

Alberni Valley Museum
and Heritage Commission



**Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission
Meeting of Wednesday March 2, 2015
7:00 pm in the AV Museum**

Minutes

Attending:

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

Regrets:

David Taberner
Jolleen Dick
Neil Malbon
Bert Simpson

Called to order 7:02 PM.

1. Moved by Pam Craig, seconded by David Whitworth, that the agenda of the March 2, 2016 meeting be approved.
2. Moved by Judy Carlson, seconded by Pam Craig, that the minutes of the February 3, 2016 meeting, as distributed, be approved.
3. Correspondence
 - February 19 letter from the BC Arts Council confirming that the Alberni Valley Museum has been placed on Streamlined Status for a two-year funding cycle, with an annual award of \$65,000.
 - Also included comments on the evaluation criteria, relating to the role of the Heritage Commission, and encouraging higher levels of community input – this will be discussed as part of Item 4, below.

Museum and Heritage Commission City of Port Alberni

4255 Wallace Street Port Alberni BC Canada V9Y3Y6

TEL (250) 723 2181 FAX (250) 723 1035

4. Discussion of how the Heritage Commission could contribute to establishing exhibit and programming strategies for the AV Museum.
 - Penny Cote noted that 2016 was the 50th anniversary of the ACRD, and that some grant support may be available to develop commemorative exhibits or programs.
 - Dennis Bill noted that there were a number of potential Tsehshat First Nation initiatives:
 - a. Recognition of the 40th anniversary of Haahuupayak School.
 - b. The overall narrative history of the Tsehshat First Nation in the region.
 - c. An exhibit dealing with the Nuuchah Nulth language.
5. Setting Heritage Commission Priorities for 2016:
 - Presented City Council's February 9 motions relating to the development of an "alternate delivery model" for the AV Museum:

Recommendation No. 7

That Council conduct a review of non-core services, currently delivered by the Municipality.

It was moved and seconded:

That the City undertake a review of services currently provided that could be provided by a different level of government, by the private sector, or for which the City's service delivery could discontinue – target completion date November 1, 2016.

CARRIED

It was moved and seconded:

That Council for the City of Port Alberni announce that the City desires to work with the community and partners to determine an alternate delivery model for the museum and heritage services and further, that the City Manager and Director of Community Services be directed to provide a report including a proposed work plan for Council's consideration – target completion date July 1, 2017.

CARRIED

- Discussion followed – consensus that no direct action was to be taken by the Heritage Commission at this time, but that it would play an integral part in the development of a new operating model, under the leadership of Director of Community Services Theresa Kingston.
- Discussion concerning maintaining the relevance of the Heritage Commission – a number of possible initiatives were presented and discussed:
 - a. Producing a regular newsletter or series of reports on local heritage topics.
 - b. Developing and improving the Museum & Commission's web presence.
 - c. Developing a stronger social media presence.
 - d. Providing information sessions to City Council to educate it on heritage issues.
 - e. Promotional exercises such as "guess the artefact" contests.
 - f. Participate in the upcoming Cultural Mapping exercise being carried out by Vancouver Island University, examining "what's great about Port Alberni?"

6. Updates:

- McLean Mill – City Council moved to form a Management Board of up to seven people to operate McLean Mill & the APR, reporting to Council through the City's CAO – with terms of reference TBD. A meeting of Council's Personnel Committee will make appointments to the Board next week.

7. Reports:

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

- With support from the Christian Reformed Church and volunteers, the Upper Room Seafarer's Centre has been opened next to the Blue Door Café, as a place where visiting seamen can relax on shore and communicate with their homes.
- March 8 is International Women's Day, and a variety of activities and events are taking place locally to commemorate it.

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

- The AV Charity Golf Classic is taking place on July 8-9 – now accepting applications from organizations to share in the proceeds – in exchange for supplying prizes and volunteers – with a deadline of April 8.
- Jane Austen Fest is holding a costume workshop on Saturday March 5, from 11-2, at the Alberni Youth Centre.
- The Port Alberni Rock & Gem Show is taking place March 12-13 from 10-5, at the Cherry Creek Hall.
- Arrowsmith Rotary is presenting its Hops Festival on Saturday March 19 from 7-9 PM at Echo Centre.
- The Community Arts Council is holding its AGM at the AV Museum on March 3, with Kerry Mason presenting on Art Appraisal.

7.2 Dan Washington reported for the City of Port Alberni

- Council has received a number of letters in support of a City-operated Museum.
- Esso Beach has now been purchased.
- Five budget meetings were held in February, with the next one scheduled for March 14 – the current projection results in a 3.6% increase in property taxes.
- Council is working on the 2016 Action Plan, which includes a replacement swimming pool as one item.
- Russell Dyson had presented to Council on the subject of organic waste pickup – but such as program remained on hold, without a suitable site for composting.

7.3 Jamie Morton reported for the AV Museum

- Reported for the McLean Mill Advisory Committee concerning the development that was proceeding at the entry to McLean Mill NHS – stripping furnishings, refinishing floors, reconfiguring buildings, stocking the gift shop, landscaping, etc. under the direction of Jan Lavertu of Home Hardware.
- Film Fest is proceeding, with three scheduled films and good pre-sales – it should generate significant revenue for the Museum's education programs – the first showing will be Brooklyn, on March 13. Working on developing the ch – 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 was held at the Museum on February 18 in support of the upcoming *Pleasurable Diversions* exhibit – about 35 people attended, with a number offering further interviews, information, and artefacts in support of the exhibit.
- Work continues on preparations for the 2016 Heritage Fair, May 5-6.

7.4 Judy Carlson reported for the ADHS

- The planned March event has been cancelled.
- The next public event is Susan Quinn presenting "From Typewriter to Twitter," about the history of communication technology, at 7:00 PM on April 21 at the AV Museum.
- Three volunteers participated in an archives workshop in Campbell River, with an introductory day, and a description workshop the second day.
- The Archives had a visit from a professional archivist from the Vancouver Maritime Museum, who was pleased with the condition and operation of the ADHS Archives.

7.5 Penny Cote reported for the ACRD

- The ACRD is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.
- It is expected that the 2016 budget will be approved on March 23-24.
- The Airport expansion project is to go to tender soon – MP Gord Johns is still researching additional sources of funding.
- If the Airport project goes over \$6 million, the ACRD will need to go to referendum for approval.
- A new airport terminal could provide an opportunity to place historic artefacts, etc., to promote the region's heritage.

7.6 Pam Craig reported for the School Board

- February 24 was Pink Shirt/anti-bullying day, with all schools and students participating – led by the ADSS leadership class.
- Alberni Elementary held its Carnivale – a great event, with Bonhomme, etc. and a slideshow following.
- A lockdown exercise was held with the RCMP at A.W. Neill School – all went well.
- A Day of Mourning will be recognized on April 28 to commemorate the workers killed or injured in the workplace.
- The School Board will be meeting with the Ministry of Education on March 15-16, including a visit to the West Coast.
- The elementary school basketball program is being rebuilt, focused on a Jamboree as a culminating event.

7.7 Marta Williamson reported for the Community Arts Council

- The Community Arts Council is holding its AGM at the AV Museum on March 3, with Kerry Mason speaking on Art Appraisal.
- Please continue to bring books, audio-visual materials, etc. in support of the annual book sale.

7.8 David Whitworth reported for the PA Maritime Heritage Society

- Working on the planning and implementation of the outboard motor exhibit for the summer of 2016 – "The Cole Family Collection."
- The AGM is to be held on April 28, with the business meeting to be followed by a *Master & Commander*-themed Maritime Heritage Night.
- The next Maritime Heritage Night is to be held March 31, at the AV Museum, featuring Wayne Loiselle and Robert Turner presenting on sternwheelers in the Yukon.
- Former City Manager Ken Watson has agreed to join the Board of PAMHS.

- Some young [!] potential volunteers have come forward to assist with the wooden boat and shelter initiatives.
8. Other Business
- Penny Cote noted that the Island Agricultural Show had been hosted in Duncan, and that local advocates were excited about hosting it in the Alberni Valley in 2017 – it could provide an opportunity for heritage presentation.
 - David Whitworth mentioned that he, along with Bill Collette, Dwayne Parfitt, and Maggie Hodge Kwan, were engaged in the preparation of a \$300,000 grant application for the proposed Triconic Challenge event in 2017.
9. Next Meeting
- 7:00 PM, Wednesday, April 6, 2016, at the AV Museum.
10. Adjournment
- Moved at 8:48 by Pam Craig to adjourn the meeting.



Gareth Flostrand, Chair
Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission

Davina Hartwell, City Clerk
City of Port Alberni