



## COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

### MINUTES

Thursday, September 09, 2021, 5:00 p.m.

Council Chamber, City Hall  
4949 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC

PRESENT: Councillor Colleen Jordan, Chair  
Councillor James Wang, Vice Chair (*participated electronically*)  
Councillor Pietro Calendino, Member (*participated electronically*)  
Ms. Rainy Kent, Parks Commission Representative  
Ms. Diane Gillis, Resident Representative  
Mr. Richard Liu, Resident Representative  
Mr. Lee Loftus, Resident Representative (*participated electronically*)  
Mr. Roger Whitehouse, Resident Representative (*participated electronically*)

ABSENT: Ms. Ruby Johnson, Honorary Member Emeritus

STAFF: Ms. Deborah Tuytens, Cultural Heritage Manager  
Ms. Lisa Codd, Heritage Planner  
Ms. Rebecca Pasch, City Archivist  
Ms. Kathryn Matts, Administrative Officer 2

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the Open Committee meeting to order at 5:07 p.m. and conducted roll call. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the following members participated electronically: Councillor Calendino, Councillor Wang, Mr. Loftus, and Mr. Whitehouse.

The Chair, Councillor Colleen Jordan, recognized the ancestral and unceded homelands of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əŋ and Skwxwú7mesh speaking peoples, and extended appreciation for the opportunity to hold a meeting on this territory.

#### 2. MINUTES

**2.1 Minutes of the Community Heritage Commission Open meeting held on 2021 June 10**

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CALENDINO

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR WANG

THAT the minutes of the Community Heritage Commission meeting held on 2021 June 10 be now adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**3. PRESENTATION**

**3.1 Dramatic Frameworks for Value Based Heritage Management**

**Presenter: Ms. Elana Zysblat, Heritage Consultant**

**Ms. Elana Zysblat**, Heritage Consultant, appeared before the Commission and provided a presentation on *Dramatic Frameworks for Value Based Heritage Management*. Ms. Zysblat advised she is an independent heritage consultant and a professional member of the BC Association of Heritage Professionals (BCAHP), and is the current President of the BCAHP board.

Ms. Zysblat advised that Thematic Frameworks are used as a tool for heritage conservation and described them as a web of heritage themes. In the US the National Park Services used the notion of Thematic Frameworks as early as the 1930's. In Canada they have been used since the early 2000's with a switch to value based conservation. The speaker advised that organizing of a community's heritage into themes is an excellent trick for values based conservation in heritage management in that it supports a broad, layered and inclusive perspective of heritage resources.

Ms. Zysblat further explained that values based conservation, which is considered best practices today, is not limited to physical sites or age but includes social and cultural values, and even dark and negative heritage values. Organizing a community's heritage into overarching themes is a helpful, inclusive and robust tool that is used all over the world.

Thematic Frameworks seek to encapsulate the history, physical character and central stories of a community. They create a web of relationships and storylines linking the community's history, heritage values and heritage resources. The speaker advised that Thematic Frameworks examine the question of representativeness and draw attention to gaps in existing histories.

Ms. Zysblat presented rough general themes for Burnaby based on two separate projects which began the work of researching and defining heritage themes; the

125<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the City of Burnaby in 2017, which received funding from the interpretive plaque program Burnaby Then and Now; and, the subsequent work done for an interpretive plan for Burnaby Village Museum, which streamlined the 2017 work. Ms. Zysblat, amalgamated the two initiatives to show how they resulted in three larger themes:

- *Community:* Homeland to Indigenous People, Celebrating Diversity, Working Class, Social Justice
- *Environment:* Unique Connection to and Use of Land, Protecting the Environment, Shapes Urban Development
- *Transportation:* Routes, Regional Connector, Shapes Urban Development

Ms. Zysblat provided some examples of how themes can be an excellent tool for heritage management and interpretation and how they are used. A link between a heritage resource in one or more themes helps to determine a sites comparative significance in local, regional, national and even international context. This aids the process of determining which sites should be conserved and even protected. By using the Thematic Framework as a sounding board for evaluating heritage resources in Burnaby consistent and justified conservation decisions can be made. A Thematic Framework allows identification and management of a range of sites that represent assets local, regional, national or international history. Gaps in the stories of particular neighbourhoods can be identified facilitating the management and interpretation of additional heritage resources.

Themes can be the groundwork for inclusive, timeless and common articulation of Burnaby's unique story and heritage values in the following ways:

- heritage awareness, identify and interpretation
- foundation for developing Historic Neighbourhood Context Statements
- identification and evaluation of Burnaby's heritage resources

In conclusion, the speaker stated that a solid Thematic Framework for Burnaby which is embraced by the Community and integrated into municipal planning can be a touchstone for all decisions around heritage in Burnaby. The framework can help strengthen Burnaby's distinct identify and story and customise decisions based on fresh deeper understanding of place. Ms. Zysblat reiterated that these are just the draft ideas for the heritage themes in Burnaby which will still need to be worked on together with groups such as the Community Heritage Commission. Community feedback would be sought to confirm that they resonate and if any adjustments need to be made. This work becomes the foundation of updating and fine-tuning the heritage conversation

Staff advised that an input session for Community Heritage Committee members to provide input into the development of the draft Thematic Framework would be arranged.

### 3. **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### 3.1 **Memorandum from the City Archivist - Re: City of Burnaby Archives Update**

A memorandum was received from the City Archivist providing an update on activities and initiatives at the City Archives since the 2021 June 10 meeting, and noted the following:

- In celebration of the City Archives 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, staff at the Archives are working with various departments to create a video that celebrates the Archives, and acknowledges the contributors to its success.
- Archives acquired three more boxes of permanent City records and processed 24 backlogged boxes, bringing the total for the year to 43 boxes transferred and 39 boxes described.
- Archives re-opened to by appointment access as of 2021 June 03.

#### 3.2 **Memorandum from the Cultural Heritage Manager - Re: Burnaby Village Museum Update**

A memorandum was received from the Cultural Heritage Manager providing an update on the following activities and initiatives at the Burnaby Village Museum since the 2021 June 10 meeting.

- Burnaby Village Museum saw a steady increase in visitation by the end of August and had over 700 visitors at the Labour Day event. Total attendance for the season was 25,191.
- Neighbourhood Speaker Series for Fall 2021 schedule has been determined
- *Eerie Illusions*, a brand new, immersive, multi-media experience will be taking place at Burnaby Village from 2021 October 22 to 31.

### 4. **REPORTS**

#### 4.1 **Report from the Director Planning and Building and the Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services - Re: Heritage Policy and Programs Review**

The Director Planning and Building and the Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services submitted a report providing an update on work underway to review the City's heritage programs and policies to inform the Official Community Plan update.

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

1. THAT the Community Heritage Commission receive this report for information.
2. THAT the Community Heritage Commission advance a copy of this report to Council for information.
3. THAT the Community Heritage Commission recommend that Council forward a copy of this report to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission.

MOVED BY COMMISSIONER GILLIS  
SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LIU

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

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business brought before the Commission at this time.

6. **INQUIRIES**

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

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Without objection, the Open Commission meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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COUNCILLOR COLLEEN JORDAN  
CHAIR

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KATHRYN MATTS  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER