

CITY OF NANAIMO

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NANAIMO COMMUNITY HERITAGE
COMMISSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 2003-APR-02, AT 5:00 P.M.
IN CONFERENCE ROOM #1, CITY HALL ANNEX, 238 FRANKLYN STREET**

PRESENT: Christine Meutzner, Chair
John Nimmo
Bill Gard
Joan Perry
John Hofman
David Hill-Turner
Councillor Loyd Sherry

ABSENT: Mary Durdle, Geraldine Manson, Colleen Parsley

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by B. Gard, SECONDED by J. Perry, that the minutes of the meeting held on 2003-Mar-05, be adopted.

CARRIED

3. BUDGET REVIEW

C. Sholberg advised that the current budget is \$3,300.

4. LATE ITEMS

B. Gard and C. Sholberg advised that they have late items to discuss at the end of the regular agenda.

5. CORRESPONDENCE/PERIODICALS/NEWSLETTERS

- (a) Nomination for Sites of National Historic Significance – The Commission suggested the Morden Mine site, the Bastion, and the Court House as possible sites in Nanaimo. Transportation was suggested as a possible event. J. Hoffman requested that the trestle bridge, north of Shawnigan Lake, be submitted to the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. C. Sholberg advised that he will be meeting with Jerry Borden, Commemorations Officer, on Monday, 2003-Apr-07 and will relay the Commission's suggestions to Mr. Borden at this time.

- (b) Historical Vancouver True Colours – C. Sholberg presented a brochure created by Benjamin Moore which displays appropriate heritage colour swatches. He added that the City doesn't have a policy on this and that the brochure is an acceptable, informal substitute.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

- (a) The Occidental Hotel – Heritage Alteration Permit Application (HAP) – C. Sholberg advised that a HAP has been received from the property owner. It is believed that the owner is frustrated with the following:
- his inability under zoning to open a liquor store on the site; and
 - the requirements for seismic upgrading to the second floor to allow residential use.

C. Sholberg added that he will be forwarding a report to Council which includes the following three options:

1. issue HAP (may lead to demolition);
2. adopt Heritage Designation Bylaw (compensation issue will need to be addressed); and
3. deny the HAP.

C. Sholberg advised that he has requested clarification from the Assessment Authority about whether the value of a heritage property will change after a Heritage Designation Bylaw is adopted. He added that he has researched the Occidental Hotel site and discovered that it is large enough for construction of a building on the back portion of the property to accommodate the residential or commercial uses, or a mix. This would accomplish infill development objectives and maximum density use for the site, without the need to demolish the Occidental building.

The Commission noted that the Occidental Hotel:

- has interesting interior features and facades
- is a gateway to the Old City Quarter and the Heritage Walk
- rates within the top ten scorers in the Heritage Resources document prepared by Donald Luxton & Assoc.

MOVED by B. J. Perry, SECONDED by J. Nimmo, that Council adopt Option 3 (deny the Heritage Alteration Permit) for the Occidental Hotel and that City Staff work with the owner to achieve the highest density use potential for the property, without removing the Occidental Hotel building.

CARRIED

C. Sholberg advised that he would be preparing a report for consideration at Council's 2003-Apr-28 meeting.

- (b) Incentives for Heritage Conservation Course – C. Sholberg provided background information on the Heritage Conservation Course held 2003-Feb-28. He also reported on the following:
- the new Heritage Revitalization Plan for the Gastown area in Vancouver and the Residential Conversion Program in Victoria; and
 - within a year, it is anticipated that the Historic Places Initiative will become an Act. The Federal Government is proposing a test project whereby \$10 M in grants will be provided each year, instead of offering income tax incentives. The purpose of the grant program is to test the Federal Incentive Program before it becomes an income tax incentive program.
- (c) Building Community Heritage Tourism - D. Hill-Turner reported on the workshop held in Cumberland on 2003-Mar-22 which he attended with Imogine Lim from the Archaeological Society, and Chris Stevenson, a student from Malaspina University. He added that 30 people in total attended and that the format was two presentations in the morning, followed by working group discussions in the afternoon. D. Hill-Turner stated that efforts need to be coordinated to attract tourists to stop in the community (e.g. a scheduled tour of an old coal mine). He will submit the notes from the workshop after he receives them.

MOVED by B. J. Perry, SECONDED by J. Nimmo, that David Hill-Turner be reimbursed \$15 for the registration fee and \$20 for gas costs for his participation in the Building Community Heritage Tourism workshop on 2003-Mar-22.

CARRIED

7. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- (a) Interpretive Plaque Policy – C. Meutzner advised that the draft policy will be distributed to the Commission for its review prior to the next regular meeting.
- (b) Cemetery Maintenance Policy – C. Meutzner advised that she will begin working on this and should have a draft ready for the next meeting. She suggested that “Policy” be changed to “Guidelines”.
- (c) Newcastle/Townsite Heritage Walk Brochure – J. Perry advised that she and C. Meutzner made notes as they walked the area and they have decided to use the traditional boundaries for the neighbourhood (i.e. they will not include buildings across Terminal Avenue). They will provide a narrative and photos to C. Sholberg to forward to Jim Tenecke at ICAD, who will prepare the final version for production.
- (d) Downtown Signage Study – J. Hofman advised that the City has hired Insite Landscape Architecture Inc. to conduct the Downtown Signage Study and that stakeholders’ group meetings are being held. He added that recognizable uniform signage is proposed for gateways for vehicles/pedestrians and directional signage to significant sites in the downtown.

- (e) Pamela Mar Nomination for John Thomson Memorial Heritage Award – C. Sholberg recapped the award presentation held at the Nanaimo Community Archives AGM on 2003-Mar-27. C. Meutzner added that the event was a success and she submitted a receipt for flowers purchased for Pamela Mar.

MOVED by J. Nimmo, SECONDED by B. Gard, that C. Meutzner be reimbursed \$28.60 for the bouquet presented to Pamela Mar.

CARRIED

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- (a) Plan Nanaimo Advisory Committee – J. Perry reported that the next PNAC meeting held on Tuesday, 2003-Apr-15, will provide some education on processes for getting development applications through City Hall.
- (b) Snuneymuxw First Nation – G. Manson was absent from the meeting. C. Sholberg advised that he has left phone messages for Gerry Manson, but has not heard back from her.
- (c) Nanaimo Community Archives Society – C. Meutzner reported on the following:
- There were 42 attendees at the Annual General Meeting this year.
 - She is currently working on a two-day conference to be held on April 25/26, which will bring 120 people into Nanaimo, including the Provincial Archivist.
 - March was an extremely busy month at Community Archives office because several Malaspina College-University students were doing historical research work.
- (d) Nanaimo District and Museum – D. Hill-Turner reported on the following:
- The Mine bus tour will take place on Saturday, 2003-Apr-26 at 9:00 a.m., at a cost of \$25/member and \$30/non-member.
 - The Museum will be hosting a series of events from May long weekend to September, to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the Bastion.
 - Three wall murals by Jeff King will be created on the Museum's outer walls.
 - The Museum, assisted by Charles Torhjelm, will be adding a small exhibit in the back room of the Miners' Cottage this summer. Also, electric lights and baseboard heating will be installed.
 - The Museum will cast a reproduction of the bell that went missing from the on-site steam locomotive in the 1970s.
 - Debbie Trueman, Manager of the Museum, received a Sterling Award for her contribution to Arts and Culture.
- (e) Design Advisory Panel – C. Meutzner reported that the Design Advisory Panel held a meeting on 2003-Mar-27, and discussed a development permit application for a multi family development at 580 Stewart Avenue. She suggested that because of its concentration of relatively intact heritage buildings, the Newcastle area should be the next area considered as a Heritage Conservation Area.

9. LATE ITEMS:

- (a) Downtown Brochure - B. Gard reported that he has delivered Downtown Heritage brochures to the Grand Hotel, Long Lake Hotel, Northgate Hotel, Tildens Car Rental, etc. D. Hill Turner volunteered to distribute brochures in the southend to the Airport, Mahle House Restaurant, Cranberry Arms Pub, etc.
- (b) VI Railway News Release – C. Sholberg distributed copies of a News Release announcing that an investors group has formed the new *Vancouver Island Railway* company which will become a full service railway to serve the needs of customers and communities from Victoria to Courtenay and Parksville to Port Alberni.
- (c) Heritage Society of BC Annual Conference – C. Sholberg advised that this conference will be held on 2003-May-30/31 in Richmond and he asked that any Commission Member who is interested in attending, to advise him at the next meeting.
- (d) Haslam Hall Plaque – 15 Wallace Street - C. Sholberg reported that the owner of Tim Hortons Donuts responded to the Commission's letter and has committed up to \$500 to cost-share in manufacturing the plaque. The Tim Hortons representative also suggested an interior plaque and photo display.

The consensus of the Commission is that this is a character defining element for this particular Tim Hortons and that the owner of the building, the descendants of Haslam Hall, and the Heritage Commission could cost-share in this project. C. Sholberg will send C. Meutzner a mock-up of the plaque to forward to Michael Haslam, a descendent of Haslam Hall, for review and to seek his financial commitment. C. Sholberg will report back to the Commission for final approval, once all the details have been arranged.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 2003-May-07, at 5:00 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by J. Nimmo, SECONDED by J. Hofman, that the meeting adjourn at 7:15 p.m.

CARRIED

APPROVED:

Chair

Date