

Alberni Valley Museum
and Heritage Commission



Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission
Meeting of Wednesday May 4, 2016
7:00 pm in the AV Museum

Minutes

Attending:

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

Regrets:

David Whitworth
David Taberner
Paul McDougall

Called to order 7:02 PM.

1. Moved by Pam Craig, seconded by Marta Williamson, that the agenda of the May 4, 2016 meeting be approved.
2. Moved by Penny Cote, seconded by Judy Carlson, that the minutes of the April 6, 2016 meeting, as distributed, be approved.
3. Correspondence
 - No correspondence to report.

Museum and Heritage Commission City of Port Alberni

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4. Setting Heritage Commission Priorities for 2016:
 - Discussion of 2016 priorities, raised at the April meeting – and confirmation to proceed with two already-initiated projects:
 - a. The preparation of heritage factsheet inserts to provide to VIRA members for distribution with listing materials.
 - b. The preparation and installation of plaques on the buildings already included in the Community Heritage Register.

5. Updates:
 - McLean Mill Governance – Jamie Morton outlined current developments:
 - a. The Board of Management (BOM) hosted an open house at McLean Mill on April 29, to present the changes being made to the contemporary use buildings and facilities at the entry to the site.
 - b. The BOM intends to establish itself as a non-profit Society, and to then take over the City of Port Alberni contract for the operation of McLean Mill NHS currently held by the WVIHS. The WVIHS contract expires in February 2017, and there is some discussion of ending it on December 31, 2016, to coincide with the calendar and fiscal years.
 - Gaiga Family Uptown Park Initiative:
 - a. Discussions have been held with Tseshahat and Hupacasath representatives concerning the presentation of First Nations interpretive themes in the new park. Historical content is also to be included in the interpretive material, with the AV Museum consulted.
 - Millstone Park Initiative:
 - a. Planning and grant application processes are to begin again for this project, to be completed for 2017.

6. Reports:
 - 6.1 Jolleen Dick reported for the Hupacasath First Nation.
 - Noted participation and consultation in the Gaiga park initiative.
 - Arrangements are being made for the Sunset Market for the 2016 season.
 - Preparations are under way for the fishing season.
 - A traditional territory map has been prepared and posted to the Web – hard copies are being printed also.
 - Preparation has started on a Clutesi Haven Development Proposal – this will start with a feasibility study, followed by a detailed business plan. The end result is envisioned as following the model of the Pike Place market in Seattle or the Granville Island market in Vancouver. The ACRD is supporting the initiative. There is discussion of including a community kitchen and food laboratory as part of the development – potentially partnering with other First Nations. A boat launch will be retained as part of the development.
 - 6.2 Neil Malbon reported for the Chamber of Commerce
 - Restaurant Guides are being printed for distribution.
 - The Community Excellence Awards were very well-received, with Patty Edwards being recognized as the Citizen of the Year.

- The Number 7/Feet vs. Steam Challenge was a big success, with 204 registrants, and 160 completing the route. There were many compliments about how well the event was run.
- Neil Malbon is stepping down as a Director of the Chamber, so will no longer be representing the organization on the Heritage Commission. A new representative will be appointed.

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

- The Solstice Arts Festival is to be held June 17-19, including the Days With the Arts tour, Art Rave, and other events, focused on the Rotary Arts District along Argyle Street.
- Van Isle Ford is holding a "Drive One 4 UR Community" event at John Howitt School on Saturday May 7, a fundraiser, with the dealership donating funds for each test drive. A portion of the proceeds will go to John Howitt School, and a portion to the Red Cross fund in support of those affected by the Fort McMurray fire.

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

- The Sunday Craft Market has returned at Spirit Square, held from 10:00 to 3:00.
- Portal Players continues to present "Someone Who'll Watch Over Me" at the Capital Theatre, with performances on May 6, 7, 13, & 14.
- The Scotiabank MS Walk on the Dyke is taking place on Sunday May 15, with either 3 or 6 km options – check-in is at 9:30 and the walk at 10:30.
- The Black Ty Gala to raise funds for Ty Watson House is taking place Saturday May 28 – tickets are \$100 each, and available at Echo Centre, from Ty Watson House, or online.
- The AV Bulldogs are holding a "Garage Sale" fundraiser on Wednesday, May 11 from 10:00 – 3:00 at the Multiplex.

6.4 Dan Washington reported for the City of Port Alberni

- The Dry Creek project is now complete – and came in on budget.
- The Gertrude Bridge is now open – but this project ended up costing nearly double the projected budget.
- Councilor Sharie Minions gave birth to her expected baby on May 1.

6.5 Neil Malbon reported for McLean Mill NHS

- The Alberni Bowmen event attracted 176 registered shooters – a successful event, with a two-day event discussed for next year.
- Cruise ship tours are starting, with 2 groups in May, of 44 and 78 visitors, respectively – more are coming later in the season.
- J.J. Logging has completed the new log dump/A-Frame structure.
- It is expected that the new kitchen/food services facility will be ready for operation by June 1.

6.6 Pam Craig reported for the School Board

- Thanks for community participation in the interviews for the graduate exit survey – another session is scheduled for May 20.
- The School District has received grant funding for a "Shoulder Tapping" program, in cooperation with the career centre, which will present the various career options available to students.

- Heritage Fair preparation is intense the week before the event, with the train ride, workshops, judging, etc. all being organized and coordinated.
- Dennis Bill noted the activity at ADSS, hosting a band festival, and with a track meet being held today/May 4.

6.7 Marta Williamson reported for the Community Arts Council

- The next exhibit at the Rollin Art Centre will feature the work of Linda Ross.
- June 17-19 is the Solstice Arts Festival, including the Days With the Arts.
- Two windows in the Coulson/former Woodward's building have been donated to be decorated to promote the Solstice Arts Festival, as well as the Jane Austen Festival.
- The CAC Book Sale has "a trillion" books available, and will be held from 6:00-9:00 PM on Friday, May 13, and all day on Saturday, May 14.
- A garden "blitz" was held last Saturday, and Val Deakin is working on the new Native Garden.
- The CAC is one of the charities that is included in the upcoming Charity Golf event.
- The CAC is promoting the use of the Rollin Centre and Gardens for Celebration of Life events – with a rental fee of \$250.

6.8 Judy Carlson reported for the ADHS

- The organization's AGM is coming up on Thursday, May 19, at the AV Museum. Glen Mofford, author of "Aqua Vitae," an upcoming book on the bars of Victoria, will be presenting on the history of the Arlington Hotel.

6.9 Jamie Morton reported for the AV Museum

- In the staffing process for the two grant-funded summer student positions, with 19 qualifying applications received.
- Work continues on research, design, and preparation for *Vacation Land: Pleasurable Diversions in the Alberni Valley* – the summer exhibit for the AV Museum. The Parks carpenters & WVHHS volunteer Mike Hobson installed and staged the McLoughlin Buick, volunteers at the IHC prepared the car for exhibit, photo murals were installed and wall exhibit sections were defined with wallpaper and wooden boards define exhibit zones. Objects in the collection from the Cameron Lake Chalet were moved from permanent galleries to the temporary gallery for inclusion in the exhibit.
- Museum birthday parties remain popular, with several held in the past month.
- Preparation activity is increasing in anticipation of the 14th Annual Regional Heritage Fair, with 100 students registered, to be hosted by the AV Museum May 6-7.
- The success of the AV Museum Film Fest following the two April showings resulted in a total attendance of over 1,000 viewers for the three films. This should generate nearly \$3,500 net revenue, after expenses, in support of the Museum's educational and outreach programs. We anticipate offering a Fall 2016 series to build on this success. Thanks are due to Education Curator Shelley Harding, and the volunteer Film Fest Committee of Denny Durocher, Robert Gunn, and Daniel Webb, who with their hard work have made this program possible.

6.10 Dennis Bill reported for the Tseshah First Nation.

- As a participant, noted how impressive the Number 7 Challenge event had been.
- Met with Stacey Gaiga concerning First Nations interpretation in the new Uptown park.
- Connie Watts is hosting an art show at her residence this weekend – May 7-8 – at her home on Hector Road – all are welcome.

- The Tseshah First Nation elections are coming up, and Dennis Bill is not running this time, so will be leaving his seat on Council, and will no longer be the Tseshah representative to the Heritage Commission – a new representative will be appointed.

6.11 Penny Cote reported for the ACRD

- Penny Cote was elected Member at Large in the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities at the recent AVICC conference.
- Bowerman Excavating was awarded the contract for the airport expansion.
- The June 6-7 Provincial Emergency Preparedness event is coming up, and Penny Cote intends to raise the issue of the handling of the Dog Mountain Fire in the summer of 2015 with the provincial authorities. She noted the existence of a jointly funded [CPA, ACRD, UBCM] "Fire Smart" wildfire study commissioned in 2010, but with few of its recommendations implemented. Some discussion ensued concerning local forest fire fighting strategies, and who should manage them.
- Pam Craig noted that there was a public call for volunteers for the Emergency Preparedness events, with an informational event to be held at the Capital Theatre on May 17 at 7:00 PM. The province's "shaker trailer" earthquake simulation device would be in Port Alberni on May 31.

6.12 Bert Simpson reported for the WVIHS.

- The Number 7 Baldwin locomotive was completed and running for the May 1 Number 7 Challenge event – the "Big Yellow Speeder" also running.
- Catalyst has donated rail and switches from its decommissioned rail lines, which will be salvaged by WVIHS volunteers.
- McLean Mill is starting seasonal operations in June, but with the Cruise Ship tours, Mother's Day, and other events taking place in May – WVIHS volunteers are working at the Mill, on preparations for the steam logging show, and on getting the trucks ready for the season. The log dump/A-Frame is complete, and a logging arch has been moved to the entry as part of the development there.
- The WVIHS has accepted the donation of a very original and operating Ottawa Drag Saw to incorporate into the steam logging demonstration area.

7. Next Meeting

- 7:00 PM, Wednesday, June 1, 2016, at the AV Museum.

8. Adjournment

- Moved at 8:13 by Pam Craig to adjourn the meeting.



Gareth Flostrand, Chair
Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission

Davina Hartwell, City Clerk
City of Port Alberni