

**CITY OF NANAIMO**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2007-SEPT-05 AT 5:00 P.M.**  
**IN THE BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET**

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**Present:** Karen Hovestad  
John Hofman, Chair  
David Hill-Turner  
Blake McGuffie  
Charlene Riches  
Councillor Loyd Sherry

Staff:  
Chris Sholberg, Heritage Planner  
Fran Grant, Recording Secretary

**Regrets:** Geraldine Manson  
Dallas Dowson-Buffalo  
Christine Meutzner  
Bill Gard

**Guest** Joan Perry

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES (2007-JUN-06)

MOVED by K. Hovestad SECONDED by C. Riches, that the minutes of 2007-Jun-06 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. BUDGET REVIEW (\$4,651.00)

C. Sholberg noted:

- There is currently \$4651 in uncommitted funds remaining in this years budget.
- If it is completed in time, the Southend walk brochure would take approximately \$2500 .

4. LATE ITEMS

- a) Heritage Alteration Permits (C. Sholberg)
- b) Heritage Paint Out (C. Sholberg)
- c) Downtown Walker Tour Signage (D. Hill-Turner)

5. CORRESPONDENCE/PERIODICALS/NEWSLETTERS

- a) Heritage B.C. Quarterly

C. Sholberg circulated copies.

- b) B.C. 150 (included in Agenda package)

C. Sholberg noted that:

- Provincial Initiative tied to the 2010 Olympic games.
- Would like Commission members to take home and bring any suggestions back.
- Look at linking to the 2008 Heritage Summit theme.

Comment from the Commission:

- Contact Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission and see if they are planning to utilize this initiative and would they be interested in teaming with NCHC.

c) Morden Mine News

Circulated for information.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) E&N Railway Station (fire damage/status)

C. Sholberg advised that he talked to D. Backhouse, Executive Director, Vancouver Island Corridor Foundation and noted that:

- There is no answer on insurance question as yet.
- Seem committed to reconstruction and rehabilitation.
- Previous estimate for rehabilitation was around \$1.5 million, before the fire.
- Need to line up occupants before doing upgrade.
- Will need to move quickly to secure and weatherproof the station otherwise will deteriorate quickly due to exposure.

Comment from the Commission:

- Old rail station in Saskatoon was rehabilitated and has become a magnificent restaurant. Could bring this example to the attention of the Foundation.

b) Heritage Award (November Awards Luncheon)

C. Sholberg noted:

- There are plans to hold another joint Awards luncheon in November Advisory Committee on Environment, Social Planning Advisory Committee, Advisory Design Panel and the Heritage Commission.
- Is the Commission interested in looking at nominees for the John Thomson Memorial Award (Heritage Advocacy)?
- Do we want to select someone for John Thompson Memorial Award (JTMA) or look at expanding the kind of awards the Commission gives out?
- Would the Commission be interested in establishing a Best Heritage Building Rehab (residential and commercial) or Best Maintained? Asked for any other category suggestions.
- Look at commercial or residential heritage buildings which received heritage façade or home grants, choosing one from each category for an award.
- In 2007, there are five grant recipients for residential and four for commercial.
- Have generated a list, with pictures, of this year's grant recipients. This can be e-mailed to Commission members for their consideration so that winners could be chosen at the October meeting.
- This year we will be limited in what can be done to generate nominees by time constraint with the event happening in early November.
- Last time the John Thompson Memorial Award was given out was in 2005. If anyone has any nominees to suggest either e-mail or bring to next meeting.
- Will place a newspaper ad asking for nominees for the JTMA .

Comments from the Commission:

- Distribute material and bring to next meeting.
- Could put ad in paper for JTMA and ask public for their ideas. Would be interesting to see what the public perception is on Heritage.
- Suggest considering Geno Sedola as a potential nominee.

c) Heritage Register Plaques for Commercial Heritage Buildings:

C. Sholberg noted:

- Request received from owner of Ranger's Shoes building.
- The owner received façade grant for work that has been done.
- Has done a lot of upgrades to the building and the work is almost finished.
- Haven't produced plaques for commercial façade grants but have done for homes.
- Maybe this is one thing we could provide but would have to come from the Downtown Nanaimo Partnership (DNP) through the façade improvement program.
- Could approach G. Hansen of the DNP about the concept.
- Could also help put something together if the owner is willing to pay (50 / 50 cost share).

Comments from the Commission:

- If there is a policy, follow the criteria, if there isn't, perhaps draft policy criteria.
- J. Perry has offered to draft policy criteria. The Commission agreed. C. Sholberg will send her the information.
- Outline what the plaque types are and what costs are.
- Heritage walk goes past this building so would be appropriate.

d) Late nomination to Heritage Register: 118 Finlayson Street

C. Sholberg

- Was nominated by owner, Jean Fraser, but think the home has been sold.
- Some connection with the Cuffallo family
- Has been modernized a lot.
- Will contact owner and see if it is still owned by Jean Fraser.

Comments from the Commission:

- If building has been sold, what does new owner feel?
- Evaluation does not come up to the passing grade.
- Looked at house and it isn't in character with the rest of the neighbourhood with the upgrades.

The Commission did not support this application, by consensus.

e) Late nomination to Heritage Register: 18 Albion Street

C. Sholberg noted:

- Just passes on evaluation sheet.
- Little information at Archives on this building.
- This area is under represented on the register.
- Owners is going to continue work on the lower portion of the home.
- No mention of changing the roof.

Comments from the Commission:

- If work in progress, revisit when it is finished and need to judge on what it ends up looking like.
- Could be pro-active and look for homes in this area instead of waiting for nominations to come in.
- Tell owner it is something we would be interested in but wish to wait until project is finished before acknowledging the nomination.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

### a) Heritage Value Statements for recent Heritage Register nominations

#### C. Sholberg

- Will bring value statements for eight buildings to October meeting.
- Commission members can make final decision/recommendation to Council at that meeting. C. Sholberg will then prepare Register update report for Council.
- Will e-mail value statements to Commission members to give them an opportunity to visit the sites before October meeting.

### b) Pacific Biological Station – 11”X17” plaque request

#### C. Sholberg and D. Hill-Turner advised:

- They have been working on a plaque that would be presented to the Pacific Biological Station (PBX) from the City. Wording is included as item 7B in agenda package and would also include the City logo.
- Would be 11” x 17” bronze plaque as requested by PBS.
- Wanted to capture PBS contributions to City as well as Canada.
- PBS is also being considered as federal historical site. If this application is successful, it is not expected to be completed in time for PBS’ 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008, so they would like to have some recognition from the City to help celebrate this milestone.
- This would not impact federal consideration for historical status.
- Plaque would be placed somewhere near the front entrance of the building.
- PBS would create the base for the plaque. Hope to have unveiling in the fall of 2008.
- Estimated cost of the plaque is \$850.00 (includes taxes and delivery)
- Would need to get endorsement from Council before proceeding and would want Council to present the plaque.

#### Comments from the Commission:

- If they are prepared to put in base, that is most of the cost.
- This has more urgency to get something going than plaques for commercial buildings.
- This is a very important historical institution.
- Could the Wellington Foundry be used to produce the plaque? (C. Sholberg will get price from them.)

MOVED by K. Hovestad, SECONDED by D. Hill-Turner, that up to \$900 be used to purchase a plaque for the Pacific Biological Station and that Council endorsement be sought.

CARRIED

### c) Newcastle Island – National Historic Sites Nomination Application – status

D. Hill-Turner noted:

- Talked to D. Chapman at B. C. Parks and Bill Merilees. Challenge remains with Newcastle and how to take all that has happened there and fit it with the federal process. Has many small sites and events on the Island. How do we roll all this into an application and which one gets prominence? It is a challenge.
- Coal mining industry already has a plaque on Front St.
- Stone quarry – built B. C. Penitentiary with rock from this quarry.
- B.C. Parks and B. Merilees support the application as well as the SFN.
- Perhaps recognize locally if not successful federally.
- Will continue working on for now.

Comments from the Commission:

- Thought it was focusing on First Nations heritage.
- A classic meeting place of many events and occupations on the Island.
- It is our Stanley Park and is a huge tourist attraction.

d) Harewood Heritage Brochure

C. Sholberg for C. Meutzner noted that:

- Hoping to have it done this year. About 80% finished. C. Meutzner will try to have it ready for the October meeting for approval by the Commission.
- This will be a driving tour as it is too far to walk.

Comments from the Commission:

- K. Hovestad will contact C. Meutzner to offer her assistance.
- Should look at distributing heritage walk brochures at more local businesses or tourist locations. (Contact C. Sholberg to get copies.)

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee

D. Hill-Turner reported:

- No meetings in the summer and the next meeting is scheduled for Sept. 18.

b) Snuneymuxw First Nation

G. Manson was not in attendance.

c) Nanaimo Community Archives Society

C. Sholberg reported for C. Meutzner:

- Looking for new volunteers. If you know of anyone interested, please contact C. Meutzner.

d) Nanaimo District and Museum

D. Hill-Turner reported:

- Sat. Oct 27<sup>th</sup> is the last day the museum is open to the public and will not reopen until summer of 2008 at new location.
- Planning new space with over 7500 sq.ft. of exhibit space, a gift shop, public space, offices and enlarged storage area.

- Take possession of space in January and then we do finishing work.
- Storey lines in development – prehistoric history of area, geological history right through to present day and speculation as to what City look like in 2027. Breaking down into six eras
- May come to NCHC for ideas on future look.
- Challenge is now finding material for a 1960s and 1970s exhibit. Have no collections for that time period. Some people's perception that they don't see it as that long ago.
- Working with Shaw Cable on Nanaimo memories 2 minute segments. Doing 18 altogether. Will become basis for audio/visual exhibit. Currently running on Shaw.
- Will have 1500 sq.ft. for traveling exhibits.
- Adopt artifact program is going very well. Target is \$1.6m and just up to 1m now.

e) Design Advisory Panel

J. Hofman reported:

- One heritage item -20 Front St., demolition of Nanaimo Motors Building

9. Late Items:

C. Sholberg distributed information on the following heritage items and noted:

- 20 Front St., Nanaimo Motors:
  - report going to Council re: heritage alteration permit to demolish building. Condition of building is poor. Building listed on Heritage Register but heritage value is low relative to other registered buildings.
- 437 Albert:
  - was in too poor condition to be saved – due to use as grow op. Reviewed options with potential buyer but property purchase deal fell through. Current owner chose to proceed with building demo. Will be removed from Heritage Register in next register update.
- 84 Esplanade:
  - Snuneymuxw First Nation not able to take the building.
  - Private couple from Vancouver is now interested and will move the house one block over to an empty lot.
  - Looks like a win / win situation and a great alternative to demolition.
  - Will stay on register but will need to be modified due to location change.
- Heritage paint out
  - Usually held in Sept. but haven't had any call from Arts Council.
  - New Director said the group is still interested in holding an event but not sure if the paint out is the event they want to do.
  - May not be enough time to hold an event in 2007.

D. Hill Turner noted:

- Have had a number of comments from people doing current walking tour that the stencil signs are in bad shape:

C. Sholberg advised that:

- Working with DNP on doing new signage on poles and getting rid of sidewalk signs which are too hard to maintain.
- There is an example outside City Hall Annex building. Signs are being produced by City sign shop and will be installed over the next year.

Comments from the Commission:

- Combination of pole signage and have something engraved in marble and set in sidewalk? (C. Sholberg advised that this had been looked at but was too costly.)
- If the Commission has any extra funds in the 2007 budget, could perhaps put it towards this project to help expedite its completion.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2007-Oct-03.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Chair

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Date