

CITY OF NANAIMO
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2005-JAN-12 AT 5:00 P.M.
IN THE TRAINING ROOM, CITY HALL ANNEX, 238 FRANKLYN STREET

Present: David Hill-Turner
John Hofman
Bill Gard
Colleen Parsley
Joan Perry, Chair
Jeff Thomas
Councillor Loyd Sherry

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

Regrets: Christine Meutzner
Laurie Waldie
John Nimmo
Geraldine Manson

Guests: Shalema Gantt and Guests (Black Heritage Society)
Mairuth Sarsfield
Harry Conn

1. Call To Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair J. Perry at 5:05 p.m.

2. Adoption of Minutes of 2004-Nov-03:

MOVED by B. Gard, SECONDED by D. Hill-Turner, that the minutes of 2004-Dec-08 be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. Budget Review:

C. Sholberg noted that budget for the Commission for 2005 is \$9,400.

4. Late Items

a) Spring Break Festival 2005 (C. Sholberg)

5. Delegations:

a) Stark's Crossing – Plaque Proposal

C. Sholberg introduced Shalema Gantt of the Black Heritage Society. She noted that:

- The Stark family was one of the original pioneer families who have lived in the area since the 1800's.
- The Society would like to dedicate a plaque to the family during the upcoming Black Heritage month.

- The Black Heritage Society is holding their Black Heritage Month starting on February 5 with events through the whole month.
- Distributed a letter from the Society addressed to the Commission asking for a donation to be put towards one of the Black Heritage events.
- The grand finale is being held at Malaspina University-College on Feb. 27.
- Invited members of the Commission to attend any of the events being held.
- These events are open to the whole community and are also meant to promote an understanding of different cultures.
- Budget details are not yet available but should be soon.
- Would like to use any money from NCHC to Include a picture on the plaque of Emily Stark and her father.

Comments from the Commission members:

- Not sure if sponsoring and event comes under the NCHC mandate.
- It may be more appropriate to make a request for funds to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission.

C. Sholberg commented that:

- There is a standard format for plaques and that he can bring a draft of the wording to a future meeting.
- The plaque is covered under the NCHC plaque policy but there is no policy on sponsoring events although the Commission has made special grants to events such as Hands on Heritage (\$500) and the Canadian Letters and Images Project (\$500) in the past..
- The cost of a plaque is approximately \$500 with 50% of that coming from the NCHC.
- If the Commission is to sponsor an event, the contents of the event would need to be connected to Nanaimo history.

Harry Conn commented that:

- It would be appropriate to put a plaque at the Stark family site to recognize this family as most people in the area do not know much about them.

MOVED by D. Hill-Turner, SECONDED by C. Parsley, that the NCHC contribute a maximum of \$250 towards an interpretive plaque about the Stark family pioneers.

CARRIED

Comments from the Commission members regarding funding an event:

- Important to be inclusive.
- More suited to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission events grant program.
- Does senior staff feel this is within the mandate of the NCHC.
- It is difficult for organizations run by volunteer's to have the expertise and time to produce complete budgets for events like this.
- Could include the Stark family plaque in on the events to give it the local connection.

C. Sholberg advised that he will:

- Help S. Gantt contact T. Hickey of Parks, Recreation and Culture Department regarding funding for the Black History Month event.

- Will check with senior management regarding whether funding of this type of event is in NCHC's mandate.

The Commission deferred their decision on sponsoring an event until the February meeting when they have more information on the budget and details for the events.

The Chair thanked the delegation for their presentation.

b) New Downtown Zones – Overview

C. Sholberg introduced Deborah Jensen, Planning and Development Department, City of Nanaimo) who did a brief presentation on the proposed new Downtown Zone bylaw.

D. Jensen:

- There are seven zones to reflect seven distinct neighbourhood character areas.
- High-rise zones have been revised and will include three specific areas.
- Some specific uses have been removed to better fit in certain areas.
- Council gave the Downtown Zone 1st and 2nd reading and it is going to Public Hearing on Jan. 13 at the Coast Bastion Inn.

D. Jensen gave the following answers to questions from NCHC:

- A developer would need to apply for a rezoning if they wished to build a high-rise of more than 6 stories in the high-rise zones.
- There are set back requirements for distance needed between high-rises.
- The old Malaspina site development is going to be 16 stories and the In-Site development is 23 stories.

The Chair thanked D. Jensen for her presentation.

6. Correspondence/Periodicals/Newsletters

a) Interpretation Canada Training Modules 1 & 2

C. Sholberg circulated copies for information.

b) Heroes of Confederation Project (Chinese Railway Labourers)

C. Sholberg circulated copies for information and advised that he will get more information on this issue and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

c) Nanaimo Arts Council Newsletter

C. Sholberg circulated copies for information.

d) Updated Heritage Register

C. Sholberg distributed copies and noted that Council has adopted the updated version of the Heritage Register.

7. New Business

a) Winning Views – Heritage Promotion Idea

C. Sholberg distributed copies of the City of Victoria's Winning Views program. The Commission made the following comments:

- This type of contest could be held in Nanaimo, perhaps during Heritage Week.
- The Commission could donate a prize and others could come from area businesses.
- Could attract more people to the Downtown.
- Hold a heritage treasure hunt.
- J. Hofman volunteered to take the pictures.

C. Sholberg will pitch idea to local newspaper or reporter (Goodi Niosi) to see if this would be of interest for Heritage Week.

8. Old Business

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

C. Sholberg advised that:

- The nominations have been endorsed by Council so the Commission can proceed with the applications.
- C. Sholberg will work with C. Meutzner and J. Perry on the Pacific Biological Station application and with C. Parsley and G. Manson on the Newcastle Island application.
- The applications should be ready for the November 2005 deadline.

b) Heritage Summit –Feb –23:

C. Sholberg noted that:

- As the theme for Heritage Week is “Heritage Faith” the Summit could be held in a Downtown church such as the community hall of St. Andrews. There would be a nominal charge for its use.
- C. Meutzner had suggested holding a work shop but there isn't enough time to organize one now.
- C. Meutzner is willing to give a presentation on historical churches in Nanaimo.
- Will do a press release on the Summit.

Comments from the Commission:

- Have the churches participate in an open house tour.
- J. Thomas has contacted Tillicum House regarding the tour and is waiting for their reply.

MOVED by B. Gard, SECONDED by D. Hill-Turner, that the Commission allocate up to \$300 on catering for the Heritage Summit.

CARRIED

c) Chinatown Heritage Conservation Area – letter to property owners

C. Parsley noted that:

- The Archeological Society has written a letter to the Chinese Cultural Society a copy of which was circulated.
- The Archeological Society's interest in the site is to get an accurate map of the historic site.
- Waiting to hear from the Chinese Cultural Society before proceeding any further.

C. Sholberg indicated that:

- He will write a letter to introduce the Archeological Society to the property owner with a support letter from NCHC on behalf of the City.
- Do not know if senior staff would support a Heritage Conservation Area designation for this site.
- Will look into setting up a meeting between the Archeological Society, Chinese Cultural Society, the property owner and D. Hill-Turner to see if the property owner is interested in working together.

d) Next Heritage Walk Brochure – status

L. Waldie was not present so this item will be put over to the next agenda.

e) Heritage Art Collection – draft policy – status

J. Perry advised that the draft will be ready for the February meeting.

f) Miners' Memorial – status

C. Sholberg noted that:

- Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee has established an Art Sub-committee and a budget has been set up.
- Could have a public art piece with a miners theme possibly on the waterfront walkway from the Port Theatre which will have a space for public art. This would be a very visible site.
- C. Sholberg and C. Meutzner are on this Sub-committee and one more member from NCHC is required. B. Gard volunteered with D. Hill-Turner as the alternate.
- First meeting has been tentatively set for Jan. 20 at 4:00 P.M.
- The Sub-committee hopes to have the concept ready by March 2005.

9. **Committee Reports**

a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee

J. Perry was unable to attend the December 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 noted that:

- Saturday, Feb. 5 - Chinese New Year celebrating the Year of the Rooster. Events feature the Lion Dance, children's choir, calligraphy demonstrations, and other traditional activities.
- Monday, Feb. 21, 1:00 pm - Heritage Week Book Launch at Harbourfront Library. Royce Tennant will launch his new book, *Canada in the 1840's: A Nations Diary*.
- Sat. Feb. 26 1:00 pm - Launch of the Nanaimo Geoscape poster. The poster, a cooperative project with the Geological Survey of Canada, is a fascinating look at the 400 million year geological history.
- Sat. Feb 26 10 am – 4 pm Antiques Road Show with Zonta at Woodgrove Mall.
- Sat. March 5, 1 pm. Launch of Spring Lecture Series: Author Allan Twig will be reading from his book, *First Invaders*, a volume about BC's earliest authors and first explorers.
- The Francophone Community in British Columbia: The Past to Celebrate, the Future to Share. Presented in collaboration with the l'Association des Francophones de Nanaimo. The exhibit celebrates the 60th anniversary of La Federation des francophones de la Colombie-Britannique.

e) Design Advisory Panel

J. Hofman noted that:

- There were no heritage related issues to report from the last meeting.
- May be in conflict of interest with the New Nanaimo Centre so would like another member of NCHC to act as his alternate during decisions on this development. D. Hill-Turner volunteered.

10. Late Items:

a) Spring Break Festival 2005

C. Sholberg distributed an outline of the proposed Spring Break Festival and noted that:

- The organizers would like NCHC to participate in the Festival.
- Could provide a walking tour or heritage talk during the event.
- The organizers need a letter of support by January 24, 2005.

Comments from the Commission:

- Would be a good opportunity to get youth involved in heritage.
- NCHC should support this event.

The Commission agreed that C. Sholberg should send a letter of support from NCHC.

11. Next Meeting:

- The next meeting will be held on 2005-Feb-02 in the Training Room

12. **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date

CS/fg

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