

Alberni Valley Museum
and Heritage Commission



Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission
Meeting of Wednesday June 1, 2016
7:00 pm in the AV Museum

Minutes

Attending:

Bert Simpson
Judy Carlson
David Whitworth
David Taberner
Paul McDougall
Penny Cote
Nancy Blair [for Marta Williamson]
Libby Manson
Neil Malbon
Pam Craig
Jamie Morton, Manager of Museum, Heritage and Culture

Regrets:

Jolleen Dick
Dan Washington
Gareth Flostrand
Marta Williamson

Called to order 7:04 PM.

1. Moved by David Whitworth, seconded by Judy Carlson, that the agenda of the June 1, 2016 meeting be approved.
2. Moved by Judy Carlson, seconded by Nancy Blair, that the minutes of the May 4, 2016 meeting, as distributed, be approved.
3. Correspondence
 - No correspondence to report.

4. Updates:

- McLean Mill Governance – Bert Simpson and Jamie Morton summarized recent developments:
 - a. There is some ambiguity concerning membership of the Board of Management (BOM) – but it looks like the core group remains the same.
 - b. Work is proceeding on preparing materials to create a non-profit Society to assume this role, providing a legal entity to contract with the City to operate McLean Mill NHS.
 - c. The BOM, WVIHHS, & City met last week to discuss the transition to BOM management in 2017 and operations for 2016. The WVIHHS will continue to operate the facility in 2016, with input and advice from the BOM. Areas of responsibility in 2017 were discussed, with the WVIHHS retaining an active role in operating the train, Mill, and logging show, as requested by the BOM, and with the City retaining overall responsibility for the preservation and presentation of the Historic Zone at the Mill, as well as for relations with Parks Canada.
 - d. The kitchen/food services renovation is proceeding, with the WVIHHS, at the direction of the BOM, purchasing an installed commercial kitchen, and engaging the vendor as an employee of McLean Mill for the summer season.
 - e. Concern was expressed by several Commissioners about the way the McLean Mill NHS management process was going forward, primarily due to the lack of transparency and unclear reporting arrangements.
- Museum Operational/Organizational Study:
 - a. Discussion of this, and implications for the Heritage Commission. No direct action will be taken by the Heritage Commission at this time, pending the outcome of the Community Steering Committee being led by Director of Community Services Theresa Kingston.
 - b. The recommendation was that the Commission should proceed with two existing initiatives: to approach the Vancouver Island Real Estate Association about including heritage information in packages distributed to potential home buyers; to proceed with developing, producing and installing plaques on the seven designated buildings in the City.

5. Reports:

5.1 Neil Malbon reported for McLean Mill NHS

- Two cruise ship tours were hosted in May, with more to come later in the season.
- June 11 will be the Spring Steam Special, with a Father's Day event, and the Mayor's Steam Weekend opening the summer season on June 28.
- The Parks Canada cost-sharing program continues, with work to be done on the back side of the Mill, and on two trusses, over the green chain and over the log haul.
- Grants have been approved to hire six summer students, from two federal agencies.

5.2 Pam Craig reported for the School Board

- A very busy season, with First Nations celebrations at a number of schools, including Maquinna, E.J. Dunn, A.W. Neill, and ADSS – lots of activities taking place.

- Ucluelet Secondary School is hosting its graduation ceremony, as is VAST and ADSS, with the Project-Based Learning program holding its recognition on June 7.
- This Friday, June 3 is the elementary school track meet.
- The District budget of some \$40 million will be finalized on June 7.

5.3 Nancy Blair [for Marta Williamson] reported for the Community Arts Council

- Art of the Schools – representing four classes – was presented at the Rollin Art Centre.
- The Solstice Arts Festival will be held from June 17-19; it will incorporate a number of components and participants, including Days with the Arts, Art Rave, Portal Players, and Art Matters. Tickets are available at the Rollin Art Centre and Chars Landing, at \$20 per adult, \$15 for discounted tickets, and \$50 for a family.
- Four Tea on the Terrace events are planned for the Rollin Arts Centre for July and August.
- The CAC Book Sale was very successful, generating revenue similar to that of last year.
- The Rollin gardens were now available for Celebration of Life events, with a rental cost of \$250, with an additional \$200 if a tent is included.

5.4 Libby Manson reported for the Community at Large.

- On June 10 a potlatch is to be held at EJ Dunn School to celebrate its new beginning as an elementary school. Mayor & Council have been invited.
- Pam Craig noted that a new dance and other forms of recognition have been prepared for the event.

5.5 Judy Carlson reported for the ADHS

- The ADHS has struck a committee to study the impact of the changes to the BC Societies Act on the organization.
- At its AGM, the organization resolved to write a letter to Council concerning its proposed change to City street names.
- Also at the AGM, author Glen Mofford presented on the history of the Arlington Hotel.
- At the October 20 meeting, author Lynne Bowen will be speaking on the topic of Italian immigration.

5.6 Penny Cote reported for the ACRD

- Offered a reminder of the upcoming June 7-10 Provincial Emergency Preparedness event is coming up this week.
- Attended the CUVIC conference at the University of Victoria, examining the themes of reconciliation and engagement – linking language, law, food, etc. in colonization – and attempts toward redress – for example the admission of oral testimony as legal evidence – noting the issue of translation and lack of context when English text/law was translated into First Nations languages.
- Pam Craig noted the production of new videos dealing with First Nations parenting – “The Parenting Path” – a valuable resource, produced by Kerry Robertson.
- Penny Cote inquired about the videos produced for the “Where is Here?” cultural mapping project carried out by VIU – Pam Craig noted they were now available online, and should be linked to the City of Port Alberni website.
- The West Coast Aquatics aquarium is now open at Harbour Quay, with a grand opening this weekend – raising the idea of a “welcome” sign and artwork on its roof, to be viewed from above.

5.7.a David Taberner reported for the WVIHS.

- The cruise ship visits & tours in May were very successful – noted many compliments about the food produced by Liz Malbon and the volunteers at the Mill.

5.7.b Bert Simpson reported for the WVIHS.

- Noted that more machinery has been taken to McLean Mill – in particular Les Stevens and Mike Hobson are working on developing a live steam show to present near the sawmill building, and intend to restore the machinery and line shafting in the Millwright's Shed to operational status, including the steam engine.
- The "Big Yellow Speeder" ran successfully as an attraction for Port Day, May 28.
- The salvaging of the Catalyst-donated rail and switches from its decommissioned rail lines is turning out to be a big job for the WVIHS volunteers – much of the salvaged material will be used to develop a rail siding at Coombs, which will be used to promote the Mill & train operation in Port Alberni.
- Cliff West and Bob East returned from a successful visit to the 900-truck American Truck Historical Society show in Salem Oregon. Largely funded by donations, they were able to display the McLean Mill "Red Hayes" and were able to attract a group of 35 truck enthusiasts from the Netherlands to the Alberni Valley to view the Industrial Collection.

5.8 David Whitworth reported for the PA Maritime Heritage Society.

- PAMHS has received its annual gaming grant, as well as an ACRD grant to support the construction of a shelter over the *Swan*.
- The organization's AGM was held, with the current Board re-elected, and with the addition of Ken Watson as a Director.
- Funds have been approved to hire three summer students for 10 weeks.
- A children's program will be offered on Mondays again this season.
- Port Day on May 28 was a great success, with many visitors attracted to the MDC.
- A number of new artefacts have been received by PAMHS, from Cape Beale, which have been placed in the Lighthouse.
- The new boardwalk being constructed at Fishermen's Harbour will present a new opportunity for heritage interpretation – hopefully will be realized.
- The new exhibit features 30 outboard motors from the Cole Family collection – Penny Cote noted that this could be cross-promoted with the events surrounding the Sproat Lake regatta.

5.9 Jamie Morton reported for the AV Museum.

- The Museum will be hosting a social event on June 6 for participants in the Emergency Preparedness Drill. A temporary exhibit and slideshow presenting the events of the 1964 tsunami, as well as other exhibits, will be prepared and presented as part of this.
- We are pleased to have our two students from last summer, Emma and Jonathan, returning again this year, starting on June 16 – they will be based at the Train Station much of the time, offering walking tours, exhibits, and programming.
- Work continues on preparation and installation of *Vacation Land: Pleasurable Diversions in the Alberni Valley* – the summer exhibit for the AV Museum. Objects and cases are being installed, and text and image panels prepared and installed. We have received some more loaned objects, and have done some more interviews, to provide more content for the exhibit, which will be informally opening in late June.
- The birthday party program remains popular.
- May 6-7 the AVM hosted another successful North Island Regional Heritage Fair – with participation by 100 students plus about 70 volunteers (including Heritage Commissioners) as judges, organizers, and presenters. Three students,

representing Ucluelet and Courtenay, have been selected to represent the North Island our region at the Provincial Heritage Fair in Vancouver in July.

6. Other Business

- David Taberner noted the 50th Anniversary of the BC Forest Discovery Centre in Duncan is coming up, with a range of demonstrations and events to be offered – he is attending as a representative of the WVIHS.
- Neil Malbon noted the historical significance of the revived Soapbox Derby races, and wondered if the AV Museum should become involved for this reason.
- Pam Craig mentioned the Rotary sponsorship of the event.

7. Next Meeting

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

8. Adjournment

- Moved at 8:25 by Bert Simpson to adjourn the meeting.



Gareth Flostrand, Chair
Alberni Valley Museum and Heritage Commission

Davina Hartwell, City Clerk
City of Port Alberni