restoration will be a higher service level budget request from Council. Temporary measures have been taken inside the Bastion to help stabilize the building until proper repairs are made. Sholberg informed the Commission to stay tuned.

K. Hovestad added that if the damage has progressed so rapidly during the last month (with nice weather), it will progress even more rapidly once it starts raining.

8. Committee Reports

a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee:

No report.

b) Snuneymuxw First Nation:

S. Penn reported nothing heritage-related. She reported that the SFN is working on conjunction with Economic Development to purchase and develop land. She also reported the election of a new chief, and that Doug White has temporarily filled the seat of Viola Wyse until the position can be filled with a re-election (to take place early February).

c) Nanaimo Community Archives Society:

C. Meutzner reported that the E.J. Hughes mural installation is almost complete, and that the Nanaimo Archives will be paying to have it appraised. She also reported that she has been given permission from the Historical Society to transcribe some of their oral history tapes. These transcriptions are available on their website.

C. Meutzner excused herself from the meeting (6:25).

d) Nanaimo District and Museum:

J. Manning noted that the Museum celebrated their first anniversary in their new location at the end of July, explaining that both their attendance numbers and gift shop sales are up since the move. J. Manning explained the likelihood that the Museum may lose the gaming/gambling portion of their funding, approximately \$60,000. He explained that if the museum loses this source of funding, they may not be able to host travelling exhibits and charge such nominal admission fees. For example, admission for the Rocket Richard exhibit was a nominal \$2.00, making the exhibit accessible for everyone as well as broadening the museum's appeal.

J. Hofman mentioned that he has noticed the doors into the exhibits to be very uninviting, as well as difficult to locate. L. Sherry suggested propping the doors open during business hours. J. Manning will mention the issue to Museum staff.

e) Design Advisory Panel:

No report.

9. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2009-Nov-04 in the City Hall Board Room.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:37p.m.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date