

CITY OF NANAIMO

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE
COMMISSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2003-DEC-03, AT 5:00 P.M.
IN CASABLANCA RESTAURANT, DORCHESTER HOTEL, 70 CHURCH STREET**

PRESENT: Christine Meutzner, Chair
Councillor Loyd Sherry
Bill Gard
John Nimmo
John Hofman
Colleen Parsley
Joan Perry

REGRETS David Hill-Turner, Geraldine Manson

ABSENT: Mary Durdle

STAFF: Chris Sholberg, Heritage Planner
Holly Pirozzini, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by J. Nimmo, SECONDED by C. Parsley, that the minutes of the meeting held on 2003-Nov-05, be adopted with amendments to item 7(a) Nominations for National Historic Status – the consensus of the Commission was to defer a decision on this issue until January, 2004; and item 9(c) Princess Royal Day - the speech was delivered by C. Meutzner (not Mayor Korpan).

CARRIED

3. BUDGET REVIEW

C. Sholberg reported that the budget has been spent for 2003.

4. LATE ITEMS

C. Meutzner, B. Gard and C. Sholberg advised of late items to be discussed at the end of the regular agenda.

5. CORRESPONDENCE/PERIODICALS/NEWSLETTERS

- (a) Anchor Article – Daily News - for information only.
- (b) Heritage Week 2004 – Feb 16-20 – HSBC Letter – The consensus of the Committee was for C. Sholberg to contact the Nanaimo District Museum, the Military Museum, and the Legion Branches 10, 257 and 356, to advise of the theme of this year's Heritage Week - "Defending Canada: Heritage of Military Places". In February, C. Sholberg and C. Meutzner will prepare a press release to the local media to advertise Heritage Week and the Heritage of Military Places theme.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- (a) Miners' Memorial Promotional Plan – C. Sholberg reported that he discussed the promotional plan with Bob Kuhn, the City's Parks, Recreation & Culture Supervisor, who suggested that the proposal be submitted to the Cultural Committee for review under the City's Public Art Program. C. Sholberg circulated photos of other miner memorials located across North America and in the U.K. as well as a couple of photograph mock-ups demonstrating what the proposed memorial could look like and where it might be located in Nanaimo. The Commission agreed that the following locations would be appropriate for a memorial:

- Dallas Square
- Northfield/Parkway rest stop
- Morden Mine

C. Meutzner agreed to help C. Sholberg prepare a brief proposal for submission to the Cultural Committee. The Commission asked C. Sholberg to proceed with submission of the proposal.

7. OLD BUSINESS:

- (a) HPI – BC/Canadian Register of Historic Places – C. Sholberg provided a sample online entry for the Commission's information only.
- (b) Staff Reductions at the BC Heritage Branch – C. Sholberg advised of an e-mail received from Steve Barber, City of Victoria, regarding further staff reductions at the Heritage Branch. In response to the proposed reductions, the Heritage Canada Foundation recently adopted a resolution expressing its concerns with the cutbacks to Minister Gordon Abbott. Victoria City Council approved the recommendation from the City's Planning department and Heritage Advisory Committee to write a similar letter expressing its concern.

The Commission expressed its concern with the proposed reductions and discussed the fact that Nanaimo has taken advantage of funding opportunities through the Heritage Branch in past, which allowed for completion of the Heritage Inventory, as well as various seminars, and use of the Branch's technical expertise.

MOVED by J. Perry, SECONDED by C. Parsley, that the Heritage Commission recommend to City Council that the City of Nanaimo send a letter to Minister Gordon Abbott, expressing its opposition to the reduction of staff and financial resources for the Provincial Heritage Branch, and that the letter include references to cultural tourism (including examples where Nanaimo benefited from funding opportunities) and the effect this action will have on the whole Province.

CARRIED

- (b) Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada – C. Sholberg advised that the Board convenes biannually, usually in June and November (and up to two years may elapse between the time of application and the Board's consideration of the application). The consensus of the Commission was to consider the merits of both the Pacific Biological Station and Newcastle Island and to make a decision on which site to nominate in January, 2004.
- (c) Bullhorn/Portable Microphone for Heritage Walks, etc./Insurance Coverage – C. Sholberg reported that a megaphone is available for the Commission's use from the City's Parks, Recreation & Culture Department.

C. Sholberg also reported that general liability coverage is automatically available for all City events. He added that Pete Wipper, the City's Manager of Regulation & Risk Management, would need to be advised of events in future. It was agreed that the Commission would keep a record of all attendees.

- (d) 2003 Heritage Summit – C. Sholberg debriefed the Commission regarding this year's Heritage Summit and stated that the event achieved the goal of providing networking with other organizations interested in heritage issues. He added that there was better attendance than anticipated (48 persons in attendance representing 16 organizations).

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- (a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee – J. Perry advised that there have been no PNAC meetings held since September. C. Sholberg will make inquiries to Planning Division staff to determine why the normal review/meeting cycle has not been followed.
- (b) Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) – G. Manson was absent from the meeting.
- (c) Nanaimo Community Archives Society – C. Meutzner had nothing to report.
- (d) Nanaimo District and Museum – D. Hill-Turner was absent from the meeting.
- (e) Design Advisory Panel – J. Hofman reported that he was unable to attend the DAP meeting in November because it was held on the same night as the Heritage Summit.

9. **LATE ITEMS:**

- (a) Greeting Cards – C. Sholberg circulated greeting cards created by Douglas Burrage, that display painted images of the Bastion and other locations in Nanaimo, for the Commission's information.
- (b) Heritage Register Update – C. Sholberg advised that he received a number of public/staff nominations for additions to the Heritage Register during the year and has referred six of the nominations to the Community Archives in order to undertake the initial research work necessary. After this work is completed he will put together value statements for the nominated properties and submit a recommendation on each one for the consideration of the Commission. These recommendations will likely be submitted to the Commission at its February meeting.
- (c) Cultural Capitals of Canada Application – C. Sholberg advised that the City's Cultural Committee is putting together an application to the Federal Government's Ministry of Canadian Heritage for a grant up to \$500,000 under the Cultural Capitals of Canada program. The intent is to use the money to create a Arts event (7-10 days) in Nanaimo based on Jazz. The Commission has been asked to support the application by submitting possible heritage based event ideas that could take place in 2005 during the Art event. The Commission had no specific recommendation but asked C. Sholberg to develop some ideas and run a draft support letter by the Commission for further comment prior to the end of the year.
- (d) Meeting Attendance – B. Gard requested clarification regarding the Commission's terms of reference and continuous absenteeism at meetings. The consensus of the Commission was that C. Sholberg would phone Mary Durdle to advise her of the rules for attendance outlined in the Commission's terms of reference and to discuss whether she wishes to resign from the Commission because she has been unable to attend regularly (attending only 2 of the last 7 meetings).

A similar question arose regarding the regularity of Snuneymuxw First Nation representation on the Commission. C. Sholberg advised that he would ask G. Manson if a new alternate could be appointed as the designated alternate has not attended any of the Commission meetings over the past year when G. Manson was absent.

- (e) Totem Poles - C. Meutzner reported that T. Hickey, the City's Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture, recently advised her that the two totem poles located at Georgia Park (6 Front Street) have to be removed due to safety concerns (severe rot and insect infestation has led to concern they may fall over in the near future). A conservation expert was consulted who advised that the poles could not be restored in place. The Snuneymuxw First Nation was also consulted. The poles will be removed by the City and taken by the First Nation for storage or destruction. The possibility of replacing the poles with new carvings will be discussed by the First Nation and the City in the future.

10. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2004-Jan-07, at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room #1, City Hall Annex.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by J. Nimmo, SECONDED by B. Gard, that the meeting adjourn at 6:30 p.m.

CARRIED.

APPROVED:

Chair

Date

CS/hp

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