

MINUTES of the meeting of the OAK BAY HERITAGE STEERING COMMITTEE, held in the Council Chambers, Oak Bay Municipal Hall, 2167 Oak Bay Avenue, Oak Bay B.C., on Thursday March 13, 2008.

PRESENT: Christopher Causton, Chair
Christopher Watts
W. John Harker
Don Reksten
Stephanie Sainas
Bronwyn Taylor
STAFF: Nigel Beattie, Sandi Piercy
REGRETS: Jane Nielsen. Jean Sparks
GUEST: Brenda Jacques

Christopher Causton called the meeting to order at 8:34 am.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Christopher welcomed guest, Brenda Jacques, to the committee meeting. Brenda had attended the February meeting and is interested in formally joining the committee. The Mayor will follow up on her interest, and he also thanked Christopher Watts for chairing the February meeting.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by Don Reksten

Seconded by Christopher Watts, THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OAK BAY HERITAGE STEERING COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2007, BE ADOPTED WITH THE CORRECTION OF SPELLING ERRORS.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Heritage Oak Bay Name Change

The committee's recommendation to remove the word *steering*, for this committee's title and function, as well as to have bylaw 4298 amended has not yet gone to Council. The Committee anticipates a resolution before the April meeting.

AGM: Heritage Website

The launch of the redesigned Heritage Oak Bay website has been set for April 15 at 5:00 pm. The event will also serve as the OB Heritage Foundation's AGM, a progress report on our activities and a public relations outreach to all the various individuals and bodies interested in heritage in Oak Bay. Christopher Watts, Jean Sparks and Sandi Piercy will work with Steven Toleikis to organize the meeting.

Oak Bay Recognition Awards

These awards will be given at the next Council meeting.

Heritage BC

The Oak Bay Heritage Steering Committee has nominated the Heritage Oak Bay redesigned website for a Heritage BC Award. Even though the website is not yet up and running, it will be prior to Heritage BC's deadline for reviewing submissions.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Heritage Register

The Oak Bay Community Heritage Register has been fully updated as of February 25, 2008. The Register is available for public viewing at the Municipal Hall front desk.

Hallmark Awards

The Hallmark Awards ceremony, wherein awards are given to citizens who have made significant contributions to the heritage community, will be held on May 6, 2008.

Oak Bay, in Photographs has been nominated for an award in the Communications category.

Although 1538 Beach Drive was viewed as a good example of a restoration, not a renovation, and therefore worthy of consideration for a Hallmark Award, the restorations are not complete for this year's awards and will not be nominated at this time.

All homes that have been designated are recognized at the Hallmark Awards ceremony. Homeowners will be contacted and invited to attend the ceremony. Stephanie Sainas will be the representative and presenter from Oak Bay. Tickets for all attending must be purchased in advance. The Oak Bay Heritage Foundation will purchase these tickets.

Heritage Filing Cabinet

The purchase of a filing cabinet for heritage materials was suggested by a member of the Committee. Instead, Nigel Beattie has advised the Committee that space has come available in the existing filing system and could be allocated to the Heritage Committee if it acts quickly. The Committee agreed to accept this offer of space in the vault for records, minutes, newsletters, award applications and any additional information, making the purchase of a cabinet unnecessary.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDING AND PLANNING

Budget

The Committee budget is committed to 2 Kiwanis “Visual History Signs”, 3 artists’ pen and ink drawings and the framing of these drawings and to the completion of the web site. These commitments will put the committee over budget for this fiscal year. Since the Committee had not sought an increase in municipal funding for the year, funds should be available for a top-up to cover the amount needed. Christopher Causton will speak to Patricia Walker, the Municipal Accountant, about increasing the budget.

Retirement

Nigel Beattie has given notice to the municipality that he will be leaving in July. This committee will miss his input, contribution and effort and extends an invitation of membership to the committee in the future.

Heritage BC Survey

Nigel filled out a survey that was sent to him from Heritage BC. Last year’s survey results were returned with the findings of the Building Capacity for Heritage Conservation. The results will be kept in the new Heritage files in the vault.

HERITAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Approximately 40 letters have been sent to homeowners in the community inviting them to participate in the Home and Garden Tour on August 16, 2008.

Through BC 150, a provincial initiative for 2008, the Heritage Lecture Series has received a \$3,000.00 grant.

HERITAGE ADVISORY PANEL

The Panel has been consulted about 963 Beach Drive. The home will be floated out on a barge on Monday March 17, 2008.

The Panel has also been approached by the Oak Bay Guest House regarding re-roofing the building. The owners must apply for a Heritage Alteration Permit in order to apply to the Heritage Foundation for a grant. Reference was made to a prior discussion by the Committee on the availability of these grants to commercial enterprises and buildings. This availability was reconfirmed.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

One of the objectives of the municipality is to encourage walking and cycling in the community. One of the initiatives that has been undertaken by the municipality is to have the Camas Trail marked from the Esplanade to Nottingham Road. There will be a post at each intersection to mark the continuing trail.

A second initiative is the local walking signs, which will give walkers an approximate walking time, rather than a distance to a local point of interest. There will be approximately 25-30 of these small signs throughout Oak Bay.

The third most recent initiative is to install covered bicycle parking at Oak Bay Recreation Centre and on the corner of Wilmot and Oak Bay Avenue. The shelters will be provided by the reuse of old bus shelters.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Heritage Steering Committee will be on Thursday April 10, 2008 at 8:30 am.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 am.