

**CITY OF NANAIMO**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION**  
**HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2005-MAR-09 AT 5:00 P.M.**  
**IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX, 238 FRANKLYN STREET**

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**Present:** Bill Gard Laurie Waldie  
Colleen Parsley  
Staff:  
Chris Sholberg, Heritage Planner  
Fran Grant, Recording Secretary

**Regrets:** Jeff Thomas Councillor Loyd Sherry  
John Hofman Geraldine Manson  
David Hill-Turner Joan Perry, Chair  
Christine Meutzner John Nimmo

**1. Call To Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair B. Gard at 5:12 p.m.

**2. Adoption of Minutes for 2005-Feb-02:**

This item was put over to the next meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

**3. Budget Review**

C. Sholberg noted the following expenditures from the budget:

- \$250 toward the Stark Family commemorative plaque.
- \$300 for the 2005 Heritage Summit.

**4. LATE ITEMS**

- Preservation of the old Chinatown site (C. Parsley)

**5. Correspondence/Periodicals/Newsletters**

a) Heritage B.C. Newsletter

C. Sholberg circulated for information.

b) Heritage Society of B.C. – AGM and Strategic Plan (2005-2008)

C. Sholberg noted that this item was included in the agenda package for information.

**6. New Business**

a) Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for 2005 (J. Perry)

This item was put over to the next meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

b) Nominations for John Thomson Memorial Award

C. Sholberg gave a brief outline of the purpose of the Award and asked for nominee suggestions.

Suggestions from the Commission:

- Helen Brown – retired Malaspina University-College history professor who promoted and wrote about the women in Nanaimo's history.
- Clarence Carr, Malaspina University-College history professor, active in Archives Society, Museum Society and past member of Heritage Commission.
- Jill Standard – an oral historian and also supports many historical events including hosting the Miner's Picnic.

C. Sholberg will research these suggestions and put this item on the next agenda for further discussion.

c) Annual Work Plan – draft report

C. Sholberg gave a brief update on the Work Plan and noted that the report will now go to the Planning, Environment and Development Standing Committee at their next meeting before proceeding to Council. No changes requested by the Commission members.

**7. Old Business**

a) Nominations for National Historic Site Status – Application Status:

C. Parsley advised that there is nothing new to report at this time on the Newcastle Island nomination.

b) Heritage Summit –Feb –23:

C. Sholberg gave a report on the outcome of the Heritage Summit and noted that:

- There were approximately 50 people in attendance.
- C. Meutzner's presentation on church history was very well received.
- Notes from the round table discussion were distributed to the Commission.
- A letter of thanks along with the round table discussion notes will be sent to attendees.

c) Next Heritage Walk Brochure on the Millstone River - status

L. Waldie advised that she had not been able to identify enough existing heritage sites to put together a walk brochure.

Suggestions from the Commission:

- If it is possible to pinpoint the locations of historic sites, it may still be feasible to do a brochure using pictures of structures that no longer exist.
- There are still some of the old foundations in the area which could be part of the brochure.

- Should do the brochure now while these sites still exist as they may be removed during the redevelopment of the Downtown.
- Focus on the estuary section of the Millstone River.

C. Sholberg also suggested other brochures on:

- Old City Homes Tour
- Cemeteries

d) Heritage Art Collection – review draft policy – status

This item was put over to the next meeting.

e) Miners' Memorial – status

B. Gard and C. Sholberg advised that:

- Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission has decided to go with a fountain in the Port Place plaza instead of NCHC's proposed 3-D miners' memorial for now.
- It is hoped that the miners' memorial project may still proceed, perhaps next year.

f) Catherine Gisborne Memorial – status

C. Sholberg noted that:

- The Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission has approved and Council has also endorsed the renaming of a small park by Anchor Way to "Catherine Gisborne Garden".
- A plaque will be placed at the park with an unveiling ceremony in late spring or early summer.

## 8. Committee Reports

a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee

J. Perry was not present at the meeting.

b) Snuneymuxw First Nation

G. Manson was not present at the meeting.

c) Nanaimo Community Archives Society

C. Meutzner was not present at the meeting.

d) Nanaimo District and Museum

D. Hill-Turner was not present at the meeting but sent the following via e-mail which was read out by C. Sholberg:

- February opened with the annual Chinese New Year's celebration that was very well-received. Over 600 people toured the museum that afternoon.
- A new addition to coal mine exhibit also opened this month featuring Nanaimo's geological history. The exhibit uses graphics and fossils to interpret the geological

conditions over 60 million years ago that influenced the development of coal beds. It was produced in cooperation with Malaspina University College's Geology Department.

- Geoscape poster launch: Produced by Malaspina University College in cooperation with the Geological Survey of Canada, the poster takes a cross-sectional look at the geological history of central Vancouver Island and the geomorphology of the Nanaimo area. Posters are available from the museum (\$15.00) and a small exhibit of other Geoscapes posters will be featured at the museum until the end of March.
- Whistle Farm: The exhibit, which will run until September, examines the use of sound as a warning medium, Whistle Farm looks at the work of Robert Swanson, engineer, poet, and inventor who tested his sound inventions near Second Lake. In 1952, Swanson was also instrumental in moving the locomotive No.19 into Piper's Park beside the museum.
- Research and development of Making a Living is progressing and we are planning a June opening for this latest long term exhibit. The exhibit will look at the rise of the forest and service industries following the demise of the coal industry.

e) Design Advisory Panel

J. Hofman was not present at the meeting.

9. **Late Item:**

a) Chinatown Site Preservation

C. Parsley circulated a draft report entitled "Proposal for Creation of the Nanaimo Chinatown Heritage Park" and noted that:

- Proposal is to turn the most important part of the property into a heritage park.
- The property contains an old dump site and the Catstream also runs through it.
- The proposed park would include the dump site as well as offer some protection to the Catstream.
- There are no other parks in this area and there is very little undeveloped land left.
- It is important to act quickly as the site is being looted of artifacts.
- A park would bring a lot of pedestrian traffic to the area and hopefully stop some of the looting.
- Imogene Lim is working with the Chinese community to get their support for this proposal.
- Completed report will be referred to the Commission for review in the near future.

C. Sholberg commented that:

- It is important to have as many community groups as possible on side (Chinese Cultural Society, Nanaimo Old City Neighbourhood Association, Archeological Society, etc.) on site in order to get the attention of Council.
- Could offer the developer density bonusing and other development incentives in order to save some of the area as park.
- Will bring a map showing ownership of the property to the next meeting.

10. **Next Meeting**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 2005-April-06.

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Chair

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Date

CS/fg

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