

CITY OF NANAIMO
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2007-JAN-03 AT 5:00 P.M.
IN THE BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET

Present: Bill Gard
John Hofman, Chair
Karen Hovestad
Blake McGuffie

Christine Meutzner
Charlene Riches
Councillor Loyd Sherry

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

Regrets: Dallas Dowson-Buffalo
David Hill-Turner
Geraldine Manson

Guest: Joan Perry

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair J. Hofman at 5:08 p.m.

2. Adoption Of Minutes (2006-Dec-06):

MOVED by B. Gard, SECONDED by B. McGuffie, that the minutes of 2006-Dec-06 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Budget Review (\$8,800.00 working)

C. Sholberg noted that the budget for 2007 is set at \$8,800 but that amount won't be confirmed until the budget is finalized by Council.

4. Late Items

- a) Harewood, Five Acres Tour (J. Perry)
- b) 2007 NCHC Work Plan (C. Sholberg)
- c) Chase River Plaque (C. Sholberg)

5. Correspondence/Periodicals/Newsletters

None

6. New Business

- a) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2007

C. Sholberg advised that election of the Commission's positions of Chair and Vice-Chair is held at the beginning of each year.

After a short discussion, Commission members agreed to put the elections over to the next meeting so that those members not in attendance tonight will be able to participate.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by C. Meutzner, that the election of the Commission's Chair and Vice-Chair be conducted at the 2007-Feb-07 meeting.
CARRIED

C. Sholberg will notify those members not in attendance tonight of the change.

7. Old Business

a) 10 Year Official Community Plan Review – Update

C. Sholberg noted that:

- Waiting for the consultant's report on the outcome of the Nov. 2006 Conference and Workshop. The results will be posted on the City web site.
- Held three open houses in November and December. Attendance was generally low.
- Additional work shops will be held in January and February of 2007 which will take a more in-depth look at the most important issues identified by public input.
- Hope to have the first draft of the new plan in late February or early March 2007.

C. Sholberg gave the following answer to a question from the Commission:

- We haven't identified a north/south trend in feedback received from residents although the majority of the OCP amendment applications for this round will affect the south end of the City.

Comments from the Commission:

- Feel the fee for OCP amendment applications should be increased substantially as the way they are set now, the City is subsidizing the process.
- Biggest issue will be the Urban Containment Boundary.

b) Report to Council re: John Parkin Commemoration

C. Sholberg gave a brief overview of the report and noted that:

- Council referred this issue to the Commission.
- This report will go to Council at their 2007-Jan-27 meeting.
- The Commission's plaque policy is that they do not recognize specific people but that people can be named in the general context of a plaque which recognizes a specific historic event or site.
- Could ask Fire Dept. about cost sharing if Council approves the recommendation for a plaque at the site of the old #1 fire hall.
- Will talk to Parkin family before sending report to Council.

Comments from the Commission:

- The Commission's plaque policy should be outlined in the report.
- Council may need more information on the cost and how it is usually covered so that the Commission doesn't end up paying if it is approved.

c) E&N Railway Station – Status

B. McGuffie noted that:

- Attended a meeting of the E&N Railway Station hosted by the Island Corridor Foundation with C. Sholberg.
- Nothing to report as they are just in the preliminary stage of the Building reuse / rehabilitation process.
- The Foundation want to use the upper floor of the Station for their office so the lower floor will be available for some type of public or commercial use.
- An inspection of the building will be done to ascertain its condition.

d) Historic Sites and Monuments Board Nomination – Biological Station and Newcastle Island – status

C. Sholberg read an e-mail from D. Hill-Turner and noted that:

- The application for the Biological Station has been submitted to the Historic Site and Monument Board.
- Will be meeting with G. Borden, Park Canada Commemorations Officer, and others to review the application and status of the HSMBC.
- Bill Merilees has agreed to join the working group for Newcastle Island (along with B. Gard, D. Chapman, G. Manson, D. Hill-Turner)

C. Sholberg will send copies of the Biological Station application to interested Commission members.

e) Morden Mine – Update

J. Hofman noted that:

- Shoring assessment came in at \$1 million.
- Original report done a number of years ago called for an overall site plan. Need to look at ways to use the site.
- Need to get the two levels of government to work together.
- The site could turn into a liability issue if something isn't done soon.
- City should think about getting involved as mining is such a big part of its heritage.

Comments from the Commission:

- RDN should look at acquiring the park from the province as it is right next to an exiting park and trail system.
- Council could pass a resolution asking the RDN to look into purchasing the property through the Regional Parks Program.

C. Sholberg noted that:

- He will contact the provincial representative on the Morden Mine Committee to see if the government has any plans for the site. He will also contact the RDN to see if they have any desire to acquire the park.
- Will report back to the Commission.

f) Heritage Home Grants – Program Status

C. Sholberg advised that:

- The 2006 program has wrapped up and five grants were awarded.
- One project has been completed with another almost finished.
- Feel that two of the remaining three will also be completed in the next few months.
- The 2nd Street application may not go forward because the owner is reluctant to sign the Conservation Covenant.
- New funds will be coming for 2007 and have already had several inquiries for new applications.
- Another mail out to heritage home owners may be done if necessary to generate awareness of the program.

Comments from the Commission:

- An information sheet about what is involved in a covenant might be useful for potential applicants.
- An owner should have the option of discharging the covenant if they refund the grant to the City.

J. Perry volunteered to draft a covenant information sheet.

g) Heritage Summit – Status

C. Sholberg noted that:

- Made inquiries about the locations suggested by the Commission. The most appropriate one available is the Port Theatre.
- The Harmac Room at the Port Theatre is available on Tuesday, Feb. 20 or Thursday, Feb. 22.
- Presentation will be followed by a round table discussion.
- Will send out a general invitation to the local heritage and cultural groups.

Comments from the Commission:

- Feel the topic should follow the Heritage Week theme of vernacular architecture as it is so well suited to Nanaimo.
- C. Meutzner will help C. Sholberg with the presentation which could include a video tour of a few specific sites.
- A mini site tour of these and other sites could be offered later in the spring.
- J. Hofman will look into having a local architect help with the presentation.
- Want to make this forum more up beat and positive, given all the recent challenges to heritage conservation.

C. Sholberg will book the room for Thursday, Feb. 22 as requested by the Commission:

8. Committee Reports

a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee

D. Hill-Turner (via e-mail):

- Nothing new to report as there was no December meeting.

b) Snuneymuxw First Nation

G. Manson was not present.

c) Nanaimo Community Archives Society

C. Meutzner noted that:

- Gaming Commission has ruled that the Archives is not a legitimate charity which could mean the loss of bingo revenue which is used to pay the assistant.
- Some funding comes from the City but it is not enough to cover the loss of the bingo funds.
- The ruling will be appealed.

d) Nanaimo District and Museum

D. Hill-Turner (via e-mail):

- Closed for annual maintenance until February 6.
- Nanaimo's Antiques Road Show is coming up in February at Port Place.

e) Design Advisory Panel

J. Hofman noted there was nothing to report of heritage interest.

9. Late Items:

a) Harewood, Five Acres Tour:

J. Perry distributed copies of the draft tour and gave a brief overview and also noted:

- The tour takes approximately one hour and fifteen minutes.
- Tried to include the Hunt estate but it didn't work out.
- Any additional comments can be sent to C. Sholberg to be forwarded to J. Perry.

Comments from the Commission:

- Content looks very good – a job well done.
- Could directions be included with the map or arrows on the map to indicate direction of tour?

b) 2007 NCHC Work Plan:

C. Sholberg distributed copies of the draft plan and gave a brief overview. The Commission will review the plan and estimated costs at their February meeting.

c) Chase River Plaque:

C. Sholberg showed the draft plaque poster and noted that:

- He is working with the Chase River Neighbourhood Assoc. (CRNA) and the African Heritage Society (AHS).
- The CRNA has put \$3000 towards the project.
- The AHS has approved the draft version of the plaque.
- The Commission has previously approved spending \$250 on this project but more will be needed – up to \$1000.

Comment from the Commission:

- Statements on the draft plaque are not correct and this will need to be fixed.
- Too much emphasis on the Stark Family; needs more information on the community and other pioneers.

MOVED by C. Meutzner, SECONDED by K. Hovestad, that the Commission spend up to \$1000 for design work on the Chase River Plaque.

CARRIED

10. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2007-Feb-06.

11. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date