

Alberni Valley Museum
and Heritage Commission



Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission
Meeting of Wednesday January 8, 2014
7:00 pm in the Museum

Minutes

Attending:

Mike McDowall, Chair
Gareth Flostrand
Marta Williamson
Penny Cote
Darrell Ross
Dennis Bill
Neil Malbon
Dan Washington
David Taberner
Bert Simpson
Pam Craig
Jamie Morton, Manager of Museum, Heritage & Culture

Regrets:

Gayle Stephen Player
Judy Carlson

1. Moved by David Taberner, seconded by Pam Craig, that the minutes of the December 4, 2013 meeting be approved.
2. Centennial (Harrison) Legacy Fund – submissions and discussion.
 - Received to date: written application for ADHS research room improvements; verbal application from IHS.
 - Total fund is currently \$17,951.36 – of which \$14,520.91 came from remaining Centennial 2012 grant funds, and \$3,430.45 from the original Harrison fund.
 - Marta Williamson clarified that the Centennial funds were to be used to fulfil Centennial Committee commitments, with the remainder added to the Centennial Legacy Fund, with a primary focus on the heritage signage program.
 - Other projects discussed were the Centennial Pond at the Museum entry, and the Time Capsule – but the fund is probably not adequate to complete these projects as well as adding new heritage signs – Penny Cote mentioned the relocation of the proposed site of the time capsule from under the pond.

Museum and Heritage Commission City of Port Alberni

4255 Wallace Street Port Alberni BC Canada V9Y3Y6

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

- Pam Craig asked about the cost of the signs, and Marta Williamson recommended that the heritage sign program proceed.
 - Bert Simpson inquired about a separate Harrison fund within the Legacy fund – consensus was that just one fund should be maintained.
 - Discussion of application protocols – outlined to some extent in the formation document – Marta Williamson recommended only written applications be accepted – Neil Malbon inquired about the size of grant available, using the Rotary grants as an example – a committee is to meet to determine the answers to these questions.
3. Paper Mill Stones Monument – relocation recommendations from organizations:
- David Taberner for the IHS - Victoria Quay.
 - Marta Williamson for CAC – Echo Centre.
 - Pam Craig for the School Board – Echo Centre.
 - Gareth Flostrand for the ADHS – Stamp & Redford [the former location of the #2 locomotive].
 - Discussion – then recommendation to suggest 3 locations, Victoria Quay, Echo Centre, and Harbour Quay, and present this to the public as an open-ended survey, including suggestions. Dan Washington to take this forward to Council & City Hall. to disassemble, move, and re-erect the monument.
 - Commissioners will get input from their organizations, and prioritize choices at the next meeting.
 - The idea of public input – with a survey or referendum – was raised, to get a sense of the wider community's choices for the monument.
4. Kevin Wright to Present at February 5 meeting
- J. Morton outlined the intent – to promote fam tours of the Heritage attractions for front line service industry workers.
 - Endorsed by the Commission – Mr. Wright & guests to be invited to the February meeting.
5. Setting Heritage Commission Priorities for 2014:
- 5.a – Collections policy development phase 1 – tours of the various facilities & collections
 - Discussion – and decision to incorporate these visits with the March, April, May and June HC meetings
 - March – AV Museum & ADHS archives
 - April – Maritime Discovery Centre & Train Station
 - May – Roundhouse & Industrial Heritage Centre
 - June – McLean Mill NHS
 - 5.b – Promotion and marketing – with emphasis on collaboration
 - Many suggestions made – Penny Cote mentioned the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board; Pam Craig raised the possibility of contests – like the RBCM's photo contest; Neil Malbon noted the promotion raised by Bill Collette of the Chamber of Commerce – using historic vehicles as “billboards” – also mentioned partnering with the Chamber, AV Tourism, and Community Futures, in promotional efforts; discussion of regular newspaper/print media articles – and raising the Kristi Dobson historical

columns in the AV Times; Mike McDowall mentioned the use of social media, supported by Penny Cote, who recommended the use of both organizational and Heritage Network sites; Pam Craig and Neil Malbon noted the importance of consistent updating and maintenance of such platforms

- Following this discussion a motion was made by Pam Craig, seconded by Penny Cote, and passed unanimously, directing that a social media presence be established by the Alberni Valley Museum/Heritage Network, to be updated on a regular schedule [weekly at a minimum], with links established to the various heritage and cultural organizations in the Alberni Valley.

- 5.b – Sustainability and succession planning in the heritage sector.
- Tabled to a later date.

6. Reports:

6.1 Neil Malbon reported for McLean Mill

- The extension of the Island Timberlands agreement has been finalized to permit the relocation of the historic logging display.
- The spar tree has been lowered – good progress in preparation for the stream relocation at the Mill.
- The dismantling and reconstruction of the lumber deck under the Parks Canada grant has started.

6.2 David Taberner and Bert Simpson reported for the IHS

- The rebuilding of the steam donkey from the historic logging display has started with its disassembly.
- The #7 locomotive is being inspected for its annual maintenance – things are looking good so far.
- Work continues on rebuilding several trucks in the IHC.
- Planning is starting for the BCIT training in March.

6.3 Mike McDowall reported for the PA Maritime Heritage Society

- The Service Canada summer job application was submitted in December 2013.

6.4 Gareth Flostrand reported for the Alberni District Historical Society

- Reported on the mostly completed renovations to the research area of the archives.
- The new microform reader/printer unit is coming soon.

6.5 Jamie Morton reported for the AV Museum

- Shelley presented 10 Pioneer Christmas programs at the Train Station, and has been doing early planning and organization for the 2014 Heritage Fair.
- Heritage Commission Christmas Social and Heritage Awards – very successful event, attended by over 100 guests.
- Continued to work on McLean Mill Kitsuksis Creek project – meetings, negotiations with stakeholders, financial planning, etc.
- Coordinating Heritage Commission & AV Museum involvement in the proposed relocation/donation of the Paper Mill Stones Monument.

- Coordinating renovations to the Archives reference room to improve the facility for the Alberni District Historical Society, and permit the installation of a new microform reader/printer that will enable document searches.
- Developing exhibit plans for the Maritime Discovery Centre and the Historic Train Station, in order to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Tsunami.

6.6 Dennis Bill reported for the Tseshaht First Nation

- Connie Watts is working on the residential school memorial – layout is mostly done, and construction to start soon.
- Guardians program implemented for the Broken Group Islands and Barkley Sound – both to protect resources and provide information and assistance to visitors to the area.
- Guest Darrell Ross mentioned the Tseshaht initiative to develop an exhibit for the Maritime Discovery Centre – establishing an MOU with the PAMHS & waiting on funding news – beginning interpretive training for Tseshaht members.

6.7 Marta Williamson reported for the Community Arts Council

- Fundraising book sale at Echo Centre scheduled for May 10 – donations welcomed.
- January 18 – fundraising event with the Travellers at the Capital Theatre – tickets available at the Rollin Art Centre.
- A silent auction is held each month as a fundraiser.

6.8 Neil Malbon reported for the Chamber of Commerce

- A new website has just been launched.
- There are plans to install a gift shop in the Visitor Centre – RFP is going out.
- “Business for business” event to be held at Quality Foods on January 17.

6.9 Gareth Flostrand reported for the community at large

- Noted the problem getting volunteers for local charities – the Red Cross Loan Cupboard threatening to close, and Meals on Wheels also in trouble.
- Ron Caldwell [ironically a former owner] won the Bulldogs raffle.
- Fundraising dinner planned for the Athletic Hall on February 28 - \$60 per person – until January 31 a table of 8 can be booked for the price of 7 people.

6.10 Pam Craig reported for the School District

- This weekend [Jan.10-12] the Totem Tournament – Saturday night will be the Wall of Fame induction – 12 teams coming from other communities – cost is \$14 for a weekend pass, or \$8 per evening.
- Wrestling Invitational coming in February.

6.11 Penny Cote reported for the Regional District

- Budget preparation is underway.
- Penny Cote would like to hold a referendum on developing a regional heritage service in November.
- Recommending the Nuuchah-nulth language classes offered at North Island College.

6.12 Dan Washington reported for City Council

- The Polar Bear swim held at Canal Beach on January 1 was a massive success – parking and traffic the only identified issues.
- The City is proceeding through the budget process.

7. Next Meeting

- 7:00 PM, Wednesday, February 5, 2014, at the AV Museum.

8. Adjournment

- Moved at 9:10 by Pam Craig, seconded by David Taberner, to adjourn the meeting.



Mike McDowall, Chair
Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission

Davina Hartwell, City Clerk
City of Port Alberni