

CITY OF NANAIMO
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2008-FEB-06 AT 5:00 P.M.
IN THE BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET

Present: Bill Gard
John Hofman, Chair
Karen Hovestad
Dallas Dowson-Buffalo

Blake McGuffie
Charlene Riches
Councillor Loyd Sherry

Staff:

Chris Sholberg, Heritage Planner
Fran Grant, Recording Secretary

Regrets: David Hill-Turner
Geraldine Manson

Christine Meutzner

Guests 3

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair J. Hofman at 5:03 pm

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES (2008-Jan-09):

MOVED by K. Hovestad, SECONDED by B. Gard, that the minutes of 2008-Jan-09 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. BUDGET REVIEW:

C. Sholberg noted that there is close to \$6000 left in this year's budget.

4. LATE ITEMS:

a) Heritage Home Grant Application (261 Vancouver Avenue)

C. Sholberg noted:

- Recently received an application for a Heritage Home Grant from the owners of the Sharpe residence at 261 Vancouver Avenue, who are in attendance this evening.
- Gave a brief overview of the Heritage Value Statement for the home.

Owner noted:

- Planning to completely rebuild the front deck.
- Support beams need to be replaced as they are rotting.
- Will use cedar planking in the new deck as was used in the original.
- Stairs and railings will be also be done in cedar.
- Adjustable supports will be installed.

MOVED by C. Riches, SECONDED by B. McGuffie, that the maximum grant of \$2,500 be approved for 261 Vancouver Avenue.

CARRIED

5. CORRESPONDENCE/PERIODICALS/NEWSLETTERS

a) Nanaimo Historical Society Newsletter

For information.

b) Morden Mine News

For information.

Commission comments:

- Went on a field trip conducted by Mr. Patterson (heritage columnist) and it was very worthwhile with stops at some of the huge mining structures still standing.
- There are discussions of putting up a mining plaque or monument in the Extension area.

c) Chase River Pioneer Plaque and Stark Monument Unveiling

Chris Sholberg noted:

- Distributed letter from the Nanaimo African Heritage Society.
- Event is being held on Feb. 22
- Promotional Booklet has been put together by Nanaimo African Heritage Society for Black History Month.
- Group requested \$50 from the Commission to go towards advertising costs for the event.
- A rock monument and bench, which were created by _____, have been put in place
- Plaque is for both Chase River pioneers and Stark family.
- All Commission members are invited to the event which starts at 1:00 at the Chase River Elementary School.
- Students from the school are being included in the event.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by K. Hovestad, that the Commission donate \$50 to the Nanaimo African Heritage Society to go towards advertising for the unveiling of the Chase River pioneers and Stark family plaque.

CARRIED

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Nob Hill Heritage Walk – brochure proposal

C. Sholberg noted:

- Contacted by the Nob Hill Neighbourhood Association about producing a heritage walk brochure for their area.
- Group has also been working with the Parks Dept. to improve Nob Hill park and have been looking at heritage interpretive signs for the park.
- C. Sholberg worked with a member of the Neighbourhood Association on heritage walk and produced a mock up of the brochure.
- Would require \$800 for design work and later in the process, \$1000 for run of brochures.
- Harewood Walk brochure design work is almost finished. Circulated proof to Commission. Should be ready for printing this month.

Comments:

- Nob Hill brochure would be a very worthwhile project for an area that needs this type of support.
- There are more homes in this area that could be recognized on the register. (C. Sholberg advised that he is currently working on this with a group of Malaspina University-College students.)
- There is little the Nob Hill community can do to alleviate some of the social problems there, but this is a way to recognize the efforts they are making to improve their neighbourhood.
- A lot of homes in the area are being restored and there are some beautiful ones in the Nob Hill area which could be candidates for the Heritage Register.
- Suggest that a display board type sign be put up showing pictures of the old China Town for the walking tour.
- Could ask a service club that is interested in Nanaimo history to take the project on, perhaps in recognition of Mr. Wong who was a prominent member of the community.
- China Town site may be out of the Nob Hill Neighbourhood Associations perception of their neighbourhood.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by C. Riches, that \$800 be approved for the design of a Nob Hill walk brochure and \$1000 for printing of Harewood brochure.

CARRIED

b) Draft Work Plan for 2008

C. Sholberg circulated the Work Plan draft Council report and gave a brief overview. He also added:

- City's Parks Department is going to install an ornamental gateway and small plaque on the Pioneer Park site. Hope it will be done this year. Will keep reminding them. Cost of the gateway is approximately \$10,000.
- Colliery Dam park plaque will be paid for by the Parks Department and hope the John Parkins and Fire Hall plaque will be paid for by the Nanaimo Fire Dept.

Commission comment:

- Could ask the Credit Union if they would allow Fire Hall plaque to be placed on their building. May also be willing to contribute to cost.

c) Downtown Design Guidelines

C. Sholberg noted:

- This has been a two year process and the public open house was held on 2008-Jan-30.
- Complete plan is available for viewing on the City web site.
- Circulated a copy of the draft plan and can supply copies to Commission members if they wish.
- Will be going to Council for 1st and 2nd Reading in the next month or two.

Comments:

- Revised Official Community and development planned for the south end is contrary to the Downtown plan so doesn't make much sense.
- Need to improve Terminal Ave. to make it more pedestrian friendly.

d) Base for heritage sign in front of Court House

C. Sholberg advised:

- Sign base as shown in photo is not at all in keeping with the Court House or the well-kept grounds.
- Could do something better for the sign such as a concrete base which would cost approximately \$200.
- Could ask BCBC if they are interested in contributing to the project.

Comments:

- Add to work plan to put in a proper base for the plaque and review all plaques mounting.
- Mount on a rock as Katherine Gisborne plaque.

C. Sholberg will get more information and bring this item back to the Commission at their next meeting.

7. OLD BUSINESS

a) Heritage Summit – Status

C. Sholberg noted that:

- 2008 Summit is being held in the Harmac Room at Port Theatre on Thursday, Feb 21 at 7-9:00 pm
- C. Meutzner will give a presentation on long-time businesses in Nanaimo.
- Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce is also going to do a short presentation.
- Invitations have gone out and press release has been issued.
- All Commission members are invited to attend.

Comment:

- Feel what we are achieving a good outcome at the Summit by hearing from the community groups and sharing information with them which makes it a worthwhile evening.

MOVED by B. Gard, SECONDED by K. Hovestad, that the Commission allocate \$300 for the Heritage Summit.

CARRIED

b) John Thomson Memorial Award

C. Sholberg noted that the draft evaluation guidelines are contained in the agenda package.

Commission comments:

- Basically it looks good so think we should proceed with this version.
- To get more input from the public, could send out press release and/or get newspaper to do a story on what the award is about and asking for nominations. Story could include past recipients.

c) Park Bench for Pioneer Cemetery Park – update

C. Sholberg .

- Photos of examples of benches included in agenda package also shows the existing Pioneer Park bench.
- Mentioned at a previous Commission meeting that an ornamental bench would be more appropriate for the park than the existing bench.

Comments:

- Think wall as show in Court House photo would be more appropriate for the cemetery - perhaps 6 or 8 ft long.

C. Sholberg will ask the Parks Department about possibility of a rock wall bench and the cost.

d) Tom Brown Auto Building – Insight Acquisition – Development Intent

L Sherry advised that he had recently had a discussion with D. Bromage of Insite Development regarding saving the concrete façade with the star from the old building and he was definitely interested in the possibility of using it as a feature in the new development. Insite Development doesn't own the property yet but will definitely look at if it goes ahead.

e) Harewood Heritage Walk – status

Discussed previously under item 6 a.

f) Raines Cabin/Robins Gardens – updates

Robins Garden:

C. Sholberg noted:

- Owners are from Edmonton and there is a proposal in for new development but have not heard anything on it in the last year.
- There is a tree management plan for the site which they are trying to respect.

Raines Cabin:

C. Solberg noted:

- Because of its deteriorating condition, Raines Cabin is becoming a hazard. Working with the Parks Dept. trying to find a group who will take the cabin to use. Cost of rehabilitation was estimated at \$70,000 but if there is no use for the building it would serve no purpose.

g) Post Cards based on Façade Grant Promotional Posters

B. Gard noted:

- Wonder if anyone would be interested in using any of the pictures we use on posters or other heritage pictures for post cards.

C. Sholberg added:

- There is \$5000 available for a reprint of the Columns, Cornice and Coal book that could alternatively be used for other types of promotional material.
- Could check with Museum to see who does their post cards.
- Could also talk to Downtown Nanaimo Partnership to see if they would be interested in adding heritage post cards to their retail items.

Comments:

- Should add Cornice & Coal re-issue or plan to develop promotional material on the work plan so it doesn't get lost.
- May be more interest in a heritage book now or for something in another format such as a coffee table book.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee

D. Hill-Turner was not in attendance.

b) Snuneymuxw First Nation

G. Manson was not in attendance.

c) Nanaimo Community Archives Society

C. Meutzner was not in attendance.

d) Nanaimo District and Museum

D. Hill-Turner was not in attendance.

e) Design Advisory Panel

J. Hofman noted:

- Downtown Urban Design Plan and Guidelines has been presented to the public and includes an important heritage section.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2008-Mar-05.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date