



COMMUNITY HERITAGE COMMISSION
MINUTES

Wednesday, June 5, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Open to public attendance in Council Chamber, City Hall

Committee members may attend electronically

PRESENT:

Councillor Daniel Fontaine*	Chair
Councillor Ruby Campbell*	Council Representative
Samuel Boisvert*	Community Member
Jennifer Crews	NWHPS Representative
John Davies*	Community Member
Nancy Dheilly	Community Member
Shelby McCannel*	Community Member

REGRETS:

Councillor Jaimie McEvoy	Chair
Shadi Arous	Community Member
Danielle Karlsson	Community Member
David Sarraf	Community Member

GUEST:

Phoebe Cheung	Director Integration, Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project
Max von Kleist	Fraser River Crossing Constructors GP

STAFF PRESENT:

Rob McCullough*	Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, Office of the CAO
Carilyn Cook	Committee Clerk, Legislative Services

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Councillor Fontaine opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and recognized with respect that New Westminster is on the unceded and unsundered 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

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the agenda for the June 5, 2024 Community Heritage Commission meeting be adopted with the addition of New Business Item 5.1 – Queens Avenue United Church by John Davies.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

3.1 January 3, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the January 3, 2024 Community Heritage Commission meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3.2 February 7, 2024

MOVED and SECONDED

THAT the minutes of the February 7, 2024 Community Heritage Commission meeting be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Woodlands Interpretation Panels Presentation

a. Woodlands Interpretation Panels History

Sam Boisvert, Community Member, declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Discussion ensued and it was determined that, while Mr. Boisvert's employer submitted, to the City, the Heritage Alteration Permit for the Woodlands wall, he was not in conflict of interest as the item this evening is not addressing the Permit itself, it is a Woodlands Interpretation Panels presentation for information only with no decision being made by the Commission.

Rob McCullough, Manager, Museums and Heritage Services, introduced Max von Kleist of Fraser River Crossing Constructors GP, and Phoebe Cheung, of the Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project team. He advised that Mr. von Kleist would be sharing how the series of interpretive panels came about, the location, and the engagement that took place to arrive at the content for the panels.

Mr. Boisvert rejoined the meeting at 6:06 p.m.

Mr. von Kleist shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Woodlands Interpretation Panels.

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

- The panels, which are timeless, include personal stories and will not need to be updated. They focus on Woodlands and the survivors, including an Indigenous survivor;
- The plaza is expected to be complete in late 2024;
- With respect to the unveiling, the Woodlands Working Group will be kept up to date and the City will be involved as those details become available; and
- All First Nations have been made aware of the panels and the work being done. Consultation with First Nations has been a huge part of the Pattullo Bridge Replacement Project since 2016.

Discussion ensued and Commission members expressed gratitude for the inclusive work being done and noted that it would be interesting to know if the Indigenous population at Woodlands was disproportionately larger than other demographics.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Queens Avenue United Church

John Davies, Community Member, announced that a recent article in the New Westminster Record outlined a Preliminary Application Review for a proposal to demolish the Queens Avenue United Church and annex located at 529 Queens Avenue in order to build an affordable housing project consisting of a six-storey apartment building.

Mr. Davies noted that prior to the pandemic, another proposal regarding the annex being replaced by a larger building and restoration of the church was

proposed and shared his surprise that it did not come to the Community Heritage Commission. He shared that the proposal was rejected due to its proximity to the heritage neighbourhood and noted that he was not aware of any research done by the City to assess the value of this particular building. He queried why this did not come to the Commission or been considered in terms of how the original church could be maintained while allowing for the construction of an addition such as what has been done with the Holy Trinity Cathedral and the Knox Presbyterian Church. He advised that the Queens Avenue United Church is 55 years old and falls into the late 60s timeframe which is an era of architecture that seems to have been overlooked. He queried if the Commission would have the opportunity to provide input into the current proposal.

Councillor Fontaine recollected that the May 13, 2024 staff report regarding the proposal advised that there was a significant component of analysis around the heritage value of the church and that, while some components of the church were deemed to be heritage, the majority of the components were deemed to not have heritage value and, as such, they did not recommend the retention of the building. He advised that he did not know why this particular proposal did not come to the Commission and that Planning staff could provide this information.

Councillor Campbell advised that information in the May 13, 2024 report also states that there are many other buildings in New Westminster that represent the same level of heritage as the church and that, while there is some heritage value to the church, there is not enough that it should be kept in lieu of the provision of housing.

Councillor Fontaine advised that Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk, will send out, in a follow up email to the Commission, the May 13, 2024 report titled "Preliminary Application Review: 529 Queens Avenue – Proposed Affordable Housing Project," as well as the May 27, 2024 report titled, "New Provincial Housing Legislation Implementation," as it includes information regarding the new Transit Oriented Area zoning, which the church falls within.

6. END OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 6:40 p.m.

7. UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

July 3, 2024

September 4, 2024

October 2, 2024

November 6, 2024

December 4, 2024

Certified correct,

Councillor Daniel Fontaine

Carilyn Cook, Committee Clerk