



MINUTES

Heritage Revitalization Advisory Commission (HRAC)

Thursday, March 8, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, City Hall

PRESENT: Chair – Jennifer Robinson; Members – Allen McDermid, Tamara Hutchinson, Brian McLaurin, and Peter Blumel; LDHS Member – Maureen Martin; Council Liaison – Councillor Bill Drysdale; Staff Liaison and Recorder – Angela Vincent-Lewis

ABSENT: Lynne Brown

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m.

1. AGENDA

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Agenda of March 8, 2012 be approved with the following addition to New Business: 7(c) Museum Tour.

2. MINUTES

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Minutes of February 9, 2012 be approved.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a. Heritage Façade Grant Program

The options for a Heritage Façade Grant program were reviewed from the previous HRAC meeting. It was determined that there was a need for further research into grant possibilities and the need for upgrades to downtown commercial buildings. P. Blumel volunteered to complete a brief survey of the buildings to determine the need for basic improvements, especially paint. B. McLaurin will assist with the review and assessment once the initial survey is complete. A. McDermid volunteered to complete research into examples of façade grants from other municipalities. Members also considered the idea of adding additional buildings to the Community Heritage Register with or without a Statement of Significance.

4. COUNCIL REFERRALS/UPDATES

None.

5. SIGN/FAÇADE APPLICATIONS

a. Sign Development Permit Application - LDHS Museum – 721 First Avenue

Members reviewed and supported the Museum signage proposal.

It was moved, seconded and carried that the Heritage Revitalization Advisory Commission recommend the sign proposal for the Ladysmith Museum at 721 First Avenue.

6. HERITAGE PROJECT UPDATES

a. Heritage Building Plaques

A. Vincent-Lewis reported that all seven buildings owners have agreed to display the heritage buildings plaques. Three of the plaques were installed during Heritage Week, and the remaining plaques will be installed soon. It was noted that there was positive feedback about the plaques, and other heritage building owners have inquired about additional plaques.

Commission members were asked to consider a concern raised by the owners of the Nicholson Block (436 First Avenue), also the owners of the Wigwam restaurant. The owners expressed concern that the plaque didn't include the Wigwam name, despite

the longevity of the restaurant, and have requested that the Commission consider including the Wigwam as a title on the plaque with the option of removing the Nicholson Block name.

It was clarified that the cost to edit and re-manufacture the plaque would be minimal.

Commission members were concerned that the building's earlier history would be lost with the removal of the Nicholson Block name, but agreed to consider including the Wigwam name and date established. Members determined that further research was required to accurately represent the age of the restaurant. A. McDermid volunteered to research this topic with the help of the Ladysmith & District Historical Society. Members J. Lush, B. McLaurin and A. McDermid volunteered to meet with the Nicholson Block owners to discuss the history and changes to the plaque, prior to ordering a new plaque.

b. Heritage Week Display by LDHS

M. Martin reported that the Heritage Week display was located at the First Avenue window façade from February 17th to February 28th. Commission members thanked the LDHS for their hard work, and agreed to send a card from the Commission.

c. Transfer Beach Pictorial

A. McDermid presented a summary of the Pictorial Sub-Committee's research and meeting on February 20th. Ideas included 5-6 interpretive panels anchored in a circular shape, potentially sheltered with a roof. Options for the location of the pictorial site were discussed. It was determined that the location would be influenced by sites of interest, including views, landmarks, and archival photos. A. Vincent-Lewis will provide aerial maps to the sub-committee to assist in mapping sites of interest.

Additional design features included the use of QR codes on the panels, First Nations carvings, and a focus on accessibility.

The sub-committee will consider developing alternative plans based on funding availability.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Vancouver Heritage Foundation course report

A. Vincent-Lewis provided a report from the Heritage 101 course taken with the Vancouver Heritage Foundation on March 3rd. The course linked the theory and practice of heritage conservation in a hands-on approach and highlighted the importance of planning, research and observation when undertaking a project. Examples of heritage protection and incentives in Vancouver were reviewed. During the course, it was noted that municipalities such as Ladysmith could consider an informal file system to record citizen's input and stories, data, and trivia along with formal records.

b. Friends of Morden Mine report

A. McDermid updated the Commission on projects undertaken by the Friends of Morden Mine. The group is seeking funding to preserve the deteriorating tipple structure as both an artifact and a memorial to miners. Fundraising efforts include a commemorative coin designed to celebrate the mine's 100th birthday, selling bricks for a memorial wall at the structure, and mine tours. A. McDermid noted that MLA Leonard Krog raised the importance of preserving the Morden Mine in the legislature on February 23rd 2012.

- c. Museum Tour
M. Martin suggested that Commission members meet at the new museum building for a tour at the next meeting. It was agreed that members would meet at the Museum (721 First Avenue) at 7pm for the tour, and then hold the regular meeting afterwards at the Council Chambers.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Heritage BC Quarterly – Winter 2012
Copies of the Heritage BC Quarterly were distributed to Commission members.
- b. British Columbia Association of Heritage Professionals
The British Columbia Association of Heritage Professionals sent a letter to the Commission detailing the group's efforts to create a register of heritage professionals in BC.

9. NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 12, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. – Meet at the LDHS Museum for a tour, to be followed by a meeting at the Council Chambers, City Hall.

10. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved, seconded and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Chair (J. Robinson)

RECEIVED:

Corporate Officer (S. Bowden)