



COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION
MINUTES

Wednesday, May 4, 2022
Meeting Held Electronically

PRESENT:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	Chair
John Davies	Alternate Chair/Community Member
Samuel Boisvert	Community Member
Jill Davy	NWHPS Representative
Bozana Djuric	Community Member
Lindsay Macintosh	Community Member
Virginia McMahon	Community Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Rob McCullough	Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, Office of the CAO
Britney Dack	Senior Heritage Planner, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Dilys Huang	Development Planner, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Amanda MacKaay	Planner, Climate Action, Planning and Development
Carilyn Cook	Committee Clerk, Legislative Services

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor McEvoy opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsurrendered land of the Halkomelem speaking peoples. He acknowledged that colonialism has made invisible their histories and connections to the land. He recognized that, as a City, we are learning and building relationships with the people whose lands we are on.

2. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 April 6, 2022

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the April 6, 2022 Community Heritage Commission meeting be adopted.

Carried.

All Commission members present voted in favour of the motion.

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Museums and Heritage Services – Orientation

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, provided a PowerPoint orientation of Museums and Heritage Services which outlined the museum and archives mission and mandate, heritage collections, exhibitions and programs, and current activities and projects. He shared that he attends Community Heritage Commission meetings in effort to remain in touch with all elements of heritage throughout New Westminster.

In response to questions from the Commission, Mr. McCullough provided the following comments:

- Behind the scenes tours are offered to the general public in May and June each year and also at the special request of groups or organizations;
- Interesting items in the city archives include the sword given as a gift to the Mayor by the Queensborough Gurdwara with respect to the City's acknowledgement of Mewa Singh in the spirit of reconciliation, as well as old maps, some of which are richly coloured and tell the story of what was going on in different parts of the city during different times, and an 18th century dress; and,
- While the Pattullo Bridge is due to be replaced soon, the large scale model of the current Pattullo Bridge could be included in a number of museum initiatives such as talks around the Bridge's namesake, Thomas Dufferin Pattullo, the 22nd Premier of British Columbia, ironworks in the City, and

other thematic approaches to bring a diversity of cultures into the story of the Bridge.

4.2 909-915 Twelfth Street – Interpretive Panel

Dilys Huang, Development Planner, reviewed the staff report dated May 4, 2022 regarding the 909-915 Twelfth Street Interpretive Panel, noting that at a previous meeting the Commission recommended incorporating an interpretive element to reflect the site's history as it was once home to the Croton Studio. Feedback is now being sought from the Commission on the proposed design for the Panel.

In response to questions from the Commission, Ms. Huang provided the following comments:

- When the Croton Studio was established, New Westminster's cultural diversity was not acknowledged as it is today and that is reflected in the photos available to be included on the Panel; and,
- It is anticipated that the Panel will fill up most of the wall by the main entrance; however, the exact dimensions would be clarified by the applicants later in the process.

Discussion ensued and Commission members provided the following comments:

- The collage is good; however, it is concerning that section headers text may get lost in the photographs, if they are to be the same as shown in the renderings shared in the report; and,
- For public visibility, a more appropriate location for the Panel would be at the corner of London Street and Twelfth Street.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Community Heritage Commission support the proposed interpretive panel regarding the history of Croton Studio and the possible relocation of the interpretive panel to the corner of London Street and Twelfth Street.

Carried.

All Commission members present voted in favour of the motion.

4.3 Pre-Application Review: 319 Governors Court (B.C. Pen Gatehouse)

Procedural note: Samuel Boisvert, Community Member, recused himself from the discussion as his employer is involved in the project.

Amanda MacKaay, Planner, reviewed the staff report dated May 4, 2022 regarding the Pre-Application Review for 319 Governors Court (B.C. Pen Gatehouse) noting that the Gatehouse is protected by a Heritage Designation Bylaw (1993) and that the project would see a four-storey addition to the heritage building to facilitate its use as a hotel.

In response to questions from the Commission, Ms. MacKaay provided the following comments:

- Details regarding parking, circulation, internal building layout, etc., will be refined and be shared with the Land Use and Planning Committee and Council if a formal application for the project is received; and,
- It is anticipated that there will be approximately 65 hotel rooms.

Discussion ensued and Commission members provided the following comments:

- The gatehouse is attractive and ornamental yet the original penitentiary walls were austere and the hotel is in keeping with what was physically there before; however, the muntins or highlight colours in the glazing should be the same grey colour as the gatehouse turrets so that the large building will better blend in with the heritage colours scheme and be less visible;
- A geo-technical engineering assessment will need to be completed as there will be a lot of digging on site, which could impact the stability of the heritage asset;
- The stark contrast of the two buildings is undesirable as one is very modern and the other one, old and ornate. The modern building will take away from the older building; and,
- The applicant should consider additional architectural elements so that the new building will not overwhelm the existing building.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT Community Heritage Commission support the preliminary proposal for the B.C. Penitentiary Gatehouse site and request that that the applicant take into consideration feedback provide by the Commission.

Carried.

Bozana Djuric voted in opposition of the motion.

Procedural note: Samuel Boisvert, Community Member, rejoined the meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS

None.

6. END OF MEETING

ON MOTION, the meeting ended at 6:58 p.m.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS

Remaining scheduled meetings, which take place at 6:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted:

- June 1
- July 6
- September 7
- October 4
- November 2
- December 7

Certified correct,

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy

Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk