



COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION

Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 6:00 p.m.
Committee Room #2, City Hall

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Councillor Jaimie McEvoy - Chair
- Maureen Arvanitidis - Community Member
- Samuel Boisvert - Community Member
- Jenelle Davies - Community Member
- John Davies - Community Member
- Rosanne Hood - NWHPS Representative
- Robert Petrusa - Community Member

REGRETS:

- David Sarraf - Community Member

GUESTS:

- Kirsten Sutton - D3 Dimension Drafting and Design Inc.
- Ken LQ Zhou - Owner, 835 Royal Avenue
- Elana Zysblat - Ance Building Services

STAFF:

- Britney Dack - Heritage Planner
- Rob McCullough - Manager, Museums & Heritage Services
- Kathleen Stevens - Heritage Planning Analyst
- Heather Corbett - Committee Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

1.0 ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the Agenda.

2.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES

2.1 Adoption of the Minutes of February 12, 2020

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the February 12, 2020 Community Heritage Commission meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED.

All members of the Commission present voted in favour of the motion.

3.0 PRESENTATIONS

3.1 835 Royal Avenue: Heritage Revitalization Agreement

Britney Dack, Heritage Planner, reviewed the staff report regarding a Heritage Revitalization Agreement (HRA) for 835 Royal Avenue, and requested that the Commission give comments on several aspects of the proposal, and to make a recommendation to Council.

In response to a question from the Committee, Ms. Dack noted that some shifting in the determination of Floor Space Ratio (FSR) has occurred, and the resulting FSR of the project would be 1.06.

Kirsten Sutton, D3 Dimension Drafting and Design Inc. and Elana Zysblat, Ance Building Services, provided a PowerPoint presentation, including the following information:

- Goals of the site, including restoration and protection of the 1883 house, and revitalization of the lot;
- Heritage significance and original gothic revival style of the heritage house;
- Preservation details and restoration plans, including gable decorations, exterior cladding, improvements to the front door and porch, and proposed colour palette;
- Rehabilitation plans for the site, including relocation of the heritage house and replacement of the McInnes Street house with a three-unit infill townhouse; and,
- Details of the addition to the heritage house and the new infill townhouse.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Sutton and Ms. Zysblat provided the following information:

- The three-unit townhouse would not be visible when standing across Royal Avenue from the property;
- The parking area access on the site would be common to both buildings;

- The house that is proposed for demolition or relocation was built in 1934 for rental purposes and contains one family unit of approximately 1700 square feet, which is tenanted currently;
- Relocation of the 1934 house is the intended outcome; however, it is dependent on several factors, such as timing and location of a potential landing lot;
- The house would be moved once a building permit is issued, which could be eight months or so in the future;
- The heritage merit of both houses was evaluated, and because neither building is protected, the loss of the 1934 house was warranted, given the protection and restoration of the heritage asset;
- The alternative to the proposed HRA is that both heritage houses could be demolished and ground-oriented infill houses could be built on the site;
- It is proposed that the doors of the heritage house be painted rather than stained because, upon investigation of the layers of the door, the conclusion was reached that it was originally painted black, like the sash, and paint would provide a more durable finish that is easy to maintain;
- The roof cladding is proposed to provide longevity, while still mirroring style; and,
- Shingle siding has been proposed for the addition to the heritage house rather than gyprock cladding in order to make it subordinate and distinguishable.

The Committee provided the following comments:

- The addition detracts from the symmetry of the heritage house, therefore an opposite colour scheme could be considered to make it stand out;
- Consideration could be given to adding cresting to the roof of the heritage house, as it is likely that it would have been present;
- The addition of a third type of cladding may not be necessary, as the reduced height of the addition makes it distinguishable from the heritage house;
- Further consideration could be given to creating increased density on the property using the existing houses; and,
- There would be merit to preserving the 1934 house, therefore maximizing every effort into its relocation would be beneficial.

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the Community Heritage Commission recommends Council support the proposed Heritage Revitalization Agreement for 835 Royal Avenue; and,

THAT the developer make every effort to repurpose or find a new location for the 109 McInnes Street house and take the design suggestions from the CHC into consideration.

CARRIED.

Rosanne Hood voted in opposition to the motion.

3.2 An Introduction to the City of New Westminster's approach to Truth and Reconciliation

Rob McCullough, Manager of Museums and Heritage Services, discussed the City's current and previous truth and reconciliation processes, and discussed the future of the work, noting the following historical milestones and information:

- In 2016, a Witness Blanket sculptural installation and associated app was featured at the New Westminster Museum, by artist Carey Newman, who had travelled across the country visiting places that had impacted indigenous people and gained stories and objects from people's experiences in these places;
- In April 2017, a group named Reconciliation New West agreed that conversation needed to start in the City and came forward asking Council to adopt a motion for concrete and actionable commitment to truth and reconciliation, including education for municipal employees on impacts of colonization;
- In 2018, a process was established to initialize a level-to-level approach (rather than a taskforce approach) to create relationships with the nations that have interests in the area that the City sits on, which is approximately 31 groups, and deliver on the actions;
- In March 2019, a consultant who had experience with working in these areas was awarded a contract, and workshops were held to define the process and guiding principles for the conversations to be held with the leadership of nations expressing interest in the New Westminster area;
- In 2019 and 2020, meetings have occurred with many neighbouring nations with optimistic outcomes, and interest in continued work in the future. Many interests are in the areas of environmental stewardship and the economy;
- Other work to be done includes the following:
 - Educate and train municipal staff, which will likely accompany social inclusion initiatives;
 - Take lead role on advocacy and clarity around the history of the legacy of the Indian Act; and,
 - Educate residents on the impacts that the municipality has had on indigenous people.

In response to questions from the Committee, Mr. McCullough provided the following information:

- Discussions with First Nations leaders have been with elected leadership; however, future conversations may also include hereditary leaders;
- The leaders of the First Nations have noted the City's efforts and have been responsive to them thus far; and,

- The City does not have large undeveloped areas of land to provide; however there may be opportunities to work with, and impose requirements on, developers to respond to the interests of indigenous groups.

The Commission commented that there may be opportunities for the CHC to have a tangible role in promoting this work and helping to create equality and justice.

4.0 UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items.

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

There were no items.

6.0 REPORTS AND INFORMATION

6.1 General Inquiries from the Commission

1. Heritage BC Conference

In response to a question from the Commission, it was noted that the City used to send CHC members to the Heritage BC Conference; however, currently a Museum curator and heritage Planning staff attend the conference.

The Commission commented that the Heritage BC Conference helps to promote knowledge of heritage issues, and staff were tasked with checking for opportunities for CHC members to attend.

6.2 Demolition Permit Applications Issued February 5 to February 26, 2020

ADDRESS	YEAR BUILT	NEIGHBOURHOOD
1734 Edinburgh Street	1986	Westend
728 Nineteenth Street	1948	Westend
263 Jardine Street	1922	Queensborough
330 Johnston Street	1965	Queensborough

7.0 CORRESPONDENCE

7.1 New Westminster Historical Society Newsletter (February 2020)

8.0 NEXT MEETING

8.1 Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at City Hall in Committee Room #2 at 6:00 p.m., or at call of the Chair.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

ON MOTION, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Certified correct,

ORIGINAL SIGNED
Councillor Jaimie McEvoy
Chair

ORIGINAL SIGNED
Heather Corbett
Committee Clerk