

CITY OF NANAIMO
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2005-MAY-04 AT 5:00 P.M.
IN THE TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX, 238 FRANKLYN STREET

Present: Bill Gard
Colleen Parsley
John Hofman
David Hill-Turner

Geraldine Manson
Christine Meutzner
John Nimmo

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

Regrets: Laurie Waldie
Jeff Thomas

Councillor Loyd Sherry

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair J. Perry at 5:00 p.m.

2. Adoption of Minutes of 2005-Mar-09:

Page 4, bullet 5; correct name from 'Diversic' to 'Borsek'.

MOVED by J. Nimmo, SECONDED by G. Manson, that the minutes of 2005-Mar-09 be adopted as revised.

CARRIED

3. Budget Review:

C. Sholberg advised that there is \$8,850.00 of uncommitted funds in the Commission's 2005 budget.

4. Late Items:

- a) John Thomson Memorial Award (D. Hill-Turner)
- b) Canadian Archeology Conference (C. Parsley)
- c) Morden (J. Hofman)

5. Correspondence/Periodicals/Newsletters

- a) Common Ground Article – Coal Town Revival

Distributed for information.

- b) Nanaimo District Museum Newsletter

Distributed for information.

6. New Business

a) City of Nanaimo/Snuneymuxw First Nation – Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

G Manson advised that:

- A signing ceremony is being planned but a date has not been set.
- One of the more important aspects of the MOU is that it will bring City water and sewer services to the reserves that are not currently serviced.

C. Sholberg added that:

- The plaque for the First Nation's cemetery is finished.
- An archeological assessment is being done for the site before the road up-grade is done and the plaque installed.
- Fencing of the site and placing of the plaque should take place in 2006.
- Maintenance of the cemetery will likely be the City's Public Works Dept. C. Sholberg will find out and send information to G. Manson.

b) Pioneer Park Cemetery – tree removal – park rehabilitation status

C. Sholberg and C. Meutzner noted that:

- Trees in the park were rotten and had to be removed.
- City staff immediately brought in people from the community (descendants of people buried there, Archives staff, Kiwanis Club) for consultation.
- Workers tried to avoid too much disturbance of the site.
- Tree roots will not be removed.
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- A three-step plan for the site is being worked on:
 1. Landscape plan (being done by Archadia)
 2. Conservation plan for stone wall and head stones.
 3. Interpretive plaque with the history of the park.
- C. Meutzner put together a conservation plan for the head stones years ago.
- SOS for this park is a starting point for the interpretive plaque and signage.
- C. Meutzner would like the NCHC to write a letter of support to Parks, Recreation and Culture Department on their three-step plan to restore the park.

MOVED by C. Meutzner, SECONDED by J. Nimmo, that a letter of support for the three step plan be written to Parks, Recreation and Culture Department
CARRIED

C. Sholberg will send a draft letter to NCHC members for their review before sending it to the Parks, Recreation & Culture Department.

c) Foundry – status

C. Sholberg advised that:

- The structural analysis report has been completed. It showed in general that the building structure is in good enough shape to consider reuse.

- D. Luxton will be doing an assessment report on how best to conserve what is there. This report is to be finished by May 23, 2005.
- Council will make the final decision on what happens to the building, based on consultant and staff recommendations.
- Would like to have several options for Council to choose from.
- Will ask A. Tucker, Manager, Community Planning if the NCHC can review J. Hofman's report.
- Do not know if the reports will be made public.

Comments from the Commission:

- Things seem to be moving so quickly that buildings are going to come down before anyone has time to react.
- Is there an opportunity for NCHC when the report is finished, to evaluate the options and voice our opinion?
- There is a known archeological site shown on the earlier maps – a village site that is very close the where development is going to go.

G. Manson advised that the Band Council uses a process called 'SOPADDA' when reviewing issues; and the Commission might want to consider using their framework in their review of the Foundry issue. She will send the information to C. Sholberg.

[SOPADDA stands for:

S = Subject

O = Objective

P = Present Situation

P = Proposal

A = Advantages

D = Disadvantages

A = Action Required]

MOVED by B. Gard, SECONDED by J. Nimmo, that the NCHC request an opportunity to review the proposed Heritage Alteration Permit application before it goes to Council.

CARRIED

d) Occidental Pub – liquor store rezoning – status

C. Sholberg noted that:

- The rezoning was given 3rd Reading by Council.
- Legalities still have to be finalized before it is given Final Reading and Adoption.
- The owner of the building has suggested that if the rezoning were successful, he would be willing to fix up the upper floor of the building.
- The liquor store will be a separate building with residential on top.

e) Port Alberni Heritage Commission (PAHC) and Museum Society – Field Trip to Nanaimo, Friday, May 13th

C. Sholberg noted that:

- The PAHC and Museum Society have invited the NCHC to join them on their tour of Nanaimo heritage sites.
- They will meet at 10:00 in the City Hall Annex Training Room; lunch will be held at the Modern Café at 12:00 and the tour will start from there at 1:30.

- All NCHC members are invited to join in at any time.
- f) Heritage Society of B.C. – Annual Conference (June 3-4) – anyone wish to go?
- C. Sholberg circulated the Conference information and asked that any NCHC members interested in attending let him know via e-mail before the end of May.

7. Old Business

a) Nominations for National Historic Site Status – Application Status

C. Sholberg and C. Parsley commented that:

- There is little change from the last meeting.
- Hope to start working on this project in June.
- Will get copies of J. Perry's work to C. Meutzner.

b) Next Heritage Walk Brochure – status

L. Waldie was not present at the meeting.

c) Heritage Art Collection – review draft policy – status

C. Sholberg gave a brief update on the draft policy report from J. Perry and asked if NCHC wished to send the recommendation in the report to Council.

Comments from the Commission:

- Do not feel comfortable with the recommendation, as most paintings are not representative of heritage buildings.
- The recommendation does say that purchasing a painting is “at the discretion of the Commission” so that if there is not an appropriate painting, a purchase does not need to be made.
- Does the City want this type of collection and where would they display it?
- The paintings could be used to encourage appreciation of Nanaimo's built heritage.
- Do we want this money to come out of the Commission's budget?
- Should limit the purchase to one painting per year.
- After 25 years, this could be a very interesting collection.

C. Sholberg will ask T. Seward, the City's building manager to see if the City is interested in looking into the idea of a permanent collection and display.

d) Chinatown Heritage Park – status

C. Parsley noted that:

- Some edits have been done to the application.
- Hard to believe that China Town is not on the Heritage Register as it is a significant heritage site.
- Proposing that the City purchase part of the site for a heritage park.
- Hope to make the proposal to City Council in the next few weeks.

8. Committee Reports

a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee

D. Hill-Turner noted that:

- Attended an orientation meeting and the regular meeting of PNAC.
- There is a lot to learn for this Committee.

b) Snuneymuxw First Nation

G. Manson noted that:

- The totem poles that were on Front Street are too rotten to be put up again so they will be put to rest during a ceremony at Chase River.
- The poles have been photographed and documented.
- Are looking for funding for new totem poles to place at the Conference Centre.
- The treaty process is still ongoing and will be meeting with Federal representative this Friday.
- Will be doing a reburial of remains that were found on the 3008 Hammond Bay Road development site. A lot of artifacts were also found at this site.

c) Nanaimo Community Archives Society

C. Meutzner noted that:

- The Annual General Meeting was successful.
- Members of the Frank Ney family attended.
- Four new members have been appointed the Board.
- Will have to start doing some fund raising now.

d) Nanaimo District and Museum

D. Hill-Turner noted that:

- The cannon firing has started.
- Have hired two students for the summer
- Bastion will open on Empire Days weekend.
- Re-doing the interpretation of the Bastion
- A coal mine bus tour will be held on June 17.
- There will be two different cemetery tours.

e) Design Advisory Panel

J. Hofman noted that:

- The major issues for the Conference Centre was what the Commercial Street frontage would look like.
- Circulated the architect's drawings to the Commission.
- This proposal keeps the heritage feel on Commercial Street
- Proposing to use brick and other traditional building materials.

9. Late Items:

a) John Thomson Memorial Award

D. Hill-Turner did some research on the Award and outlined the Award's purpose.

b) Canadian Archeology Conference

C. Parsley advised that:

- The Canadian Archeology Conference is being held in Nanaimo on May 11 to 15.
- Events will be held at the Dorchester and Bastion Hotels.

c) Morden Mine

J. Hofman asked that this item be put over to the next meeting due to a lack of time.

10. Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2005-Jun-01

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date