



MINUTES
NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2009-MAY-06 AT 5:00 PM
BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET

Present:	William E. Gard, Chair John Hofman Sandra Penn Jill Stannard	Loyd Sherry Charlene Riches John Manning Christine Meutzner
Staff:	Chris Sholberg, Heritage Planner	Rebecca Tubbs, Recording Secretary
Regrets:	Karen Hovestad	Joan Perry
Guests:	Ladysmith Heritage Commission: Maureen Marten, Chair Ann Rogers Lori Evans	Bruce Laxdal Peter Blumel

1. Call to Order

Chair W.E. Gard called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m., welcoming the Ladysmith Heritage Commission and thanking C. Riches for suggesting the joint-meeting.

2. Adoption of Minutes (2009-Apr-01)

MOVED by C. Riches, SECONDED by J. Hofman, that the Minutes of the 2009-Apr-01 meeting be adopted as presented. CARRIED.

3. Budget Review (\$800)

\$800 is the total amount of uncommitted funds because a significant portion of the budget has been dedicated to prior commitments such as the Harewood Heritage Walk brochure and other events.

4. Delegation

None.

5. Correspondence, Periodicals, & Newsletters

None.

6. New Business

- a) Coal Town Festival, Aug 29, 2009. 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
C. Sholberg explained that the Coal Town Festival is a music and heritage festival which usually takes place in Lantzville. The group is looking to relocate the festivities to Nanaimo, and host the event inside the Nanaimo Museum. C. Sholberg has been approached by the group who organizes it because they are looking for willingness from the Heritage Commission to participate in the festival (i.e. display boards, informational materials, etc.). If there are any members interested in participating in the festival, please contact C. Sholberg.

b) Discussion with Ladysmith Heritage Commission

Members of each Heritage Commission introduced themselves and their involvement in heritage.

L. Sherry started by saying that the Nanaimo Heritage Commission has been operating for well over 30 years with City Staff involvement. He has served on the Commission since Frank Ney was Mayor, and has continued to serve as a council representative ever since.

The Ladysmith Heritage Commission is a Committee of Council for the Town of Ladysmith.

W.E. Gard explained that the Nanaimo Commission has always had a steady turnover; members apply to Council and are appointed for a set period of time.

J. Hofman asked the Ladysmith Commission if they had a heritage register or a list of recognized heritage properties. M. Marten replied that they have a heritage inventory, but not an official register. She added that they have been working to create a register and that currently four buildings have completed Statements of Significance.

B. Laxdal noted that the Commission is looking to complete Statements of Significance for a large number or all of the buildings in Ladysmith's downtown area. He said that the buildings are in poor shape, and due to lack of funds, the owners cannot afford to maintain or fix them.

C. Sholberg noted that all of the buildings displayed on the display boards and signs around the room today are registered heritage buildings. He added that 109/150 buildings have gone through the Statement of Significance process.

W.E. Gard noted that showing materials like the heritage building display boards at public events really does create interest and shed light on local heritage buildings. He noted that the heritage walk brochures have also been very successful in creating public interest. He also noted that the Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission hosts a yearly Heritage Summit and a Heritage Paint-Out.

B. Laxdal added that they have been thinking of things like brochures, grant programs, etc. to spark heritage interest in local residents.

C. Meutzner arrived at 5:28 p.m. She introduced herself to the Ladysmith Commission and briefly described her heritage involvement.

The Ladysmith Commission said that Ladysmith does not have a Heritage Planner.

C. Meutzner commented that the Ladysmith Commission has been doing very well so far, especially without resources.

P. Blumel asked about the types of heritage grant programs that are available through the City of Nanaimo. C. Sholberg summarized Nanaimo's grant programs and noted that money for these grants comes from general revenue and is allotted by City Council. The grant programs include the following:

Heritage Façade Grant

- for commercial downtown buildings, up to \$10,00 per façade fronting on a street on a 50/50 cost sharing basis with the property owner

Heritage Home Grant

- for registered heritage homes
- up to \$2,500 is committed to each grant applicant by the NCHC, and they are directly involved in the allotment of these grants

Tax Exemption Program

- defers property taxes for up to ten years
- there are other tax exemption options available for heritage buildings in the Local Gov't Act

B. Laxdal said that owners in their downtown area are aware of the grant programs that are available, but are just not interested in dealing with the difficulty of applying for them. He noted that only people that found the program useful were people who were already planning to make improvements.

W.E. Gard asked the Ladysmith Commission what majority of people own the heritage buildings in Ladysmith (i.e. local residents, companies, etc). B. Laxdal replied that one-third to one-half of the owners are local residents. They have purchased the building but are not willing to or do not have the funds to do improvements.

B. Laxdal added that their downtown area has a permit program. Ladysmith has the ability to stop permits for alteration or demolition in that area for a short time. C. Sholberg noted that implementing a Heritage Conservation Area in Ladysmith's downtown would provide all buildings within that area with protective status.

C. Sholberg explained that a Heritage Conservation Covenant would not only provide protective status, but would make the homeowner eligible for grants. That would make the covenant stay with the land. The covenant gives the City the legal right, if needed, to approach a future owner and require that the building be maintained to a certain standard.

C. Meutzner noted that it is difficult to make a general statement about any sort of heritage alteration as each situation is unique and creates its own difficulties. C. Sholberg noted that having a heritage register gives the Commission a clear picture of what is out there.

B. Laxdal explained that the biggest problem that Ladysmith has with its heritage buildings is deterioration (old, hazardous, poor condition), and added that if value was seen within specific elements of the building, a homeowner would be more likely to want to improve upon it. Deterioration needs to be stopped by showing homeowners that the buildings are worth maintaining.

The Ladysmith Commission noted that there is not much economic growth in their downtown area and added that they have removed Development Cost Charges (DCCs) for commercial development in their downtown area.

L. Evans noted that the relationship between Ladysmith and Chemainus First Nations (CFN) is actively encouraged and developing. The Ladysmith Commission regularly has joint meetings with the CFN. L. Evans said that as part of the Maritime Festival taking place in May, the Ladysmith Council and the CFN will paddle across the harbor together, explaining that this is an important part of recognizing a partnership.

The Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission suggested that the Ladysmith Commission implement a system at the City of Ladysmith to flag properties that have heritage status. The system has worked well in Nanaimo.

L. Sherry added that if buildings that are listed in the inventory were to be officially added to a register, more assistance and control of these buildings would be possible. He added that it would be simple for Ladysmith to convert their inventory to a register.

L. Evans excused herself from the meeting at 6:30 p.m. due to a previous commitment.

7. Old Business

a) Committee Awards Luncheon

C. Sholberg briefly reviewed the award categories (two Commercial Rehab Awards, one Residential Rehab Award, and one John Thomson Heritage Memorial Award).

The Awards Luncheon will take place on May 20th, 2009, from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. at the Oliver Woods Community Centre (6000 Oliver Road) in the Salal Rooms. An invitation will be sent via e-mail to the Commission members within the next week.

- b) Stone Coat-of-arms at City Hall Lobby – Update
The recently found stone Coat-of-arms has been installed in the City Hall Lobby beside the Mayor’s office. A small, simple, plaque will be installed below the coat-of-arms, briefly describing it’s meaning and history.

8. Late Items

None.

9. Committee Reports

- a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee:
No report.
- b) Snuneymuxw First Nation:
No report.
- c) Nanaimo Community Archives Society: Malaspina Hotels Mural Unveiling – Status:
C. Meutzner noted that the Archives have been experiencing legal issues regarding use of the E.J. Hughes mural. She explained that the Archives has had to obtain agreement from the Estate of E.J. Hughes, and that they are planning to join that agreement with the City of Nanaimo to restrict use of images of the mural in future publications.

The mural unveiling will take place on May 15th, 2009 at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre. Invitations to the unveiling are limited due to room capacity, but have been sent out. All members of the Heritage Commission are invited to attend. The mural will be open to the public for viewing after the formal unveiling. C. Meutzner noted for the record that the Nanaimo Art Gallery is not involved in the unveiling; it is a Nanaimo Archives event.

C. Meutzner thanked R. Tubbs for assistance in producing the E.J. Hughes mural interpretive sign.
- d) Nanaimo District and Museum:
J. Manning noted that the Annual General Meeting will take place next week. He noted that future projects include beginning construction of the coal mine exhibit and the second annual Sports Hall of Fame. J. Manning said that due to the new location of the museum, they are capable of featuring travelling exhibits.
- e) Design Advisory Panel:
No report.

10. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2009-Jun-03 at the Brick Cottage on Third St.
[Next meeting date has been changed to 2009-JUN-17 at the Brick Cottage on Third St.]

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date