



Heritage Commission Meeting
September 7, 2022
Minutes

Location:
Alberni Valley Museum

Attendees:
Bill Collette
Claudia Romaniuk
Colin Schult
Dan Washington
Don Mallon
Judy Carlson
Ken Watson
Pam Craig
Penny Cote
Willa Thorpe (staff)
Marianne Wade (guest)

☒ Council
☒ Mayor
☒ CAO
☒ Finance
☒ Corporate Services
☐ Agenda
File # 0230-20-AVHC

☐ Economic Development
☐ Engineering/PW
☐ Parks, Rec. & Heritage
☐ Development Services
☐ Community Safety
☐ Other _____

Regrets:
Ed Ross
Gareth Flostrand

Called to order: 7:02pm

1. Moved by Don, seconded by Ken, that the agenda of the September 7, 2022 meeting be approved as circulated.
2. Moved by Claudia, seconded by Dan that the minutes of the June 1, 2022 meeting be approved as amended.
3. Old Business
 - a. Train Station update
 - i. The RFP for tenancy at the Train Station closed on July 29; 3 submissions were received. Staff are working with Council on determining next steps; more information will be provided when available.
4. Correspondence – none
5. New Business
 - a. Official Community Plan (OCP)
 - i. Marianne reviewed the process and current status of the OCP; the project can be found at letsconnectpa.ca/ocp



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- b. Election of Chair
 - i. Gareth elected as Chair by acclamation

6. Reports

a. Regional District

- i. Alberni Valley Landfill renamed to Alberni Valley Sort'nGo
- ii. A parking lot for Maplehurst trails is being explored
- iii. Alberni Valley Airport – official opening was this summer
- iv. Sproat Lake Community Hall is almost finished

b. Community Arts Council

- i. Gallery Exhibits
 - July 27: Summer-Open group exhibit, "SUMMER' – Seasonal Imagery.
 - September 13 THE ART OF MYSTERY – Mystery McCarthy – Oil Painting
- ii. Book Sale – September 17, Athletic Hall.
- iii. Conversation Cafe – August 31st – Kick-off event. Sponsored by CAC and Art Rave. Kudos to the staff at the Museum for all their help for this event.
- iv. Fish – In – Saturday, September 3, 1-3pm, Harbour Quay, in conjunction with Art Rave, Salmon Enhancement and the San Group. Kids were given cut out fish to paint and to keep. Great fun.
- v. Art Battle:
 - Children/Teens September 24. (May not happen)
 - Adults – Tuesday October 18, venue Alberni Brewing 630-830. Held in partnership with Art Rave
- vi. Fundraiser – Celtic Chaos November 6, venue Capitol Theatre.
- vii. Weddings – 2 in October both planned and paid for, but may not be able to be held.
- viii. Construction on the Child Care Facility has begun. The large trees in the children's garden on the 8th Avenue School side of Rollin will come down this week, and the wood disposed of. Then, digging of the foundation of the new building will be started. Very soon after that the ramp leading into Rollin is scheduled to come down. Once the ramp comes down, we will not be able to operate as a public building. Eventually the front garden of Rollin will be taken out, and a new walkway installed for access to the building. The driveway will not be available, nor will the front gates. We have asked that the City relocate us to another city owned building for the duration of the construction. Our lease lasts until April 2023. A site has been offered, and the CAC and the City have approved the relocation to the Aquarium building at Harbour Quay. The site must be painted and stuff removed, and then we must be moved. Until this happens the ramp cannot be removed.



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We will be able to come into Rollin but not to use it for activities. We have hung the next gallery exhibit and are working with the construction company to allow this exhibit to proceed and to allow access to the building for the duration. Other activities planned for the fall/winter season may not be allowed to happen at Rollin.

c. Maritime Heritage Society

- i. Lighthouse Roof Replacement – roof installation originally scheduled for this summer is still waiting to get to the top of the contractor's list of projects. It is now expected to be October before work begins.
- 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 now on display in the gallery. Dave Cox worked 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.
- iii. Nahanni Restoration Project – the weekly work sessions are on Wednesdays at 10am restoring this WW 2 vintage RCAF crash boat. The hull is looking pretty good. If you would like to get involved with this project, there is lots of opportunity to roll up your sleeves and participate. Thanks to Lawrence Charnell for being the leader on this project and thanks as well to Dave Cox, Pete Geddes, Don Jones, and Ken McKinnon for their work on this project.
- iv. Summer Programs – our Summer programs were presented successfully by Kendra Neary, our Coordinator, assisted by T.J. Barrowcliff and Debbie Price. Thanks to the Alberni Valley Community Foundation and the Alberni District Co-op for their financial support of our summer programs this year. Programs wrapped up on August 27 with a farewell pizza event for staff.
- v. Gallery Coordinator – Kendra is headed back to school this fall so we are in search of a new Coordinator. The application & job description for a part-time Gallery Co-Ordinator have been posted on Facebook, our website and other electronic media. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, see the posting on our Facebook page "Maritime Discovery Centre".
- vi. Open Hours – except for special events, the Gallery will be closed until a new co-ordinator is hired.



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d. Chamber of Commerce

- i. Since we last met in June we hosted a very successful awards event/gala on the 10th of June. We had nearly 300 people in attendance and we gave out nearly 60 awards covering 2020 2021 and 2022. Feedback was incredible.
- ii. We held our AGM the following week with a good-sized audience. A new board was elected included a handful of new people to our board. Said board is diverse with a representation from many sectors. We have more women on the board than men and our executive is made up of 4 women, 1 man.
- iii. We had a successful season restarting our ambassador program at Cathedral Grove. Nice that we were able to get that going again even though we were and are still short of volunteers for this rewarding and enjoyable operation.
- iv. I am on the board with AVTA who are charged with managing the Municipal Regional District Tax once it clears the last hurdle. Political acceptance by Cabinet at the provincial government. We have met three times now and things are moving along nicely.
- v. Visitor Centre counts are way down over previous years including both 2020 and 2021. Reasons for the decline are not known however it is likely a combination of: > Lingering fears over COVID > High fuel costs > ArriveCan APP > BC Ferries specifically the unreliability and somewhat reduced sailing options. Stats for August were worst yet at an 80% decline compared to 2019.

e. McLean Mill

- i. Camping didn't get going until well into July due to many reasons. We remain somewhat unknown to campers but that will change for 2023.
- ii. Overall counts at MM are far fewer than previous years and this is almost certainly tied to fewer visitors to the area.
- iii. Retail sales are down over last year.
- iv. We did not start any level of food services primarily because of reluctance to compete for staffing when so many of our local restaurants are struggling to survive.
- v. The bike SEAT program got going nicely in August once we were able to have a dedicated employee for it.
- vi. We did have some nice children's events at the site over the summer
- vii. A good number of weddings occurred and all of them resulted in very good feedback from the clients.
- viii. Plans are currently underway to host an Oktoberfest but that's dependent on us being able to locate musicians who will play the music required for



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such an event. Target date is Oct 22. We are partnering with Dog Mtn. Brewery to pull this off.

- ix. We met with the BC Children's Hospital Foundation who are hoping that we'll host the Christmas tree event again this December.
- x. We are looking for at least one major sponsor for that event and for the Heritage Christmas Village. If we don't find a sponsor, we will likely try to host it on our own however the financial challenge could be problematic for us.
- xi. We were successful in redirecting funds offered to us by NETP for a Grounds person over to an Office Assistant. The redirect also included more potential funding; that was somewhat unexpected.
- xii. We hired an employee for the NETP position and we are VERY pleased with them. Plans are to keep them beyond the term of the agreement.
- xiii. We are excited to report the success of the major movie production that started in March for one week of extensive filming that restarted in early July for two more days. Rhythm Boyz Entertainment produced the film titled in English – Fight for Rights. The film was released nationally last weekend of July and remains in theatres. We were successful in negotiating with Rhythm Boyz to host a free showing here in Port Alberni at Landmark Cinemas. Wonderful gesture by them. We did release 170 tickets to the community and were thrilled to see many of our local Punjabi speaking community at the theatre first week of August. The film shows off the McLean Mill and some of the historic buildings throughout the movie and on the trailers for it. Many local people were acknowledged in the credits including Richard Spencer, Bert Simpson, David Hooper, Bill Collette, Starboard Grill, Ian Staton and others.

f. Community at Large

September event listing:

- i. 8
Riverbend Social Run - Event by Todd Davis and Twin City Runners (Port Alberni Road, Trail and Mountain Running) @ 7pm
- ii. 8-11
Fall Fair
- iii. 9
Lantern Walk – CMHA – World Suicide Prevention Day @ New Horizons Clubhouse 2nd Ave 6-9pm
- iv. 10-11
10th Annual Port Alberni Paint Out @ Sproat Lake on Saturday and Inlet Waterfront on Sunday. Reception @ Starboard Grill on Sunday @ 3pm



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- v. 11
Send Air – company from Nanoose in conjunction with City of PA Trail riding program. Jump equipment and Airbags to offer junior riders a chance to experience ‘freedom’ to try jumping on their bikes @ Williamson Park 1-6pm
 - vi. 12
Coffee Chat with the Candidates @ Char’s Landing 4-6pm
 - vii. 17-18
Port Alberni Toy Run – leave Little Qualicum Falls @ noon Saturday. Festivities @ Glenwood Centre. Breakfast @ 8am Sunday, with Poker Run to follow
 - viii. 17
Giant Book Sale by Community Arts Council @ Athletic Hall 9-3pm
 - ix. 18
10th Annual Family Farms Day – self-guided tours of rural farms. Details at www.acrd.bc.ca
 - x. 22
Conversation Café @ Steam Punks Café and Coffee House titled ‘The Outer Limits of the Artspace’ 7-9pm
 - xi. 24
Art Throw-Down @ Rollin Art Centre – children and teens (Pre-registration is required)
 - xii. 25 and October 23
Film Fest Port Alberni 5pm @ Paramount
25 Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, A Journey A Song
23 Run Woman Run
 - xiii. 25
Alberni Valley Rivers Day – 10-3pm - The event will take place at both Beaver Creek Community Hall and Stamp Falls Provincial Park - where there will be concession, games, education, and fun for all!
 - xiv. Oct 1
Crystal and Spirit Fair @ BW Barclay Hotel 10am-5pm
- g. School District
- i. The Student and Family Affordability Fund - \$60 million to the province – SD70’s share is \$427,000.00. The Indigenous Advisory Committee met today to gather ideas on the best way to use this fund. Seeking innovative ways to feed more children, help those needing school supplies and give families extra help they need. District may use the fund to offset fees related to learning experiences, expand school meals programs and food programs.



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Consultation with First Nations, Indigenous groups Metis and Inuit, Parents and students are in process now to find ways to provide for families that are stigma-free and barrier-free.

- ii. New Superintendent Tim Davie has been hard at work since August 1. Mr. Davie has met with all staff and all new staff prior to school start up. He also has met with most partner groups who have been available in August with many meetings for September with those partners, which include all the Nuu-chah-nulth Nations in SD70, who are back from holiday in September. Mr. Davie has also visited a number of school sites and program sites to gain the knowledge of the district.
 - iii. BC now has an Indigenous-focused Grad requirement. Districts are directed to implement a mandatory course or bundle of credits on First Peoples as a graduation requirement. These can be variety of provincially developed courses or a First Nations language course or a locally developed Indigenous focused course.
- h. City Council
- i. Election: 24 nomination packages were picked up, and at 3pm on Sept. 7, 17 have been returned. Mayor Minions, Councillors Haggard, Paulson, Solda and Washington are seeking re-election. Councillors Corbeil and Poon are not running. Current candidates:
 - 1. Mayor
 - a. Tom Verbrugge
 - b. Sharie Minions
 - 2. Councillor
 - a. Michelle Bisaro
 - b. Peter Rueschmann
 - c. Joshua Dahling
 - d. Cindy Solda
 - e. Jim Del Rio
 - f. Debbie Haggard
 - g. Richard Huneault
 - h. Seva Dhaliwal
 - i. Ron Paulson
 - j. John Douglas
 - k. Todd Patola
 - l. Wendy Kerr
 - m. Dan Washington
 - n. Carol-Anne Zanette
 - o. Sandy McRuer



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- ii. We're updating our Official Community Plan (OCP), that will guide the next 20 years (2042). Vision & touchstones are drafted & we want to hear from you! Starting Sept. 9 complete a survey online or at an in-person event:
<http://letsconnectpa.ca/ocp>
- iii. The City is putting the Somass lands up for sale:
 - 1. The 43-acre site that the city bought a year ago for \$5.3 million will be available for expressions of interest as of today.
 - 2. Mayor Minions said the City has been overwhelmed by developers looking to purchase the lands or partner with the City
 - 3. Mayor Minions said the next step will be to issue a request for qualifiers to make sure the interested developers can follow through on the plans they've submitted, before the more formal request for proposals process begins.
- i. Historical Society
 - i. The Historical Society has purchased 3 new computers, which are now networked, along with new software. We've had a few "growing pains". Ryan at Alberni Communications has done a wonderful job of walking us through the "rough" patches.
 - ii. We are busy setting up acceptance of e-transfers. This will help us receive donations for our research services.
 - iii. Volunteer hours in July & August totalled 360 ½ hrs. Way to go ladies!
 - iv. Volunteers are in the Archives - Tues – Thurs, 11 am – 3 pm. Masks are mandatory!
- j. Industrial Heritage Society
 - i. In spite of residual effects of COVID-19 restrictions, summer remained the busiest season for the Industrial Heritage Society. More volunteers have been showing up since the removal of most COVID restrictions in April.
 - ii. After the July 1st Parade, the Event that dominated everything was the "Hayes & Friends 100th Anniversary Truck Show", held on the BC Day long weekend at the Fall Fairgrounds. There was an excellent turnout of about 80 vintage vehicles and more than 2,500 visitors to the show. With the free admission and activities for children of all ages, there was a good turnout of locals to the event. There were many out-of-town visitors and participants. Several came from Alberta and Saskatchewan, as well as a good number from the Mainland and the Interior of BC. Ten campsites were occupied by participants and a good number stayed in local hotels.
 - iii. This summer, we hosted two "Camp Roots" groups from Parks, Recreation and Heritage. One group of children got a tour; the second group came for a



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morning of hands-on heritage activities – grinding flour, drilling holes – by hand, by gas-engine power, then by electric drill. They also used an old Stencil Cutter from the Pulp Mill and tried out “Block & Tackle”. They also got a Fire Truck ride.

- iv. At the end of June, IHC volunteers hosted two Grade Two classes from Maquinna Elementary for a “Truck’s 90th Birthday Party”. We handled one class at a time, with a series of hands-on activities, ending with a ride in a Fire Truck.
- v. We hosted a group from the Victoria company, “Mile Zero Bus Tours”. IHS volunteers gave guided tours at the McLean Mill and at the APR Roundhouse. The ‘Vancouver Island Porsche Club’ had tours at the McLean Mill and at the IHC.
- vi. We were involved with two Memorial events in August for former Directors of the IHS – Gordon Blake and Gary Murton. One was hosted at the IHC, the second at the McLean Mill.
- vii. With the addition of exhibits once displayed at the Train Station, space is at a premium. Some space was freed up when the steam engine display on a lowbed was put outside, under a tarp, in the compound on the south side of the IHC. There is now more of a railroad display around the “Strathcona” Parlour Car. There are plans to create a Rail display inside the Parlour Car as Restoration work has come to a halt there. (Consultation has begun with the Museum to develop this project).
- viii. The Roof leak has been repaired over the Welding Shop.
- ix. Bert Simpson and the young members have been working regularly at the Roundhouse. Recently, they have been doing touch-up painting on the “No. 7” – railings, grab bars, wheels, etc. Frank Holm and Sandy Fitzpatrick did some finishing work on the brake system of the CN Caboose.
- x. The Steam Donkey boiler was re-certified by the boiler Inspector after a lot of work by the Steam crew and volunteer Boilermakers. Keith Young, former Steam Engineer at the McLean Mill, assisted with the Project. John Land got his certification to operate the Donkey Boiler while working on the project so boiler and operator are both certified. Costs were covered by generous donations.
- xi. The Old-time Logging Crew has cleaned up the site, had the Spar Tree inspected and made sure that the fire sprinkler and pump system is operational. Discussions ongoing with the City re: insurance to permit demonstrations for public.



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k. Museum

- i. August 31: The Community Arts Council and Art Rave hosted Next Gen, an evening focused on the arts. 75 people enjoyed the exhibit, music and activities.
- ii. Recent exhibit: The art show Emergence was a popular draw this summer (closed on Sept. 3) and featured the work of 60 artists from all over the Island and Gulf Islands.
- iii. Next exhibit: Marvellous Mushrooms – opens October 6: This fun new travelling exhibition, created by the Royal BC Museum, explores the science and practical uses of mushrooms today, highlighting some of the most fascinating of the 3,400-known species in the province.
- iv. New Museum staff – pleased to announce that our vacant part-time positions have been filled and new staff start September 12: Museum Education Assistant Kiara McNaught, Museum Collections Assistant Amy Sky and casual Museum Assistant Nora Rardon will all be exciting new additions to our team.
- v. Film Fest Port Alberni is back after a two-year absence! The Fall series went on sale September 1 with series passes and single tickets available at the Museum Shop. First up is the new documentary “Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen A Journey, A Song” September 25, 5pm at the Paramount Theatre. We are pleased to continue our partnership with Landmark Cinemas.
- vi. The Museum is featured in a new children’s book “Time to Wonder – A Kids Guide to BC’s Regional Museums”. Our Museum Coordinator collaborated with authors Sue Harper and S. Lesley Buxton and the book includes 8 pages devoted to the museum featuring select artefacts, information, stories and activities. The book is on order and will be for sale in the Museum Shop soon.
- vii. The Clutesi Exhibit is well in progress and will open at the Alberni Valley Museum in March 2023. This initiative will see the Alberni Valley Museum, the Bateman Foundation, the University of Victoria, the Royal BC Museum, Carr House and Alberni Residential School Survivors to collaborate to record and preserve the survivors’ memories of George Clutesi and the important role he played in their young lives when he worked at the Residential school.
- viii. Working on a large exhibit and video program to celebrate the Museum’s 50th anniversary this will open late spring of 2023.
- ix. Continue to work with the Nanaimo Museum to repatriate an artefact that was removed from the Tseshaht in the mid 1800’s by Adam Grant Horne. The item is a club and belonged to a person holding a significant position and status in Tseshaht culture.



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- l. Hupacasath First Nation – no report
- m. Tseshaht First Nation – no report
- 7. Next Meeting
 - a. Wednesday, October 5 → 7pm (AV Museum)
- 8. Adjourn
 - a. Moved by Colin to adjourn the meeting at 8:54pm.