



## **COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES**

An Open meeting of the Community Heritage Commission was held in the Fireside Room, Burnaby Art Gallery, 6344 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. on **Thursday, 2019 April 04** at 6:00 p.m.

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

PRESENT: Councillor Colleen Jordan, Chair  
Councillor Paul McDonell, Vice Chair  
Councillor James Wang, Member  
Ms. Karin Alzner, Parks, Recreation & Culture Commission Rep.  
Ms. Diane Gillis, Citizen Representative  
Ms. Ruby Johnson, Honorary Member Emeritus  
Mr. Richard Liu, Citizen Representative  
Mr. Lee Loftus, Citizen Representative  
Ms. Tammy Marchioni, Citizen Representative  
Mr. Harry Pride, Historian  
Mr. Roger Whitehouse, Citizen Representative

STAFF: Ms. Deborah Tuytens, Museum Services Supervisor  
Ms. Rebecca Pasch, Archivist  
Mr. Jim Wolf, Senior Long Range Planner  
Ms. Lisa Codd, Heritage Planner  
Ms. Monica MacDonald, Administrative Officer

The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Chair acknowledged the unceded, traditional, and ancestral lands of the hən̓q̓əmiñəm and skwxwú7mesh speaking people, and extended appreciation for the opportunity to hold a meeting on this shared Coast Salish territory.

#### **2. MINUTES**

a) **Minutes of the Open meeting of the Community Heritage Commission held on 2019 February 07**

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LIU

THAT the minutes of the Community Heritage Commission Open meeting held on 2019 February 07 be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### 3. **PRESENTATIONS**

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MCDONELL  
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WANG

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

a) **Ceperley Mansion - Fireside Room Restoration**  
**Presenter: Ellen van Ejnsbergen, Curator/Director Burnaby Art Gallery**

**Ms. Ellen Van Ejnsbergen**, Curator/Director Burnaby Art Gallery, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Ceperley Mansion - Fireside Room restoration project.

Ms. Ejnsbergen advised that the City engaged an architect and conservation specialist to oversee the restoration project, along with a heritage restoration company, and noted the BAG had to be closed from January 14 to March 14, 2019.

The presenter showed images of the room (which was originally a billiards room) before the work began and as the work progressed, and described 106 years of paint stripped from original douglas fir paneled walls, repaired and stained to reflect their original design and finishing.

Ms. Ejnsbergen pointed out the room's refinished inglenook with benches (new upholstered seat cushions which are in progress), entrance doors and built in cabinet.

Ms. Ejnsbergen advised that the restoration and finishing of the room considered the current function of the space and aimed to reflect a contemporary art gallery. She drew attention to the modern picture hanging hardware, powdered-coated brown to blend with the surroundings, and room décor including a contemporary chandelier.

In conclusion, Ms. Ejnsbergen described further restoration work planned for the room which may include restoring the fireplace hearth and tiles, and the exterior lower window casement sash and leaded art glass.

b) **Across the Pacific - Chinese-Canadian History of Burnaby**  
**Presenter: Lisa Codd, Heritage Planner**

**Ms. Codd**, Heritage Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation and overview of the City's current research on the history of Chinese-Canadians in Burnaby.

Ms. Codd noted that this research began in 2017 when the Community Heritage Commission decided to create a series of heritage markers and short videos to

commemorate Burnaby's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A *Chinese Canadian History in Burnaby Steering Committee* was created and was comprised of researchers, descendants of Burnaby Chinese Canadian families who have lived in Burnaby for several generations, Commissioner Richard Lee, and City staff Helen Lee.

The work of the Steering Committee produced the following:

- research and materials;
- plaques and video depicting the Chinese Canadian story in Burnaby;
- partnership between the City and the University of British Columbia Asian Migration Studies Program - students have developed an exhibition on the Burnaby Chinese Canadian history, *Across the Pacific*, running from May to September 2019 at the Burnaby Village Museum; as well as, presented two lectures telling the story of the Chinese-Canadian migrants as part of the Burnaby Public Library neighbourhood history series.

Ms. Codd shared the following historical facts, stories and photographs arising from the research:

- Chinese migrants, mostly men, came to Burnaby in the late 1800s and mainly came from Guangdong province in southern China.
- The men, who came alone with the intention of sending money home to their families and communities in China, worked in industrial sites such as the Barnet Lumber Mill, on farms as labourers, or later establishing their own farms.
- Migrants were not considered citizens but cheap labour and in 1885 the Canadian Government began charging a fee for the Chinese to come to Canada (the "Head Tax"), and in 1923 the government imposed a ban on Chinese immigration which remained in place until 1946.
- Chinese people living in Canada, including those born here, had to register with the government.
- Burnaby bylaws discriminated Chinese-Canadians excluding them from employment by the municipality or anyone contracting for services.
- Property owners registered for covenants so that their properties could not be sold to Chinese-Canadians.
- Chinese-Canadians began working in partnerships with each other and other groups such as the Hong and Leong families who farmed on leased Musqueam First Nations lands (and who later moved to South Burnaby and established their own farms which are still in operation).
- Men also worked closely with re-sellers and grocery distributors.
- Cultural integration began as the Chinese children enrolled in schools.
- Many Chinese-Canadian men signed up to serve in WWII, when they returned, they argued to become citizens and be able to vote, and in 1946 the Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed.

- At the same time, the Chinese Revolution in China happened making it difficult for families living in China whose husbands and fathers were in Canada. Many families come to Canada to join the men that had preceded them, such as Burnaby's Hong family (who started and still operates *Hop On Farms* in South Burnaby).

Ms. Codd concluded by telling the story of the first Chinese-Canadian employee hired by the municipality in 1952, Mr. Richard Lee. Mr. Lee was hired and then told he couldn't come into work, as a bylaw prohibited his employment. The Municipality subsequently repealed the bylaw so Mr. Lee could return to work. Mr. Lee's story is part of the exhibit on Chinese-Canadian history in Burnaby at the Burnaby Village Museum.

Arising from discussion, the following motion was introduced:

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER LIU  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS

THAT a report be prepared recommending to continue research on the Chinese-Canadian history in Burnaby and initiatives for making that research accessible to the community.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### 4. CORRESPONDENCE

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WHITEHOUSE  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER MARCHIONI

THAT the correspondence be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

##### a) Memorandum from the City Archivist Re: City of Burnaby Archives - Update

A memorandum was received from Ms. Rebecca Pasch, City Archivist, providing an update on work at the City Archives. Ms. Pasch advised that the Archives have completed a project allowing high resolution JPEGs for over 2,700 photographs freely available for viewing and downloading on Heritage Burnaby. The project was done in the three phases, and handled the following collections:

- Phase 1 - 900 photographs from the Burnaby Historical Society;
- Phase 2 - 1,000 photographs from the Peers, Hill, and Vidal families

depicting daily life and feature Burnaby's Deer Lake in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century;

- Phase 3 - 800 photographs from the Archives series Pioneer Tales, Burnaby Image Bank, and Burnaby Centennial Anthology. As well, this phase includes photographs used in the Burna-Boom Oral History Project.

Ms. Pasch further advised that Council has approved funding to renovate the Archives office space. Work is being done by City staff and is anticipated to be completed by June, and in time to host the Commission's meeting this September.

Commissioner Loftus commented that he sees the Archives' work on social media daily and praised the City Archives staff on the phenomenal work being done.

## 5. **REPORT**

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR MCDONELL  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER PRIDE

THAT the report be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### a) **Report from the Director Planning & Building and the Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Re: Burnaby Art Gallery - Restoration of Fireside Room**

The Director Planning and Building and the Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services submitted a report providing background information regarding the restoration of the Fireside room of the Burnaby Art Gallery (Ceperley House), a designated civic heritage site.

The Director Planning and Building and the Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services recommended:

1. THAT the report be received for the information of the Commission.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER GILLIS  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALZNER

THAT the recommendation of the Director Planning and Building and the Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services be adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Jim Wolf – Fairacres Estate Restoration**

Mr. Wolf, Senior Long Range Planner, advised that restoration of the Fairacres Estate, which includes Ceperley House (Burnaby Art Gallery), is continuing and also includes restoration of the barn following the fire, replacement of the arts and crafts style garden staircase, and possibly restoration of the cobblestone pillar (across from the Kensington overpass). Additionally, staff is preparing a report for an adaptive re-use study for the barn to identify upgrades to the security system and potential uses for the building.

### **Councillor Jordan – CUPE Local 23 Centenary**

Councillor Jordan advised that the Burnaby Civic Employees' Union is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, and inquired regarding the City's plan for recognizing this milestone.

Staff advised that they have been meeting with the CUPE 23 president to discuss the Union's plans to commemorate the occasion, and that the Local will be participating in the Burnaby Village Museum's Labour Day event.

Arising from discussion, the following motion was introduced:

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GILLIS

THAT staff report back to Committee with information on the history of the Burnaby Civic Employees' Union, and to provide options for ways the City can support commemoration of the centenary.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

### **Jim Wolf – Mathers House**

Mr. Wolf, Senior Long Range Planner, advised that a restoration project at Mathers House is planned for this year in cooperation with the Engineering Department – Facilities Maintenance. The project includes restoration of the turret and porte-cochere. Staff is preparing a report for the Commission's review and recommendation for Council approval for a Heritage Alteration Permit.

### **Councillor Jordan – Heritage BC Annual Conference**

Councillor Jordan advised that the Heritage BC Annual Conference will be held in Nanaimo, BC on 2019 May 9-11, and inquired regarding any Commission members' interest in attending the Conference.

Arising from discussion, the following motion was introduced:

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER LIU  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALZNER

THAT the Commission recommend Council authorize an expenditure up to \$4,000 for the Community Heritage Commission members to attend the Heritage BC Annual Conference to be held in Nanaimo, BC in 2019 May.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Commissioner Gillis – Burnaby Village Museum’s Scavenger Hunt**

Commissioner Gillis commended staff and the City for the “scavenger hunt” activity at the Burnaby Village Museum during this year’s Spring Break.

Staff advised that the Village received over 15,000 visitors which was double the number over last year. Further, staff noted that the Village is now closed and will reopen for the Summer Season on May 4<sup>th</sup>, coinciding with the Burnaby Blooms Festival (formerly Rhododendron Festival) to be held on May 4 & 5 at the Shadbolt Centre for the Arts.

**7. INQUIRIES**

**Councillor Jordan – School Book Project**

Councillor Jordan inquired regarding the School Book project.

Staff advised that the cover designs will be presented to the School History Book Committee to identify a preferred option. The book will be printed at the City’s Printshop.

**Councillor Jordan – Heritage Markers Project**

Councillor Jordan inquired regarding the progress of the installation of several heritage markers.

Staff advised the project is in progress and will be providing an update in the near future.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER WHITEHOUSE  
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WANG

THAT this Open Commission meeting do now adjourn.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Open meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

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Monica Macdonald  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

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Councillor Colleen Jordan  
CHAIR

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