



COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

MINUTES

An Open meeting of the Community Heritage Commission was held in the Council Committee Room, Burnaby City Hall, 4949 Canada Way, Burnaby, B.C. on Thursday, **2016 April 07** at 6:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

PRESENT: Councillor Colleen Jordan, Chair
Councillor Nick Volkow, Vice Chair
Councillor James Wang, Member
Ms. Maurya Biswell, Citizen Representative
Mr. Philip Finlayson, Citizen Representative
Ms. Ruby Johnson, Honorary Member Emeritus
Ms. Les Lee Lowe, Burnaby Historical Society Representative
Mr. James Jang, Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission Representative
Ms. Coni O'Neill, Citizen Representative
Mr. Harry Pride, Historian

ABSENT: Ms. Margaret Bell, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Mr. Dennis Back, City Clerk
Mr. Jim Wolf, Senior Long Range Planner
Ms. Helen Lee, Long Range Planner
Ms. Deborah Tuytens, Museum Services Supervisor
Ms. Rebecca Pasch, City Archivist
Ms. Blanka Zeinabova, Administrative Officer

The Chair called the Open meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. MINUTES

- a) **Minutes of the Community Heritage Commission
Open meeting held on 2016 February 04**

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER O'NEILL
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOWE

THAT the minutes of the Open meeting of the Community Heritage Commission held on 2016 February 04 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

- a) **Ellen van Eijnsbergen, Director/Curator, Burnaby Art Gallery**
Re: Public Art Proposal

Ms. Ellen Eijnsbergen withdrew her presentation prior to the meeting.

- b) **Kathy Bossort, Oral Historian**
Re: Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project

Ms. Kathy Bossort, Oral Historian, appeared before the Commission providing an overview of the Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project. The purpose of the Project was to collect narratives from people involved in events and developments on Burnaby Mountain, primarily between 1930 and 2015. A wide range of topics are talked about, including recreation and other uses made of the mountain, the mountain as home and the site of institutions and industry, the setting aside and managing of parkland on the mountain, and values assigned to the natural and cultural features of the mountain. Stories about Simon Fraser University are largely related to its site on Burnaby Mountain and the university's relationship to the City of Burnaby.

The Project consisted of three parts – background research and prospective interviewees; contacting prospective interviewees and conducting interviews; and description of the interviews for the Burnaby Heritage website.

Ms. Bossort provided a list of people interviewed, and a brief description of each interview. In total, 23 people were interviewed in 18 sessions. Some of Ms. Bossort's favourite interviews were with Basil Luksun and Jack Belhouse, members of the Stoney Creek Environment Committee, Alekxos Sarter, Henry deJong, Rick Sporns, Dr. Ron Baker, Ron Burton, Mayor Corrigan, Tony Fabian, Lee Rankin and Mary Lumby.

The speaker provided a sample of an interview with Basil Luksun and Jack Belhouse, reflecting back to 1974 and their joint report "Public Meetings Phase I" on defining boundaries for conservation area on Burnaby Mountain.

The Commission thanked Ms. Bossort for her good work, and inquired if it is possible to include pictures, written description or background story on the screen while the interviews are played.

Staff undertook to investigate.

Staff noted that the interviews will be launched and available for public on the Heritage Burnaby website on April 08 (*this has been delayed to April 11*).

Councillor Jordan inquired if it is possible to have a Facebook announcement as well, advising about the launch.

4. **CORRESPONDENCE**

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER PRIDE
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BISWELL

THAT the correspondence be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

a) **Correspondence from the Burnaby Village Museum** **Re: Rivers to Sea Regional Heritage Fair**

Correspondence was received from Ms. Lorenda Calvert, Heritage Fair Coordinator, Burnaby Village Museum, advising that the Rivers to Sea Regional Heritage Fair will be held on 2016 May 06 and 07 at the Burnaby Village Museum, and seeking financial support in the amount of \$500 to assist with the Fair. This money is used to update the perpetual award each year and to provide students with small keeper plaques. Funds have also been used to purchase prizes including historical books and games that are awarded to students for a job well done. Ms. Calvert also inquired Commissioners assistance with judging the Fair.

Arising from discussion, the following motion was introduced:

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER JANG
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR VOLKOW

THAT the Commission approve \$500 to fund the City of Burnaby Award for the 2016 Rivers to Sea Regional Heritage Fair.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Commissioner Lowe encouraged members to volunteer as judges at the Fair.

b) **Correspondence from Margaret Bell** **Re: Resignation**

Correspondence was received from Ms. Margaret Bell, Citizen Representative, advising of her resignation from the Commission due to relocation to Victoria.

Ms. Bell thanked the Commission for the opportunity to be a part of Heritage Burnaby, and expressed best wishes to Council and staff with future endeavors

of protecting and displaying the history of the City for all to see via digital information or in an original location.

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR WANG

SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FINLAYSON

THAT a letter be sent to Ms. Bell thanking her for her years of service on the Heritage Commission.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

Rebecca Pasch, City Archivist – Archives Update

Ms. Pasch advised that staff have completed the work of gathering quantitative data of its entire holdings, including backlogged records. Data measured includes how much space the physical records in the Archives' holdings occupy, which City departments regularly transfer their records of permanent value, and which record types are frequently requested. This data was required to assist in making decisions about storage space requirements, and how the Archives will operate going forward.

The speaker further advised that the Burnaby Mountain Oral History Project will be launched and published on-line on 2016 April 08 as part of the Heritage Burnaby website.

Ms. Pasch noted that digitization of 1970s Council minutes will be the next staff project.

Deborah Tuytens, Museum Services Supervisor – Burnaby Village Museum Update

Ms. Tuytens noted that during Spring Break, the Museum welcomed 8,800 visitors (in comparison to 3,100 visitors in 2015). This year, the Heritage Adventure Guide is available for purchase. The Guide provides hands on experience in the Museum, and to-date 459 Guides were sold.

The speaker noted that the Museum will be open for Summer Season on May 07, offering a new exhibit "Technology Before the Smartphone".

Helen Lee, Long Range Planner – Swinging Girl

Ms. Lee advised that the lights on the Swinging Girl neon sign are fading, metal body is deteriorating as well, and the sign will need to be refurbished and repainted. The work will be funded from the 2016 Heritage Building Funds.

Councillor Volkow inquired regarding the Eagle Ford neon sign.

Staff advised that the sign has been purchased from a collector and stored. The sign needs restoration; however, the City awaits development opportunities on Hastings Street to determine location before the sign is restored and mounted.

Arising from discussion, the following motion was introduced:

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR VOLKOW
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WANG

THAT staff consider alternative location options, and report back on the cost and feasibility of restoring the Eagle Ford neon sign.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Jim Wolf, Senior Long Range Planner – Heritage Programs

Mr. Wolf advised that a report on Labour History in Burnaby will be submitted to the June meeting.

Staff is also looking into different ways to infuse heritage programs into City's events, i.e. Rivers Day.

The speaker noted that staff is working on a project using census data from 1901 and 1911, and a report will be submitted at a future date.

Councillor Jordan – Women's Historic Clothing Collection

Councillor Jordan noted that discussions are underway to house Mr. Sayers' collection of women's historic clothing in the Townley Estate.

Councillor Jordan – Gilmore Community School

Councillor Jordan extended an invitation to the Commission members from the Heights Neighbourhood Association to the premier of a documentary by local film maker Yunuen Perezvertti to celebrate the 100th Year of Gilmore Community School. The premier will be held on Friday, 2016 May 13 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Councillor Jordan – Heritage BC Annual Conference

Councillor Jordan noted that the Heritage BC Annual Conference will be held on Granville Island, Vancouver, BC on 2016 May 05 to 07.

Commission members expressed an interest in attending the Conference.

Arising from discussion, the following motion was introduced:

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER LOWE
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PRIDE

THAT Commission recommend Council authorize an expenditure up to \$1,000 for the Community Heritage Commission members to attend the Heritage BC Annual Conference to be held on Granville Island, Vancouver, BC on 2016 May 05 – 07.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Dennis Back, City Clerk – Technology Sharing

Mr. Back referred to a correspondence received from Commissioner Finlayson regarding technology sharing at the February's meeting.

The speaker advised that the Heritage Burnaby website is largely a proprietary package that cannot be shared, and there are technical incompatibilities that also make sharing impractical. However, the IT Department is always willing to provide information and advice on the process behind the development of the website.

Commissioner Pride – School History Book Project

Commissioner Pride noted that the School History Book Project he is working on is in its final stages of completion, and work is being done on the index list.

6. INQUIRIES

There were no inquiries brought before the Commission at this time.

7. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER BISWELL
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER JANG

THAT this Open Committee meeting do now adjourn.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Committee meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Blanka Zeinabova
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Councillor Colleen Jordan
CHAIR

DRAFT