

Alberni Valley Museum
and Heritage Commission



Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission
Meeting of Wednesday April 6, 2016
7:00 pm in the AV Museum

Minutes

Attending:

Gareth Flostrand
Bert Simpson
Dennis Bill
David Whitworth
Judy Carlson
Penny Cote
Dan Washington
Marta Williamson
Libby Manson
Pam Craig
Jamie Morton, Manager of Museum, Heritage and Culture

Regrets:

David Taberner
Jolleen Dick
Paul McDougall
Neil Malbon

Called to order 7:03 PM.

1. Moved by Pam Craig, seconded by Marta Williamson, that the agenda of the April 6, 2016 meeting be approved.
2. Moved by David Whitworth, seconded by Pam Craig, that the minutes of the March 2, 2016 meeting, as distributed, be approved.
3. Correspondence
 - No correspondence to report.
4. Setting Heritage Commission Priorities for 2016:
 - Discussion of 2016 priorities, other than City Council's demand for alternate governance models for the AV Museum – resulted in the suggestion of two already-initiated projects that could be carried out regardless:

Museum and Heritage Commission City of Port Alberni

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- a. Pam Craig recommended that the project to prepare heritage factsheet inserts to provide to VIRA members for distribution with listing materials be completed.
- b. Marta Williamson recommended that the project to prepare and install plaques on the buildings included in the Community Heritage Register be completed.

5. Updates:

- McLean Mill Governance – Bert Simpson and Jamie Morton outlined some of the developments:
 - a. The establishment of a Board of Management (BOM) by City Council and appointing of four people – Jan Lavertu (Chair), Bill Collette (Vice-chair), Sheena Falconer, and Ken Fyfe as voting members.
 - b. For 2016 the BOM will work in cooperation with the WVIHS, which holds the contract for the operation of the Mill and the APR. For 2017, the BOM will establish its own legal identity, with the intent of taking over this contract for the operation of the facilities.
 - c. Members of the BOM met with the WVIHS Directors and volunteers April 5, to attempt to clarify the working arrangements for 2016.
 - d. The BOM has directed and implemented development at the entry to the site, including trail and landscape development, a signage program, the development of a gift shop in the former Steam Pot Café, and the conversion of the Visitor Centre into a food service facility/restaurant.
 - e. The BOM is concentrating on promotion and delivery of the Number 7 Challenge event, to be held May 1, 2016, at which the entry development will be unveiled to the public and media.
 - f. Discussion ensued – Commissioners expressed concern about the removal of all interpretive materials, created with community input and funding, from the Visitor Centre, to be replaced with food services.
- Alternate Governance Models for the AV Museum – Gareth Flostrand and Jamie Morton outlined the current situation:
 - a. Director of Community Services Theresa Kingston will be taking the lead in eliciting community input. A report is being submitted to Council concerning the formation and composition of a community committee to work on this question.
 - b. Discussion ensued – concerns about the motivation and rationale of this initiative were raised.
 - c. Commissioners were asked to informally investigate and provide information on models employed in other communities that they may be aware of.

6. Reports:

6.1 Judy Carlson reported for the ADHS

- The next public event is April 21, with Susan Quinn presenting "From Typewriter to Twitter," about the history of communication technology, at 7:00 PM at the AV Museum.
- Three volunteers participated in an archives workshop in Campbell River, and a visiting professional archivist was impressed by the operation of the ADHS Archives.

6.2 Jamie Morton reported for the AV Museum

- Received federal funding to hire two students this summer – up from one last year.
- Work proceeds on research, design, and preparation for *Vacationland: Pleasurable Diversions in the Alberni Valley* – the summer exhibit for the AV Museum. The Parks carpenters built a display unit & wall for a lodge exhibit & staging the McLaughlin Buick, volunteers at the IHC are preparing car for exhibit, photo murals are being prepared and printed as a major feature of the exhibit, and walls were prepared with paint and wallpaper sections to define exhibit zones.
- Preparation is increasing in anticipation of the 14th Annual Regional Heritage Fair, with over 100 students registered, to be hosted by the AV Museum May 6-7.
- The AV Museum Film Fest is a great success, with the first showing, *Brooklyn*, on March 13, attracting 397 viewers, as well as good pre-sales for all three films. This will result in significant revenue to support educational and outreach programs. The next showing, *Lady in the Van*, takes place at the Paramount Theatre on April 10.

6.3 Dennis Bill reported for the Tseshah First Nation.

- Hosted a Chamber of Commerce dinner event on March 30 – and artist Connie Watts has been commissioned to prepare artwork for the Chamber.
- Tseshah First Nation has been emphasizing the use of traditional foods, and today herring roe was the featured food.
- Tseshah social media response to possible Museum exhibit ideas was strong – two featured themes were: the story of how the Tseshah came to the Alberni Valley; and Tseshah place names, supported by accompanying stories and art work.

6.4 Penny Cote reported for the ACRD

- The Sproat Lake Community Association wants to revive its tennis courts – is fundraising to support development and improvements around its community hall.
- ACRD trail work is continuing – supported by gas tax money – including the Sproat Lake Trail, Faber Road trails, along Stirling Arm Drive, and the Stuart Ave. trail – also cleaning up dump sites along the Sproat River.
- The ACRD 2016 budget has been approved, including \$30,000 to McLean Mill and funds to PAMHS to construct a shelter for the *Swan*.
- Will be meeting with the City of Port Alberni on shared services – eg. water services – but heritage is not a service on the list.

6.5 Bert Simpson reported for the WVIHS.

- The BCIT Conductor Training was completed this weekend.
- Work is proceeding on the Number 7 Baldwin locomotive to have it ready for the May 1 Number 7 Challenge event – steam inspection etc. still required.
- Repair work has been completed on sections of the rail track.
- At the IHC, work is continuing on the Strathcona parlour car, the HIAB and Barko, and the Fyfe steam drill restoration is nearly complete.
- WVIHS members met with the McLean Mill Board of Management last night, and WVIHS volunteers have been implementing BOM plans at the entry to the Mill – the BOM is hosting an open house to display the changes on April 29.
- JJ Logging is working on a new A-frame for McLean Mill.
- The Triconic Challenge event is being proposed for 2017, with a \$113,000 Canada 150 grant proposal submitted in support.

6.6.a Libby Manson reported for the Community at Large.

- The Port Alberni Port Authority is working on the development of its new boardwalk/walkway on the waterfront at Fisherman's Harbour.

- ADSS hosted a Youth Empowerment Summit on April 5 & 6, with a range of events and speakers.

6.6.b Gareth Flostrand reported for the Community at Large.

- AV Hospice Society fundraisers coming up, including Art Sale April 9 & Butterfly Effect event April 30.
- Portal Players Youth Group is presenting "The Diary of Anne Frank" on April 8-10 & 15-17.
- Portal Players will be presenting "Someone Who Will Watch Over Me" starting April 29 through May 14.
- Char's Landing is hosting Celtic Chaos this weekend.
- The Timbre Choir has two concerts coming up, most notably on April 24, in honour of the retirement of long-time accompanist Pat Miller.

6.7 David Whitworth reported for the PA Maritime Heritage Society

- The March 31 Maritime Heritage Night at the AV Museum, featuring Wayne Loiselle and Robert Turner presenting on sternwheelers in the Yukon, was very successful, enjoyed by over 70 guests.
- The AGM is to be held on April 28, with the business meeting to be followed by a *Master & Commander*-themed Maritime Heritage Night, featuring authentic eighteenth-century naval food and sea shanties.
- The next Maritime Heritage Night, May 26, will feature Caroline Woodward, author of "Light Years," presenting on lighthouses on the coast of BC.
- Former City Manager Ken Watson has agreed to join the Board of PAMHS.
- Working on the planning and implementation of the outboard motor exhibit for the summer of 2016 – "The Cole Family Collection."
- The Board is interviewing candidates for the new part-time coordinator position.
- May 28 has been designated "Port Day" – the event seems to be expanding, with participation by PAPA, PAMHS, WVHHS, First Nations, & the City.

6.8 Dan Washington reported for the City of Port Alberni

- Based on current budget projections, the residential tax rate is expected to rise 2.7% in 2016.
- Council has approved the deployment of the Art Thompson banners again in 2016.
- The Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities conference is being held next weekend – two resolutions are going forward from the City of Port Alberni – and Heritage Commissioner Penny Cote is running to become an AVICC Director at Large.
- The 2016 Salmon Fest will again be held at the Clutesi Haven Marina.

6.9 Pam Craig reported for the School Board

- April 12 the next School Board meeting will be held in Ucluelet – to accept public submissions.
- Next week the AGM of the British Columbia School Trustees Association will be held in Vancouver.
- The Youth Empowerment Summit was held at ADSS on April 5 & 6 – Grade 7 students attended "Yes 2 Know" events yesterday, and Grade 8 students today – this drug awareness/prevention program was presented with the help of 47 local sponsors, with the RCMP playing a major role – it included keynote presentations last night by Gary Anaca, concerning the development of the teenage brain, and by Jesse Miller, discussing the idea of citizenship online – with about 90 people attending the talks.

- Exit interviews are being held with graduating Grade 12 students, to gather information on their school experiences and future plans – education, work, etc.
- April 9 is the VIU/City of Port Alberni “Where is Here” cultural mapping event, with short video interviews to determine how people connect to their community – it is intended to build a sense of community & community pride.

7.7 Marta Williamson reported for the Community Arts Council

- The Community Arts Council has developed an approved Collections Policy – thanks to the Heritage Commission & AV Museum for developing the basis for this policy.
- The annual book sale will be held on May 13-14 at Echo Centre.
- Fall 2016 events include a hamburger & beer night on October 20, and a Celtic music afternoon event at ADSS on November 20.
- The CAC will be decorating display windows in the former Woodward’s building in Uptown.
- The Summer 2016 Tea on the Terrace series has been modified, with four lunch and music events to be presented, at a cost of \$20 per ticket – two will be held the second and fourth weeks of July, and two the second and fourth weeks of August.

7. Other Business

- David Whitworth asked if any groups had received notification of approval of federal summer employment grants yet – the AV Museum has heard about its CMA/YCW application, but it sounds like Service Canada notifications have not gone out yet.

8. Next Meeting

- 7:00 PM, Wednesday, May 4, 2016, at the AV Museum.

9. Adjournment

- Moved at 8:27 by Pam Craig to adjourn the meeting.



Gareth Flostrand, Chair
Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission

Davina Hartwell, City Clerk
City of Port Alberni