

CITY OF NANAIMO
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2006-DEC-06 AT 5:00 P.M.
AT THE DORCHESTER HOTEL, 70 CHURCH STREET

Present: Dallas Dowson-Buffalo John Hofman, Chair
 Bill Gard Blake McGuffie
 David Hill-Turner Geraldine Manson

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

Regrets: Christine Meutzner Karen Hovestad
 Charlene Riches Councillor Loyd Sherry

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair J. Hofman at 5:06 p.m.

2. Adoption of Minutes:

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by B. Gard, that the minutes of 2006-Nov-01 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Budget Review

C. Sholberg advised that there is \$251.86 remaining in the 2006 budget.

4. Late Items

5. Correspondence/Periodicals/Newsletters

a) Heritage BC Newsletter

C. Sholberg distributed copies of the newsletter to those interested.

b) Nanaimo Arts Council Newsletter

For information.

c) Museum's Antique Appraisal Show and Sale – Display Table Opportunity

C. Sholberg asked the Commission if they wanted to purchase a table to display heritage information for this event at a cost of \$75.

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by B. Gard, that a \$75 display table space be purchased by the Commission.

CARRIED

6. New Business

a) Heritage Summit – Feb. 21 – 7-9 p.m. – Where? Feature Presentation?

C. Sholberg noted:

- Looking for suggestions from the Commission for the Summit location and topic.
- Heritage Week 2007 theme is vernacular architecture.

Location suggestions from the Commission:

- Port Theatre
- E&N Station
- Oxy Hotel basement
- Franklyn Street Gym

Topic suggestions from the Commission:

- Presentation by Jan Peterson on her new book ***Harbour City: Nanaimo in Transition 1920-1967***
- Presentation on new book about Shack Island
- Perhaps have both authors.

C. Sholberg will look into these suggestions and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

b) Letter Referred from Council re: John Parkin

C. Sholberg read out the letter and also noted in response to author's suggestions:

- He has contacted the current Fire Chief and the dept. does not support renaming a fire hall and wish to keep the current number system.
- New Nanaimo Conference Centre rooms are named after corporate sponsors.
- The old No. 1 fire hall used to be by the Port Place Plaza and perhaps a plaque could be placed there.
- There are a few possibilities to name a road or laneway after J. Parkin.

Suggestions from the Commission:

- Plaque on the old No. 2 fire hall (on Nicol St.) with owner's permission. J. Parkin worked and died there.
- The old No.1 fire hall was on the site of the Harbourfront Plaza and a plaque could be put there. Plaque could be in remembrance of the fire hall with J. Parkin mentioned as longest serving fire chief.

The Commission agreed that C. Sholberg will draft up a report to Council outlining these two options.

c) E&N Railway Station – Status – Presentation from new owner Island Corridor Foundation

B. Gard noted:

- The Downtown Nanaimo Partnership (DNP) is putting funds towards the restoration of the building.

C. Sholberg added:

- He has been asked to help with the restoration project and will be attending a steering group meeting sponsored by the Island Corridor Foundation and will keep the Commission updated.
- Will advise B. McGuffie if he can also attend the meeting as a Commission and DNP representative.

d) Heritage Awards – Broadening Award Recognition

D. Hill-Turner went over the e-mail sent to Commission members which suggested adding a new Heritage Award to the Commissions work plan and also noted:

- Could be modeled after the Social Planning and Environment Committees awards programs.
- These awards could recognize people who improve built heritage.
- Would be in addition to the John Thompson Award.
- Do not want an award that will lose its value if it is given out to too many recipients.
- A new award would promote heritage and recognize those that go the extra mile.

Comments from the Commission:

- Some really good work is being done on both the exterior and interior of some heritage buildings.
- Could compliment the awards given out by the Design Advisory Panel which only go to individuals or companies that apply for building permits. These awards also do not cover single family homes.
- Need to establish written criteria for the John Thompson Award.

C. Sholberg responded that:

- Will follow-up on these suggestions and put on the agenda in the new year.

7. Old Business

a) 10 Year Official Community Plan Review – Update

C. Sholberg noted:

- The first public consultation conference was held on Nov. 18 at Malaspina University-College.
- Approximately 200 people attended the presentations and workshop.
- The feedback is being compiled by the consultants and a report should be available and posted on the website some time in January.
- This is a one year process. There will be more public consultation with open houses and workshops.
- Three open houses were also held on Nov. 23, Nov. 29 and Dec. 05.

D. Hill-Turner attended as a member of the Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee and added:

- It was an interesting experience.
- Attendees were very thoughtful and there was lots of good discussion.
- Some of the main concerns noted were:
 - Lack of affordable housing
 - Environment

- Density
- Transit
- Demographics

J. Hofman also attended the Conference and noted that one of the concerns he heard was that social issues are not addressed in the OCP.

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

D. Hill-Turner noted:

- Application for the Biological Station has been completed and is almost ready to be submitted.
- HCMBC did not meet in December because of a lack of appointees which is being held up by the federal government.
- Talked to Drew Chapman of B.C. Parks and he is willing to work with us on the Newcastle Island application although he is not available until January.

Comments from the Commission:

- Good to see that the Newcastle application will not be forgotten.

8. Committee Reports

a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee

D. Hill-Turner noted the Committee is working on the 10 Year OCP Review which was covered earlier in the agenda:

b) Snuneymuxw First Nation

G. Manson noted:

- Busy with the treaty process which is being done through the Joint Chief negotiators.
- There are 14 tables made up of 49 tribes who have joined together to work with the provincial and federal negotiators.
- This has been a long thirteen year process so far.
- Foundry site:
 - Some of the materials from the building will be salvaged and re-used by the City.
 - Elders felt that those who spoke out against the SFN plans to demolish it don't realize that many First Nations structures have been lost to development over the years but the public did not speak up then.
 - This building does not hold significance to the SFN but the land does.
 - SFN needs to hold onto their heritage as well.
- Monitoring the Civic Arena and Foundry demolition in association with archaeological dig team.
- SFN is in partnership with the Inucan lands development - looking to develop property known as South Lands.
- Starting a healthy communities initiative.

Comments from the Commission:

- Some of the negative feelings from the public could come from an expectation built up by the Foundry Re-use process that was started by the City.

- Some people wanted to try and preserve the building because of its industrial heritage value as there is not much of it left.
- Would like to arrange a tour of the old mine site on the reserve if that is possible.

c) Nanaimo Community Archives Society

C. Meutzner was not present.

d) Nanaimo District and Museum

D. Hill-Turner noted:

- Closing on Dec. 23 and reopening the 1st Tuesday in February 2007.
- Preparing for the move to the new building.
- Looking at a display that would range from pre-contact to present day Nanaimo.
- Collecting information, artifacts and verbal stories from more recent history (1950's).

e) Design Advisory Panel

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

9. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2007-Jan-03

10. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date