

**CITY OF NANAIMO**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2007-NOV-07 AT 5:00 P.M.**  
**IN THE BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET**

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**Present:** Dallas Dowson-Buffalo  
Bill Gard  
David Hill-Turner  
Councillor Loyd Sherry  
Staff:  
Chris Sholberg, Heritage Planner  
Fran Grant, Recording Secretary

Karen Hovestad  
Christine Meutzner  
Blake McGuffie  
Charlene Riches

**Regrets:** Geraldine Manson  
John Hofman, Chair

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair B. Gard at 5:05 pm.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

MOVED by D. Hill-Turner, SECONDED by K. Hovestad, that the minutes of 2007-Oct-03 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. BUDGET REVIEW

C. Sholberg noted that the budget for 2007 is currently at \$3656.78.

4. LATE ITEMS

- a) Rains Cabin (C. Sholberg)
- b) Departure Bay History Night (K. Hovestad)
- c) Future of old Museum building (B. McGuffie)

5. CORRESPONDENCE/PERIODICALS/NEWSLETTERS

- a) Nanaimo Historical Society (NHS) – Ship Plaque Project – request for \$500.00 funding assistance.

C. Sholberg noted that:

- Met with NHS to look at possible sites as shown on hand out.
- Port Authority supports the project and is contributing \$500.
- NHS are also seeking funding through BC150 initiative.
- Too late in the year for Commission to use funds from their 2007 budget.
- Group is asking the City to install the plaques but the City sign shop would still need to be compensated for their work.

Commission comments:

- There is some concern about the group's selection of ships to be put on the plaques.
- The Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission is also planning some plaques so we need to make sure there is no overlap.
- Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission should have a say in the content of these plaques.
- Think it is important that City staff does the plaque design and write-up to make sure the information is accurate.
- Make contribution to project subject to PRC or City staff vetting the content.
- Support in principle but need more detailed information.
- Want to see a more formal support document from the Port Authority.
- Don't see in the budget funds for mounting the plaques.
- Would like this item to be brought back to later meeting.

b) John Hofman – 2007 APEGBC Community Service Award Recipient

C. Sholberg noted that information regarding John Hofman's award was included in the agenda package.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) E. J. Hughes Mural – status (C. Sholberg)

C. Sholberg circulated picture of the E.J. Hughes mural currently in City storage and also noted that:

- Report was sent to Council and they did not support having the murals installed at the New Nanaimo Centre. They suggested offering the murals to Malaspina University-College or the Port Authority.
- The Commission has not been asked for their recommendation.
- Murals are now in six pieces and being stored at the ARC Centre on Fitzwilliam Street.
- The report to Council did not contain all the information on the mural's historical and artistic value.

Commission comments:

- E.J. Hughes is ranked as one of the top B.C. artists.
- Feel Commission should send a letter or memo to Council expressing our support for the restoration of these murals.
- Perhaps Council didn't understand the historical and artistic value of these murals.
- Malaspina University-College has already been approached in the past and they do not have the funds for restoring the murals.
- L. Sherry noted that he did not support installing the murals in the NNC and feel they would better located at the new outdoor structures going into Sway-a-lana Lagoon rather than the Conference Centre.
- Thought money for restoration was coming out of PRC Arts fund?
- Duncan would take mural if Nanaimo does not want it.
- One went to the museum in Abbotsford some years ago.
- C. Meutzner noted that part of objection to the murals is that some feel they are inherently imperialistic and not politically correct but using that argument would mean that we wouldn't save anything historical.

- C. Meutzner did not feel that any one from Nanaimo's Museum or Archives is qualified to comment on the historic art value of the mural.
- This is an important piece of Nanaimo history and should be treated as such.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by K. Hovestad, that the Heritage Commission send a memo to Council expressing their support for preservation of the murals and their installation in a public place.

CARRIED

C. Sholberg will draft up a memo to Council and circulate by e-mail to Commission members for their approval.

b) Reprint of existing South End and Newcastle Townsite Heritage Walk Brochures

C. Sholberg asked the Commission to approve spending \$2000 for a reprint of the South End walk brochure and a first run of the new Harewood walk brochure which should be completed and ready for publication within this year's budget timeframe.

MOVED by K. Hovestad, SECONDED by C. Riches, that the Commission approve spending \$2000 on printing the South End and Harewood walk brochures.

CARRIED

7. OLD BUSINESS

(This agenda item was discussed at the beginning of the meeting.)

a) Heritage Value Statements for recent Heritage Register nominations – recommendation for 420 Pine Street

C. Sholberg introduced Harry Randhawa, the owner of 420 Pine Street and noted that:

- Questions from Commission members at an earlier meeting about the authenticity of the stone work could not be answered conclusively.

Mr. Randhawa noted that:

- Very unique home
- Don't know when the rock veneer at the rear of the home was installed.
- Rock work on the front of the house is real rock.
- Difficult house to classify because of its uniqueness.
- Feel it adds character and value to the neighbourhood.
- We plan to bring the house back to life which may also help the neighbourhood.
- Still a lot of craftsmanship on the outside of the home and we would like to restore the home to its original beauty.
- We would like to have support of the Commission and have the house placed on the Register. We will see that it keeps its heritage look.
- The windows need a lot of work but we plan to keep the same look.

Commission comments:

- Built in 1921 or 1922
- We were concerned that the rock was not original but we have other homes on the register that have features on the house that are not original but are unique.
- Original shape of the home is still there.

- It is important to promote conservation, pride and investment in the neighbourhood.
- It may be premature to put on now before restoration work is completed.

MOVED by C. Meutzner, SECONDED by B. McGuffie , that the Commission recommend to Council to add 420 Pine Street to the Heritage Register.

CARRIED (1 abstention)

C. Sholberg advised that this will go on list with others to Council for Council's approval.

b) Heritage Awards (Awards Luncheon – Beban Park Lounge) – update

C. Sholberg reminded the Commission of the Awards Luncheon on Thursday, November 8 starting at 11:30 a.m.

c) Harewood Heritage Brochure – update

C. Sholberg noted that:

- Has been sent to graphics designer J. Teneckye for draft and is near completion.
- Will circulate to Commission members when it is finalized.

d) Portals to Our Heritage Project – BC150

C. Sholberg noted that:

- Any ideas for projects can be passed along to Team Nanaimo.
- Will also be grants available in 2008.

Commission comment:

- Apply for \$10,000 for E. J. Hughes mural restoration.

e) John Thomson Memorial Award –

C. Sholberg circulated draft evaluation guidelines written by J. Perry.

The Commission agreed they would like more time to go over the draft guidelines and will discuss at the next meeting.

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee

D. Hill-Turner noted there was nothing heritage related discussed at the October meeting.

b) Snuneymuxw First Nation

G. Manson was not in attendance.

c) Nanaimo Community Archives Society

C. Meutzner noted that:

- Web page is being updated.

- Changing our text data so that it will be searchable on-line.
- Considering putting a cost to on-line access to recover costs.

d) Nanaimo District and Museum

D. Hill-Turner noted that:

- Closed to visitors but still doing school programs until December.
- Working on new space with design team.
- November 27 is Princess Royal Day at the Bastion.

e) Design Advisory Panel

J. Hofman was not in attendance.

9. LATE ITEMS:

a) Future of old museum building

B. McGuffie noted that:

- Would like to ask Council to pursue some re-use of the main floor of the old Museum before they make their decision on demolition.
- Could be used as part of new hotel as an accessory building.
- Still concerned about the trees on the site.

Commission comments:

- Could be use by Tourist Bureau.
- As it is not on the Heritage Register, don't see how the Commission can recommend to Council what to do with it.
- Could argue that this site is one of the only original land forms remaining in the Downtown.

C. Sholberg advised that there will be a public consultation process related to the creation of a redevelopment plan for the park. The Commission's input will be requested as part of this process.

b) Departure Bay History Night:

K. Hovestad advised that the Departure Bay Neighbourhood Association will be hosting their annual History Night on 2007-Nov-22 at 7:00 pm in the Kin Hut on Departure Bay Road. A talk will be given by a representative of the Snuneymuxw First Nation with respect to recent archaeological digs in the area.

c) Raines Cabin:

C. Sholberg distributed estimate sheets on rehabilitating the cabin and also noted that:

- The cabin is quickly deteriorating and would cost approximately \$56,000 to rehabilitate.
- Do not have any idea of what cabin could be used for if it was fixed up and if there is no use for it, there is no point conserving it.
- Cabin is on the City's Heritage Register but doesn't have any other protection.
- Is quickly becoming a hazard.

- Museum no longer has interest in preserving the building, or programming it for historical interpretation.
- Asked Cedar Heritage group but they did not express an interest.
- Could ask family members if they are interested in having it returned to them.

Commission comment:

- Before permitting demolition, need to contact Raines family as a matter of courtesy to make sure they don't want the cabin returned.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2007-Dec-05 at the Dorchester Hotel.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Chair

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Date