

CITY OF NANAIMO
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2008-APR-02 AT 5:00 P.M.
IN THE BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET

Present: Bill Gard
Dallas Dowson-Buffalo
David Hill-Turner
Christine Meutzner

John Hofman, Chair
Blake McGuffie
Councillor Loyd Sherry
Karen Hovestad

Staff:

Chris Sholberg, Heritage Planner
Fran Grant, Recording Secretary

Regrets: Geraldine Manson
Charlene Riches

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair J. Hofman at 5:05 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

MOVED by D. Hill-Turner, SECONDED by B. Gard, that the minutes of 2008-Mar-05 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. BUDGET REVIEW – will clarify

C. Sholberg noted:

- Now stands at \$474.06 for 2008.
- Talked to the Manager of Financial Planning and some draws have been made on the account for heritage plaque work which we thought would be deducted from last year's budget including the South End Heritage brochure for \$1000.
- The Commission is not able to go over budget so the Manager of Community Planning has agreed to transfer \$3000 from his budget so the Commission's budget now stands at approximately \$3400.

4. LATE ITEMS

There were no late items.

5. CORRESPONDENCE/PERIODICALS/NEWSLETTERS

a) Heritage B.C. Quarterly

C. Sholberg circulated for information.

b) Nanaimo Arts Council Newsletter

Included for information.

c) Newcastle Island HSMBC Nomination:

C. Sholberg noted:

- Project is still on the back burner.
- Included a news article from Daily News 2008-Nov-22 for information.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Heritage Action Plan – Update:

C. Sholberg noted:

- Idea was raised at the last meeting of holding a facilitated workshop to update goals and objectives for preserving heritage.
- Suggestion was also made to have workshop as part of the annual Heritage Summit.
- Or have outreach public meeting to find out which heritage issues people want to see worked on.
- Heritage Action Plan items from 2001 are almost complete.
- Might be worthwhile to go out and get new objectives for heritage program by getting community input.

Comments from the Commission:

- There is a good model to consider. Saanich did their new Heritage Action Plan which has goals that outline projects.
- Other communities also have plans we could look at on-line to see if there is something that jumps out at us which would be useful to us.
- One idea: prepare minimum maintenance guidelines.
- Another interesting item: develop community heritage mapping with residents and community groups. Going to attend a course on this April 24th and will report back to Commission.
- We also lack natural sites in our heritage register.
- Lots of people at summit from neighbourhood associations and something we should be drawing on more.
- Has come up a lot at the Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association that we are missing identification of our heritage.
- Only Chase River Neighbourhood Plan and Rocky Point, Hammond Bay, Stephenson Point Plan has heritage list attached in OCP.
- We need to do more work on maintenance of programs we already have such as the register.

C. Sholberg: will bring this issue back on next agenda for further discussion.

b) Heritage Register – consider adding modern buildings

C. Sholberg noted:

- B. Gard suggested adding buildings constructed up to 1975.
- A number of larger cities are identifying modern architecture.
- We do have a few forms of modern architecture on the register.
- C. Sholberg circulated an article on Modern Architecture with a list of buildings constructed since 1975 in the Downtown

Comments from the Commission:

- General discussion, but Commission decided not to do any additional work on this issue at this time.

c) Hunt Estate Cottage – 925 Harbour View Street – Demo Permit

C. Sholberg noted:

- Another fire in cottage recently.
- Owner came in and gave history of what has been happening there.
- Constant issue with squatters because it is isolated and boarded up.
- Building has been vandalized and everything has been stripped out.
- Most recent fire gutted the interior.
- Cost of moving and rehabilitation would be too high (owner).
- Will be applying for a demo permit soon.
- Nine acres of land but don't know if the house belongs to all of that property.
- Will inquire as to how much damage has been done by fire.

Comments from the Commission:

- Mine manager's house was on that property and the foundation still exists.
- This house could have been part of that mine manager's house.
- Given the size of the property, could we play hardball and try to get it preserved by allowing density bonusing?
- Could use leverage if owner is looking for rezoning.
- If we had minimal maintenance bylaw, perhaps this wouldn't have happened.
- With all that has been removed, it may not be worth saving anymore.
- Heads-up to Commission that if we can keep an eye on other buildings that may be heading in the same direction.
- First we need to find out what condition the building is in before making any suggestions about saving it.
- Have to be careful that if we play hardball, other owners won't want their homes on the register if it is going to affect them too much in the future.
- If not too badly damaged, could ask if it could look for a willing purchaser to move and rehabilitate it.

C. Sholberg will do follow-up and report back to Commission.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a) OCP Update – Revisions to Heritage Section.

C. Sholberg noted:

- Distributed and gave brief overview of previous comments from Commission and changes that were made to new draft.
- Most suggestions will be factored in to the new plan.
- Policy 1.7.2 (9) only pertains to Chase River.
- Could add "update community heritage action plan" in the new OCP which would get the process started.

Comments from the Commission:

- Think statement 1.7.2 (9) should be broadly made and not just for Chase River.
- Change word "incorporated" into "considered" so that it isn't mandatory.
- Adaptive re-use may not be practical so shouldn't be forced.

- Commission agreed they would like to see word “should be considered” take place of “incorporated” be put in.

b) Rock Wall Bench for Pioneer Cemetery Park – update

C. Sholberg noted:

- May be an opportunity to factor our idea into the new design for park – budget has been pushed back a number of times but Parks Dept. targeting 2009 to get ornamental gateways done.
- Will talk to Ian Blackwood (Parks Maintenance) and see if we can get a lockdown on this project because the Commission feels strongly that it should happen in 2009.
- Will bring park plan back to Commission for their feedback.

Comments from the Commission:

- Benches that are there do not fit in.
- Landscape designer could design rock bench that would be more complementary to the cemetery design.

c) Plaque mount in front of Court House – update

C. Sholberg noted:

- Called landscape maintenance company for the site and waiting for a response and will keep following up.

Comment from the Commission:

- Could ask legal profession to make contribution once the okay has been given by the property owner

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

b) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee:

D. Hill-Turner noted:

- Did not hold a meeting in March.
- Now starting public meetings on draft OCP which has been made public. Community Forum is scheduled for April 10 at Beban Park.

c) Snuneymuxw First Nation:

G. Manson was not in attendance.

d) Nanaimo Community Archives Society:

C. Meutzner noted:

- Re-allocation of our tasks with new employee.
- Have almost 20 new volunteers so it is taking some time to organize and train.
- BC150 slide show will be running on the live site at the Port Theatre plaza.
- Spent a lot of time on new web page with on-line searchable data base.
- Working with Bob Kuhn to help a local film company trying to acquire funding from BC 150 to do film on E.J. Hughes .
- Another group is sending us a script set in Nanaimo around the First World War and they are coming in to look at sites.

e) Nanaimo District and Museum:

D. Hill-Turner noted:

- Building exhibits for new space.
- Hope to get possession in the next few weeks as we are running out of space in old Museum due to accumulating exhibits.

f) Design Advisory Panel:

J. Hofman noted:

- No heritage issues recently.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2008-May-07.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date