

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 October 9, 2008.

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

REGRETS: W. John Harker

GUESTS: Allan Cassidy
Judith Andersen

STAFF: Roy Thomassen, Sandi Piercy

Christopher Causton called the meeting to order at 8:32 am.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Christopher welcomed the committee and two guests, Allan Cassidy and Judith Andersen.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

MOVED by Christopher Watts,
Seconded by Bronwyn Taylor, THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OAK BAY HERITAGE STEERING COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 11, 2008, BE ADOPTED.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

*Speaker: Councilor Allan Cassidy
Conservation Strategy and Heritage Incentives*

The purpose of Councilor Allan Cassidy's 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.

The Chair asked the Director of Building and Planning to provide a list of building demolitions and buildings that have been moved over the past two years. An examination of these buildings will determine whether this incentive may have affected these buildings.

Additional questions were asked of the incentive policy:

Must the home be designated heritage to receive this incentive?

Is this a transferrable benefit to a home buyer?

Could this incentive be paired with grants?

The Chair asked Cassidy to further research the proposal to include different formulas, a sliding scale and a financial threshold for renovations. Cassidy agreed to further research this incentive proposal.

Speaker: Judith Andersen

Cataloguing Oak Bay's Residential House Plans

Judith Andersen would like to catalogue all of the residential house plans in Oak Bay. This includes descriptions of building layout, notes and nuances that are not necessarily apparent from a scanned copy. Andersen will be doing this work on a volunteer basis, on her own time, with her own computer. All she asks is for the technical assistance to start the project. Jean Sparks, who spoke on behalf of the Archives, supports Judith's work and understands this to be an invaluable asset to the community. None of the building plans will be taken off site. This generous offer must be coordinated with staff. Roy Thomassen will set up a meeting with Bill Cochrane, Andersen and himself.

MOVED by Don Reksten,

Seconded by Christopher Watts, THAT THIS COMMITTEE, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE ARCHIVES, RECOMMENDS SUPPORTING JUDITH ANDERSEN'S PROPOSAL AND COORDINATE WITH THE MUNICIPALITY TO CATALOGUE BUILDING PLANS.

CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Electrical Box Photo Wraps

Three electrical exchange boxes have been completed.

Youth Participation in Heritage

Bronwyn Taylor, John Harker and Christopher Watts met with Prof. McCann on July 28 to discuss the proposal and review some of the potential ideas. On Sept 23, Prof. McCann advised us that four students, including one of his "top" students who was already active with Victoria's Heritage Advisory Committee, had expressed interest in becoming involved. Ultimately, five students have come forward, and are now waiting for us to get back to them. The committee agreed that the next step is for Christopher Watts, who will manage this process, to meet with the students to discuss a broader approach to heritage and allow them to make project decisions which may or may not include:

- designing and developing heritage walking tours;
- further developing and providing input into the new OB Heritage web-site;
- working on archival material;
- developing video material (e.g. interviewing Oak Bay's longer-living residents or preparing historical vignettes); and
- Heritage mapping project.
- Research and development of Allan Cassidy's proposal.

There will be no municipal staff involvement in this heritage project and the students will work entirely off-site. The students will be invited to the November 15 roundtable meeting.

Continuing Education

The committee continues to encourage its members and staff to attend courses and workshops. An Historic Seattle Workshop was presented to the committee. Christopher Watts would like to attend the *Protecting Historic Sites Workshop* in Seattle on October 18 from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm.

MOVED by Don Reksten,

Seconded by Jean Sparks, THAT THE COMMITTEE SPEND \$200 FOR REGISTRATION AND TRAVEL EXPENSES FOR CHRISTOPHER WATTS TO ATTEND THE PROTECTING HISTORIC SITES WORKSHOP IN SEATTLE ON OCTOBER 18, 2008.

CARRIED.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDING AND PLANNING

Budget

The Kiwanis Heritage Signs have been installed. This committee will share 50% of the cost of these signs with Oak Bay Kiwanis.

MOVED by Bronwyn Taylor

Seconded by Brenda Jacques, THAT THE HERITAGE COMMITTEE PAY \$1808.50 TO OAK BAY KIWANIS FOR 50% OF THE TWO KIWANIS HERITAGE SIGNS.

CARRIED

The committee went over budget for the web site, but the Heritage Registry will no longer be part of the Heritage Committee budget, therefore the committee would like to see the same budget for 2009.

*Heritage Committee
October 9, 2008*

MOVED by Don Reksten,

Seconded by Christopher Watts, THAT THIS COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE BUDGET FOR THE OAK BAY HERITAGE COMMITTEE REMAIN THE SAME AS THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

CARRIED.

HERITAGE COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Home and Garden Tour for 2009 will be led by Oak Bay Rotary. No date has been set for the event, but it will be in August. Three homes have already agreed to be a part of the tour.

Kildonan will be hosting its Annual Chili Party on October 23, 2008.

Kildonan Christmas Party is an event for registered and designated home owners, however, of these homeowners, very few attend. It was suggested that this event be re-energized.

The second lecture in the Heritage Lecture Series will be on October 15 at the Windsor Pavilion at 7:00pm. Rosemary Cross is unable to speak as originally intended; however Martin Segger will extend his segment on Samuel Maclure.

HERITAGE ADVISORY PANEL

Don Reksten has returned after an extended absence from this committee. The process of demolition permits going directly to the HAP is successful.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Camas Trail signs have been installed. Some walkers have found that the trail is poorly marked at Heron Street. The green and white markers have gone virtually unnoticed. It was recommended that there be some green and white walking marker education.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Heritage Committee will be on Thursday November 13, 2008 at 8:30 am.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.