

CITY OF NANAIMO
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2006-MAR-01 AT 5:00 P.M.
IN THE BOARD ROOM, CITY HALL, 455 WALLACE STREET

Present: David Hill-Turner
Christine Meutzner
Bill Gard
Blake McGuffie
Geraldine Manson
Staff:
Chris Sholberg, Heritage Planner
Fran Grant, Recording Secretary

John Hofman
Councillor Loyd Sherry
Charlene Riches
Karen Hovestad

Regrets: Dallas Dowson-Buffalo

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair J. Hofman at 5:10 p.m.

New members were welcomed to the Commission and introductions were made.

2. Adoption Of Minutes (2006-Feb-15 & 2005-Dec-14)

MOVED by B. Gard, SECONDED by D. Hill-Turner, that the minutes of 2005-Dec-14 and 2006-Feb-15 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

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

C. Sholberg noted that

- The Commission's budget for 2006 is \$8,800 which is down from the previous year's amount of \$9,400.
- There is also money held over from the sale of Columns, Cornice and Coal (approximately \$5000).

4. Late Items:

- a) E & N Railway (B. Gard)
- b) Harewood School (C. Sholberg)
- c) Piper Park Trees (B. McGuffie)
- d) Heritage Summit (C. Sholberg)

5. Correspondence/Periodicals/Newsletters

- a) Museum Newsletter

Included in the Agenda package for information.

b) Historical Society Newsletter

Included in the Agenda package for information.

c) Arts Council Newsletter

Included in the Agenda package for information.

d) Heritage B.C. Newsletter

C. Sholberg circulated for information.

6. New Business

a) Election of Chair/Vice-Chair

Chair J. Hofman called for nominations for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission.

C. Riches nominated J. Hofman as Chair. The nomination was seconded by B. McGuffie.

C. Meutzner nominated B. Gard as Vice-Chair. The nomination was seconded by D. Hill-Turner.

MOVED by K. Hovestad, SECONDED by D. Hill-Turner, that J. Hofman be elected as Chair and B. Gard be elected as Vice-Chair.

CARRIED

b) Appointment of Design Advisory Panel and Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee representatives

MOVED by B. McGuffie, SECONDED by B. Gard, that J. Hofman continue as NCHC's representative on the Design Advisory Panel and D. Hill-Turner continue as the representative on the Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

c) Draft Work Plan

C. Sholberg went over each item on the work plan. He advised that the work plan report will be going to Council as outlined in the Communication Protocol.

Additional comments were made on the following work plan items:

2006

- Create Heritage Conservation Area #2 in the Old City Neighbourhood

C. Sholberg noted that:

- Malaspina University-College (MaLU) students are conducting some of the research for this project.

- The question is if we want to have a requirement that owners of single family homes will need a Heritage Alteration Permit for renovations if their home is on the register. Currently they only require a building permit.
- Could use new residential grants as an incentive.
- Victoria has a similar program.
- To lessen financial hardship, could reduce Heritage Alteration Permit cost from \$500 to \$100 (as was done for Watercourse Development Permits related to single family homes).
- Permit review process would be same as process for commercial buildings.

Comments from the Commission:

- Could tie public awareness campaign with the suggestion of a heritage renovation work shop.
- Perhaps talk to other communities with similar programs to see how their system is working.
- Some residents may feel that the City should not be telling them what they can and can't do with their homes.
- Do a 'pros' and 'cons' chart on this issue for next meeting. (C. Sholberg will do this.)
- May need to extend the timeline shown in the work plan for this item to be completed.
- Grant program would fit well with this.

- Create new Heritage Walk Brochure

C. Sholberg noted that:

- The two areas that are being considered for a new heritage walk brochure are the Millstone River and Harewood.

Comments from the Commission:

- May be too soon to do the Millstone with all that is going on at the Foundry site.
- Do Old City next and then expand to Harewood.
- See if any of the MaU students would be interested helping with a brochure.
- Do walk focusing on the Old City homes.

It was agreed that C. Sholberg will do an initial draft. C. Meutzner, B. McGuffie and K. Hovestad will work together on finalizing the brochure.

- Create 2nd Edition of Columns, Cornices and Coal

C. Meutzner noted that:

- The current edition is outdated and contains many factual errors.
- Need to look at how book is put together.
- Need more interesting information which gives value to those thinking of buying the book.
- Perhaps zero in on a smaller number of homes.
- MaU students are looking at the effectiveness of heritage products currently available for sale.

Comments from the Commission:

- Think we should keep the book format.

- Feel we should not do another book but go with brochures instead.
- Would like to see book kept in some form.
- Is the book the best way to promote heritage in Nanaimo?
- Keep on the work plan list and have a another discussion on what form the publication should take.

- Update Heritage Register

C. Sholberg gave a brief outline of what is currently contained in the register.

Comments from the Commission:

- Have some form of public information on the nomination process through the City web site.
- Keep this item on the work plan.

- Prepare applications for National Historic Site Status

Comments from the Commission:

- Suggest dropping the Pacific Biological Station from the process.
- Send the application web site address to NCHC members. (C. Sholberg will do this.)
- Look at the applications and discuss them at the next meeting.

- New Heritage Plaques under the City's Heritage Plaque Policy

Comments from the Commission:

- Consider adding the Hammond Bay whaling station.
- C. Meutzner is working with K. MacDonald, Parks Planner, on plaques for Pioneer Cemetery and Colliery Dam park.

C. Sholberg agreed to take Piper (museum site) and Beaufort park off the list but will have to check with K. MacDonald first to make sure they haven't already been started.

- Heritage Society of B.C. Conference

C. Sholberg noted that:

- There is money available in the Commission's budget if a member is interested in attending.
- Circulated a letter from the HSBC outlining the theme for the conference and also requesting a contribution of \$5000 from the City and NCHC.
- Asked for ideas of tours that could be provided to the Conference attendees.

Comments from the Commission:

- Use the Newcastle ferry for a tour of the harbour.
- The First Nation may be interested in offering a draw prize of a ride in a war canoe.
- D. Hill-Turner, C. Riches and G. Manson will put some ideas together and bring to the next meeting.

General comment from the Commission:

- Perhaps the Commission should prioritize their work plan items.

d) Heritage Society of B.C. Conference June 1-3 – funding request (\$2,500)

The Commission agreed that HSBC should re-address their request for funds to Council and that \$2500 from the Commission is much too high.

e) Johnson Hardware (33/45/49 Victoria Crescent) – redevelopment status.

C. Sholberg advised that:

- The building has a new owner who is planning to redevelop the site with a mix of commercial and residential.
- A heritage alteration permit is required and will go through Council.

Comments from the Commission:

- The Museum may be interested in salvaging the store front for an exhibit.
- Perhaps the developer could copy the existing front door design for the new building.

f) Letter re: Nanaimo Civic Arena – Heritage Register Nomination

C. Sholberg noted the City's letter of response was included in the agenda package for information.

g) Heritage Register Content

K. Hovestad commented that a walk to see some of the buildings on the register would be educational for new members of the Commission.

C. Meutzner suggested that this could be done over a number of lunch hours. C. Meutzner and C. Sholberg will set this up.

7. Old Business

No items.

8. Committee Reports

a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee

D. Hill-Turner advised that there was nothing new to report.

b) Snuneymuxw First Nation

G. Manson noted that:

- Elections were held and a new Council is in place. Viola Wyse is the new Chief.
- Meeting with the provincial and federal governments about the treaty process.
- The new relationship with the City is working out very well.

- The General Store – looking at building a new store so the old store may be demolished or relocated. Some would like to see it preserved.

c) Nanaimo Community Archives Society

C. Meutzner

- The AGM is being held on April 6, starting at 7:00 in the upstairs of the Nanaimo Library.
- Spending a lot of time looking for funding. A report requesting more support from the City is going to Council on Monday night.
- Working with applied history students from MalU gathering more information on all buildings in the Old City. Some may be added to the inventory.
- C. Sholberg and C. Meutzner did an interview with the A Channel for Heritage Day.

d) Nanaimo District and Museum

D. Hill-Turner noted that:

- Had a very successful antiques road show which was held at the Port Place Mall.
- Italian display opened on February 21 and runs until May 29.
- Working on design and finishing for the new museum space. The larger facility will allow the museum to host 'A' rated traveling exhibits.
- Virtual museum project – partnering with Snuneymuxw First Nation and the launch will be in November.

e) Design Advisory Panel

J. Hofman advised that there were no items of heritage interest.

9. Late Items:

a) E & N Railway

B. Gard advised that the E&N Railway is now in the hands of the Island Corridor Foundation and that it would be useful to have someone address the Commission in the near future on the Foundation's plans.

C. Sholberg will invite Jack Peake or another representative of the Foundation to speak to the Commission in the next few months.

b) Harewood School

C. Sholberg noted that:

- A community group is working on having the school preserved and used as a community centre.

c) Piper Park Trees

B. McGuffie noted that :

- He would like to see an inventory done of the trees at Piper Park and perhaps have them added to the Heritage Tree list.

- Concerned that the trees may be removed to improve the view for the new NNC hotel.
- d) Heritage Summit
- C. Sholberg noted that:
- The Summit was a success and that D. Hill-Turner did an excellent presentation on the Opera House and Pygmy Pavilion.
 - Notes from the round table discussion were circulated to Commission members.

10. Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2006-Apr-05

11. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date