

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

PRESENT: Christopher Causton, Chair
Christopher Watts
Jane Nielsen
Jean Sparks
Bronwyn Taylor
Stephanie Sainas
Don Reksten
Brenda Jacques
W. John Harker

GUESTS: Allan Cassidy

STAFF: Roy Thomassen, Sandi Piercy

Christopher Causton called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Christopher welcomed the committee and Allan Cassidy to the final meeting of the calendar year. Christopher expressed his pleasure working with this committee, however if re-elected this term, he intends to appoint a new liaison from Council. This committee will be responsible for selecting a new committee chair.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by Brenda Jacques,
Seconded by Don Reksten, THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OAK BAY HERITAGE STEERING COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY OCTOBER 9, 2008, BE ADOPTED.

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Councilor Allan Cassidy: Conservation Strategy and Heritage Incentives

The purpose of this proposal is to address the number of modest homes in Oak Bay which are being demolished. The retention of these buildings contributes to the character and history of the community. A financial incentive to a homeowner to renovate a home instead of demolishing the home must be sufficient enough to influence this decision. Cassidy proposes a 10 year exemption from property taxes as a strong incentive for the heritage homeowner.

Roy provided the current number of demolitions in Oak Bay. In 2006, 2007 and 2008 there were 12 applications each year, for demolition.

Allan Cassidy has investigated the range of assessed values. His incentive program will work for renovations of at least 50% of the assessed value of the current assessed property value. Each plan must meet the 50% value test, as it is not a renovation subsidy program. For example a \$600,000.00 home in which the owners are prepared to spend (at least) 50% of that value for renovations, may qualify for the tax reprieve after applying for designation. The owners may also apply to the Heritage Foundation for grants. It has been suggested that this may save one house per year in the municipality.

Judith Andersen: Cataloguing Oak Bay's Residential House Plans

Roy Thomassen, Judith Andersen and Fernando Pimentel agreed that Judith will start to work on this project as soon as she is set up and has prepared the experienced volunteers.

Continuing Education

Christopher Watts was unable to attend the meeting in Seattle, Washington. The \$200.00 budgeted for this workshop will remain in the budget.

Christopher Watts presented information about a conference in Mission, BC at the end of the month. The *Community Heritage Networking Conference* meets on November 29, 2008. No members of the committee were available to attend.

Youth Participation in Heritage

Four students came to a meeting where eight different project ideas were discussed. The students' interests were as follows:

- 2 students: Heritage Walking Tour Maps
- 1 student: Videographs – the initial project will be on Oak Bay's Mayoral History
- 1 student: Tax Incentive Research

One of the students would like to join the committee as a member. Policy dictates that those wishing to become members of the committee must apply to Council, although they are able to attend all meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Website Management

This committee would like to contract Steven Toleikis for annual updating and loading information of the Heritage website. Christopher Watts and Jean Sparks have volunteered to be responsible for the website and be liaisons from this committee for vetting incoming information and making sure important news and events are posted on the site.

New unsolicited website content has come to Roy regarding Kildonan. The process and policy for receiving and vetting information needs to be clear. Roy will reply to the sender of the Kildonan information and request a letter outlining why more information is necessary.

It was noted that committees and their members are not on the site.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDING AND PLANNING

Budget

The committee budget remains balanced.

Notification of Demolition

The committee is not receiving the notifications. Currently there are three pending and the committee is not aware of all of them.

HERITAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Home and Garden Tour for 2009 will be led by Oak Bay Rotary. This committee meets today.

The third and final lecture in the Heritage Lecture Series was held on November 12 at the Windsor Pavilion at 7:00pm. The original speakers were unable to attend, however Marion Cumming arranged for Stuart Stark to speak in their places. His lecture was very successful.

HERITAGE ADVISORY PANEL

The Heritage Advisory Panel (HAP) met on Friday at 3150 Rutland and did an interior and exterior inspection. The HAP recommends NOT demolishing the house. The HAP is not supportive of moving the home off site. In spite of changes to the exterior, there is still heritage value. The replacement plans were not well-received by the HAP.

Additions and renovations are part of the history of the house. A change to the house is not taking away the history.

ARCHIVES

The framed pen and ink drawings are ready to hang in Council Chambers. Jean will ask three different artists for 2009. Some suggested artists are: Marion Cumming, Caroline Hunter, Leslie Redhead, John Lovat and Avis Rasmussen.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

The Community Initiatives Committee (CIC) is hoping to pass an event for February 2009 through the Recreation Commission. This will celebrate one year pre-anniversary of the 2010 Olympics.

The Oak Bay Salish Monuments project is progressing. The first art plaque has been cast in bronze. The sites for the first four monuments will be chosen in the following week.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Heritage Committee will be on Thursday January 8 at 8:30 am.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.