



Heritage Commission Meeting
June 1, 2022
Minutes

Location:
Maritime Heritage

Attending:
Claudia Romaniuk
Colin Schult
Don Mallon
Gareth Flostrand
Ken Watson
Pam Craig
Penny Cote
Willa Thorpe (staff)

Regrets:
Bill Collette
Ed Ross
Dan Washington

Called to order: 7:02pm

1. Moved by Colin that the agenda of the June 1, 2022 meeting be approved as circulated.
2. Moved by Colin that the minutes of the May 4, 2022 meeting be approved as circulated.
3. Old Business – none
4. Correspondence – none
5. New Business – none
6. Reports
 - a. Chamber of Commerce
 - i. Visitor counts at the Chamber of Commerce are still lagging well behind traditional numbers. This is likely a result of lingering effects of the COVID restrictions plus the realities surrounding high fuel prices and inclement weather patterns.
 - ii. We were unsuccessful in finding any post-secondary students to fill our vacancies offered through the youth grant programs so have move all grants to secondary students. We have all opportunities now spoken for.
 - iii. The Chamber has continued to press hard with the MRDT program and earlier this month we were part of a delegation to both the City of Port



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Alberni and the ACRD. Both organizations approved the proposal. Next steps are now underway. With any sort of luck, we should see the tax implemented by the end of 2022 thus resulting in significant funds available for the marketing of Port Alberni for 2023 and beyond.

- iv. The Chamber had to postpone its planned AGM to mid-June due to several challenges surrounding the original date/time. The AGM is now scheduled for Wednesday, June 15th 8:00am at Smitty's Restaurant.
- v. The Chamber's community excellence awards event is scheduled for Friday, June 10th at the McLean Mill National Historic Site. The event will be under a 4000 square foot tent. At this writing more than 280 tickets have been distributed.

b. McLean Mill

- i. Our Director of Operations is Caroline Schiavone. Caroline has extensive experience in similar venues and is already making a huge impact. Caroline hired Richard Spencer, an ADSS graduate this year, to take over as her right hand person. Richard will lead the team with Caroline's direction over the summer at which point we will determine the next steps in the operation. Hiring Richard brings stability, knowledge, passion and opportunity to the operations. By the time Richard returns to his schooling in the fall Caroline will have several months under her belt thus more ideas on how best to follow.
- ii. We have conducted one full wedding this past month and several more events are planned for the summer and early fall.
- iii. One cost of the staffing change is a further delay in getting the campground ready to go. This is further complicated by the lack of success noted in the Chamber report on finding a post-secondary student. We are reluctant to open the campground without a FT on site employee there at most times. The campground should open by the last week of June.
- iv. The long-term success of the McLean Mill National Historic Site is not tied to the daily results of our business functions. Our team continues to struggle with the lack of internet resources at the site. We will continue to look for grant opportunities that once and for all can address this challenge.

c. Community Arts Council

- i. Gallery Exhibits
 - 1. May 25 – June 18 Spring Seasonal Imagery – Experience spring through the eyes of 16 local artists. Oils on canvas, watercolour with pen and ink, to acrylic and collage.
 - 2. June 22-July 22 – Women's Work – group exhibit



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- ii. We have had two full days with students from NIC under the supervision of a horticulturist. They are working towards a groundskeeping program.
 - iii. Book Sale – This sale was the most successful book sale that we have had. The Athletic Hall was the perfect venue, and students from the wrestling program and rugby program worked really hard to get the truck loaded (3 times) and the books into the hall. The leftover boxes all fit into the containers donated by the San group. We are looking for a permanent heated location to store our books. Because we have so many books, we are having a second sale in September
 - iv. CAC bursary recipient is Caiden Meyer
 - v. Summer Program – We have funding for three students but have not yet hired. Also, our summer programs will be impacted with the child care facility beginning this summer. Normally a tent is set up in the Children's Garden, and supplies are kept downstairs at Rollin.
 - vi. Teas on the Terrace – The teas, two in July, the 7th and 21 and two in August, the 4th and the 18th, are so far going ahead. Whether the construction will affect them isn't sure as yet.
 - vii. Solstice Arts Festival – June 18 – 11-4pm. We have musicians booked and some artists booked.
- d. Maritime Heritage Society
- i. Lighthouse Roof Replacement–. Port Authority has contributed \$5000 and ACRD will contribute \$3000 towards this project. Thanks to Zoran Knezevic and the PAPA Board for their support on this important project. Roof installation is scheduled for this summer.
 - ii. Harbour History Pictorial Display - A new display consisting of a collection of Black & White photographs of Port Alberni's harbour, taken by John Taylor in the 1980's is under construction. Dave Cox is working with Kirsten Smith at the Alberni Valley Museum to frame this collection of historic maritime photographs for display at our Gallery. Thanks to the Museum staff for their help with this project and thanks to Dave Cox for his work on this as well. This new display will replace our current Vanlene shipwreck display so if you haven't seen that yet come on in and have a look before it is gone.
 - iii. Nahanni Restoration Project –The weekly work sessions are switching to Wednesdays at 10am restoring this WW 2 vintage RCAF crash boat. If you would like to get involved with this project there is lots of opportunity to roll up your sleeves participate. Thanks to Lawrence Charnell for being the leader on this project.
 - iv. Summer Programs – Kendra Neary will stay on as our summer coordinator this year. We are now advertising for positions to help deliver our summer



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programs. If you or interested see the posting on our Facebook page "Maritime Discovery Centre". Application close on June 12th. Thanks to the Alberni Valley Community Foundation for their support of our programs with a donation of \$3600 which will fund a summer student.

- v. Open Hours - we are open Thursday – Sunday, 11 am – 4 pm. Stop in at the Gallery to see the new Tsunami exhibit and the outgoing Vanlene exhibit and also renew your membership.

e. Regional District

- i. Four students applied for the summer job posting
- ii. A delegation came to the District requesting renaming Sproat Lake

f. Community at Large

- i. May 30 – June 5 – GoByBike week – get on your bike! And ride, prizes to be won, AV News has Bingo card. Celebration stations around town different location each day
- ii. 4th – West Coast Rangers Black Powder Club – Historical Re-enactment for National Range Day 10am-3pm Free Admission
- iii. 4th – A Life in Art – Art Rave retrospective of the work of ceramic artist – Elspeth Watson 2-4pm at Echo Centre (Cedar Room)
- iv. 10th – Community Excellence Awards – Alberni Chamber at McLean Mill 5-10pm
- v. 11th – Life in The Fast Lane – benefit dance, a fundraiser for a local diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma 5-11pm at Kin Hut
- vi. 11th – PAGO Grannies – Fundraiser for Stephen Lewis Foundation 9am-noon 6718 Cypress Blvd – Handcrafted items, plants, baking and more
- vii. 12th – Ladies Regatta @ Sproat Lake presented by West Coast Dragon Boat Society
- viii. 12th – AV Regional Airport – Open House 10-4 Free Admission
- ix. 18th – Solstice Arts Festival – Rollin Art Centre 11-4
- x. July 1-3 – Okee Dokee Slo-Pitch Tourney/Funtastic Music Fest
- xi. 9-10 – Lightening On the Lake – Regatta at Sproat Lake Provincial Park 9am-4pm
- xii. July 30 – August 1 – Hayes 100y Anniversary Show presented by Western VI Industrial Heritage Society @ Fall Fair grounds

g. School District

- i. Lots of changes in administration throughout the district. New Superintendent, Tim Davie, begins August 1st. Challenges in staffing as some are reluctant to move to the West Coast due to the high cost of living.



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New District Principal of Indigenous Education, Jaime Hansen. New Principal at Tsuma-as Elementary is Meghan Girard. New Principal at Ucluelet Secondary is Drew Ryan (formerly Principal at Wickaninnish Elementary). Dani Stone now Acting Principal at Wickaninnish Elem. There are still a couple of admin positions to announce.

- ii. Board and staff working on budget for June 14 Board Meeting.
 - iii. Pacific Rim Inquiry Group "Celebration of Learning" – Question – "How will the development of best practices in teaching Nuuchahnulth Language benefit all our learners and our school community?" Event happening June 2nd.
 - iv. Gov't has moved responsibility of childcare from Ministry of Children and Family Development to Ministry of Education – official name is Ministry of Education and Child Care. Ultimately, the goal is to have an in or on-site before/after school childcare facility at every Elementary.
 - v. June is the month of Celebration and School windup event. District Elementary Track Meet June 3. Graduation ceremonies: NTC Grad June 11; EALC Grad June 16, USS Grad June 18 and ADSS Grads June 23, 24 and 24.
- h. City Council – no report
- i. Historical Society
- i. Our volunteer, Marlene Dietrich lost her husband Phil on Saturday, May 28. Our hearts & prayers go out to her and her family.
 - ii. Our fabulous volunteers logged in 201.25 volunteer hrs last month.
 - iii. The Historical Society AGM is on Wednesday, June 8, 7pm in the Dogwood Room in Echo Centre. Guest speakers are Jean McIntosh talking about Helen Ford, Katy Lekich on John Howitt and a Band member on George Clutesi. All are welcome!
 - iv. Volunteers are in the Archives - Tues – Thurs, 11 am – 3 pm. Masks are mandatory!
- j. Industrial Heritage Society
- i. Work on the Hayes Truck 100th Birthday is progressing. The dates are July 30/Aug. 1 weekend, venue: Fall fairgrounds.
 - ii. Anyone wanting to visit the IHS truck barn (old arena) or the train roundhouse, tours are available and you can book on the IHS website. We feel that a personalized tour is more informative. In the month of May we gave four guided tours at the roundhouse and industrial heritage centre. We are going to host an "Old Trucks 90th Birthday Party" with the grade two's from Maquinna Elementary next month.



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- iii. Two of our members attended the May 21, 2022 Lake Cowichan Parade. We were awarded two plaques: Farthest distance travelled, and most unique logging truck (the tiny challenger)
 - iv. The fellows at the truck barn are working hard to prepare the trucks for the Canada Day July 1st parade, we are hoping to have 8 trucks attend if we can get enough drivers.
 - v. At the train Roundhouse we unfortunately had a fire in one of our passenger cars, the fire dept. attended.
- k. Museum
- i. The Emergence: New Works, New Beginnings Art Show opening was very well attended, with over 80 artists and guests enjoying the 70 pieces by 60 artists from Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. The show continues until September 3.
 - ii. Our virtual Heritage Fair went well, and three of the 10 participants were selected to represent our region at the Provincial Heritage Fair in late June.
 - iii. Film Fest is returning to Port Alberni in September; showing dates and film details are being confirmed.
- l. Hupacasath First Nation – no report
- m. Tseshaht First Nation – no report
7. Next Meeting
- a. Wednesday, September 7 → 7pm (AV Museum)
8. Adjourn
- a. Moved by Pam to adjourn the meeting at 8:02pm.