

Alberni Valley Museum
and Heritage Commission



Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission
Meeting of Wednesday February 3, 2015
7:00 pm in the AV Museum

Minutes

Attending:

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

Regrets:

Jolleen Dick
Paul McDougall
Penny Cote

Called to order 7:02 PM.

1. Moved by David Whitworth, seconded by Pam Craig, that the agenda of the February 3, 2016 meeting be approved.
2. Moved by Marta Williamson, seconded by Pam Craig, that the minutes of the January 6, 2016 meeting, as distributed, be approved.
3. Correspondence
 - Card from Gayle Stephen Player thanking the Heritage Commission for her enjoyable three years of volunteering.
 - Letter from the ACRD confirming Penny Cote's appointment as the Regional District's representative on the Heritage Commission.
 - Letter from the BC Arts Council confirming a \$65,000 annual operating grant for the Alberni Valley Museum as a result of the September application.

Museum and Heritage Commission City of Port Alberni

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4. Setting Heritage Commission Priorities for 2016:
 - Vision, Mission, and Role of the Heritage Commission
 - a. Review of AVM & Heritage Commission Vision handout.
 - b. Discussion.
 - Potential priorities for 2016
 - a. Review and discussion of supplied list.
 - b. Discussion of specific ideas.
 - i. Combining #1 – identification of resources, and #2 – promotion and marketing, by developing and mounting plaques for the first five buildings on the Community Heritage Register – this could be integrated with the revised walking tours under development.
 - ii. #3 – fundraising – for a variety of reasons relating to volunteer commitments, not seen as a viable priority.
 - iii. #7 – small exhibits in off-site venues – AV Museum program already in place.
 - c. More ideas requested prior to the Commission's March meeting.
5. Updates:
 - Collections Policy
 - a. Presentation and discussion of the points raised at, and following, the January 6 meeting.
 - b. Following discussion, it was moved by Marta Williamson, seconded by Pam Craig; that the collections policy, as amended, be approved; carried.
6. Reports:
 - 6.1 Pam Craig reported for the School Board
 - Working on determining the catchment areas for elementary schools – data being collected until February 9, before proceeding to late spring planning.
 - The 33rd Armada Invitational wrestling tournament is being held at ADSS this weekend.
 - 6.2 Marta Williamson reported for the Community Arts Council
 - A draft collections policy has been prepared.
 - The appraisal of the CAC collection has implications for insurance and collections preservation – noted the options of loaning objects to the AV Museum, or selling them.
 - As fundraisers, a Christmas house tour is being planned for the first or second weekend in December – as well as a beer & burger night earlier in the year.
 - The AGM is on March 3 at 7:00 PM, at the AV Museum, with Kerry Mason presenting on the subject of art appraising.
 - Many books have already been received for the annual book sale – this year a two day event on May 13-14, the Mothers' Day weekend.
 - 6.3 Jamie Morton reported for the AV Museum
 - Working on developing the *Pleasurable Diversions* exhibit – to open in May – outlined the focus and approach – emphasis on the attractions that drew people to the Alberni Valley for recreation – hiking, fishing, hunting, climbing, etc. – the facilities they stayed in when they were here, and the ways they came – by water, road, & air.

- Afternoon event/tea to be held at the Museum on Thursday February 18 from 2:00 to 4:00 – to present the exhibit, and request information, and possibly artefacts, from the community for the exhibit.
- BCAC grant is now on a multi-year funding cycle, so more predictable for budget purposes.
- Work is proceeding on the 2016 Heritage Fair in May.

6.4 Dennis Bill reported for the Tseshah First Nation

- The Hugh Braker collection is on exhibit at the Rollin Art Centre – a great collection to see.
- The “West Coast Wednesdays” program has been initiated as a weekly cultural event, including activities such as crafts and drumming, with an emphasis on cultural teaching.
- The Tseshah First Nation has been approached by Bill Collette of the Chamber of Commerce to participate in the Triconic Challenge, both with cultural presentations and general participation.
- This raised the idea of a Tseshah event – the “Salmon Run” – over the roughly 10 km from Polly’s Point to the Paper Mill Dam – with associated cultural events.

6.5.a Bert Simpson reported for the WVIHS

- The AGM is coming up on February 17 at Echo Centre – with a presentation on the restoration of the #112 Baldwin locomotive, and videos of railways and logging.
- A number of projects are underway at the IHC, including the Barko log loader, the Hiab, which is nearly done, the A6 speeder, which is done, and waiting on some repainting, the Lobster right-of-way mower, the Strathcona Parlour Car, the 1941 International fire truck, and Ken Fyfe’s steam drill.
- Development continues at Coombs, with the proposed siding for display and promotion of APR rail equipment, and a proposal to operate pump car rides there.

6.5.b David Taberner reported for the WVIHS

- Noted the vandalism of the passenger coaches of the APR in January – estimated cost of repairs in the \$4,000-5,000 range – a number of donations received in support – including surplus bus seats from Victoria.
- The RS3 diesel-electric locomotive requires a new radiator.
- The annual maintenance and inspection of the #7 Baldwin locomotive is going well.
- Volunteer work on the locomotives decreased, as Ted Mollet’s part-time retirement job has turned into full-time.

6.6 David Whitworth reported for the PA Maritime Heritage Society

- A new electronic newsletter has been produced and will be distributed.
- A grant-in-aid application has been submitted to the ACRD to assist in constructing a permanent shelter over the steam launch *Swan* – a design has been prepared, with an estimated construction cost of \$10,000.
- Jules Hamilton’s coordinator position ended on January 31, 2016.
- The next Maritime Heritage Night, on February 18, will feature a presentation by Darrell Ross on the different varieties of Tseshah canoes.
- This will be followed by similar events on March 31, featuring sternwheelers, April 21, with a *Master & Commander* theme, and May 21, with Caroline Woodward presenting on lighthouses.

- The Tseshaht whaling exhibit will be travelling to the BC Maritime Museum in Victoria.
- The new summer exhibit will feature outboard motors from the Bob Cole collection.
- Dave McCormick of PAPA has approached PAMHS about reviving and expanding the scope of "Port Days," to be held the weekend of May 28.
- The PAMHS Board has resolved to not hold collections, but to concentrate on presentation and interpretation, using borrowed objects.
- The PAMHS Board has resolved to hire a part-time Executive Director to assume many of the operational duties of the organization.

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

- The Variety Children's Charity 50th Show of Hearts Telethon is coming up on Global TV – February 13-14 weekend.
- A reminder about the Community Arts Council's Book Sale in support of the Rollin Art Centre.

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

- A busy time at the Multiplex, with the Peewee & Bantam Tournament coming up this weekend, as well as Bulldogs games.
- The Port Alberni Junior Hockey Society/AV Bulldogs Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction is coming up on February 12, at the Barclay Hotel.

6.8 Dan Washington reported for the City of Port Alberni

- Budget meetings as focus right now – some marathon sessions – about ¾ done, with currently a 0.3% increase over last year.
- Public budget session to be held at Echo Centre on February 10 at 6:30 – will provide more input on priorities.

6.9 Neil Malbon reported for McLean Mill

- There is a project underway to move the food services and gift shop at McLean Mill – the Steampot Café has been stripped bare, with the floor refinished, and the walls to be painted – sponsored by Jan Lavertu of West Coast Home Hardware. The gift shop will be moved to the former café, Neil's office will be moved, and the food services relocated to the current Visitor Centre.
- The concrete footings, posts, and beams for the lumber deck restoration are in place, and the project will be completed in March.
- Neil Malbon is acting as a peer reviewer for Young Canada Works grant applications from the province of Ontario.

6.10 Judy Carlson reported for the Alberni District Historical Society

- Working on signage for the Inlet Trail – supported by a grant in aid.
- The Archives Association of British Columbia is holding a workshop in Campbell River on March 3-4, and 3-4 ADHS volunteers are expected to participate. There will also be a visit from one of the AABC professional archivists to the ADHS Archives.
- The next public meeting hosted by the ADHS will be on March 17, with a focus on the community's Italian heritage, with author Lynne Bowen as the guest presenter.

6.11 Neil Malbon reported for the Chamber of Commerce

- The Community Excellence Awards are coming up on April 22 – applications to nominate are available at the Chamber office.

- The Chamber is partnering in the Alberni Valley Visitor Guide produced by the *Alberni Valley News*, which has taken over publication from the defunct *Alberni Valley Times*.
 - The Chamber presented its budget request to City Council, including an additional \$25,000 to participate in more trade shows to promote the region.
 - Work continues on the food & restaurant guide in partnership with ADSS – it is now up to 40 pages.
 - Seven local businesses were nominated for the Prime Minister's Award, and two were contacted in follow-up – West Coast Home Hardware, and Intergalactic Agency Ltd., the producer of the "Heart of Vancouver Island" website.
7. Other Business
- David Taberner mentioned that a model train show, with WVHHS participation, would be held on April 24 at Beban Park in Nanaimo.
8. Next Meeting
- 7:00 PM, Wednesday, March 2, 2016, at the AV Museum.
9. Adjournment
- Moved at 8:44 by Pam Craig to adjourn the meeting.



Gareth Flostrand, Chair
Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission

Davina Hartwell, City Clerk
City of Port Alberni