

St. Catharines Heritage Advisory Committee

Minutes

Thursday September 08, 2022

Electronic Participation at 2:30 pm

Members:

Brian Narhi
Gail Benjafield
Holly Washuta
Andrew Humeniuk
Robert De Wolfe
Lorraine Giroux
Robert Speck
John Crawley
Mark Hoerd

Regrets:

Justin Nicholls

Staff Liaison:

James Neilson, Heritage Planner, Planning and Building Services

Tami Kitay, Director of Planning and Building Services

Council

Councilor Ward 6, Carlos Garcia

1. Call meeting to order (Chair)

Chair Narhi called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

2. Recognition of Traditional Territories

Chair Narhi acknowledged that the land which we call St. Catharines and the Niagara region is the ancestral territory of Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples, many of whom continue to live and work here today. This Land is covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and the Dish with One Spoon Wampum agreement. Today this Land is home to many First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Peoples – who share the land with us. This Land Acknowledgement is a statement that reminds us that our standard of living is directly related to the resources and friendship of Indigenous people over many generations.

3. Additions / Deletions to the Agenda

Gail Benjafield added new business regarding metrics and procedures

Holly Washuta added new business regarding the St. Catharines Train Station and the Welland House

Lorraine Giroux added miscellaneous new business

These Items were added as Item 10.4

4. Motion to approve the agenda

Moved by: Andrew Humeniuk

“That the SCHAC adopt the agenda for this SCHAC meeting held on Thursday September 8, 2022, copies having been previously distributed.”

CARRIED

5. Motion to adopt the minutes of the previous meeting

Moved by: Brian Narhi

“That the SCHAC approve the minutes of the SCHAC meeting held on Thursday, July 14, 2022.

CARRIED

6. Declarations of interests

No Declaration of interest

7. Presentations (Invited Guests)

- Carla Mackie, Historical Services Coordinator (Item 9.1)

8. Business arising from the minutes

No business arising from the minutes

9. Business

9.1 Doors Open Update

Carla Mackie, Historical Services Coordinator

Carla Mackie, the Historical Services Coordinator provided an update on the Doors Open event that was recently held. Carla provided statistics for the in-person events and the virtual tours and described the experiences of people who attended the event. The St. Catharines Museum was the most visited site with 558 visitors, followed by the Brown Homestead with 550 visitors. Carla also spoke about the cost associated with running the event. Surveys of people in attendance and participating venues showed that the overall showed that the event was received very positively. Most people who attended this event were from St. Catharines or from another area within the Niagara Region. Carla noted that the date of the event was coordinated specifically for the date of the Canada Games. Most people heard about the event through social media, the City's website or through ads in the newspaper.

Lorraine Giroux asked about the surveys from the participants. Carla Mackie said that the responses and data that we received about the event are only from participants who filled out the surveys and not the entirety of the people attending.

Brian Narhi spoke about their experience with the tours. The tours involved many people who came from out of town such as Toronto, Cambridge, Burlington, and Buffalo. Many people asked some interesting questions, and some asked specifically about the Heritage Advisory Committee. There is the potential for new applicants for the next round of appointments.

Gail Benjafield asked about the lighthouses within Port Dalhousie. Carla Mackie responded by describing the two lighthouses as one that is the outer lighthouse and the one closer to the shore is the inner lighthouse.

Moved by: Gail Benjafield

"That the SCHAC receives the information from Carla Mackie about Doors Open"

CARRIED

9.2 Brown Homestead

Andrew Humeniuk

Andrew Humeniuk spoke about requesting a Letter of Support from the Heritage Advisory Committee for an upcoming planning application that the organization will be working on. There are various permits and permissions that are needed in order to move ahead for future plans. Andrew provided an update about the ongoing and proposed future work at the property and offered to answer any questions from Committee Members.

Brian Narhi asked if the letter of support is something that James Neilson will work on or if it is something that would be led by the Heritage Advisory Committee. James Neilson spoke about the letter of support. There is the potential for conflict with his involvement since this will be a planning application. Tami Kitay spoke about the need to be mindful for putting ourselves in any potential situation for a conflict when there is a Heritage Committee member who is asking for a letter of endorsement from the committee that could eventually issue a permit. Tami Kitay requests that this be discussed with James Neilson and the legal team and will follow up with the Chair of the Committee.

Moved by: Lorraine Giroux

“That the SCHAC receives the information from Andrew Humeniuk about The Brown Homestead”

CARRIED

9.3 Museum Update

Adrian Petry, Visitor Services Coordinator

James Neilson introduced Adrian Petry, Visitor Services Coordinator at the Museum, who will be attending meetings going forward as part of the efforts to coordinate what is happening at the Museum with the work of the Heritage Advisory Committee.

Adrian Petry discussed interpretation and how there is often overlap between this Committee and the Museum. Additionally, there is a lot of overlap with the 2029 task force. Adrian also noted that it can be a challenge for staff to coordinate these efforts since James is in the Planning Department while the museum is in a different department.

Adrian Petry spoke about some new programs that are coming up at the Museum. The Open Late programming is running until October 4th, where they are open until 8:00 pm. The theatrical spirit walk program at Victoria Lawn Cemetery opens on September 9th. This program sold out very quickly. The virtual museum lecture series is continuing in the fall. Early history, indigenous relations, and friendship centres will be discussed on September 20th. On October 4th, Rochelle Bush will talk about Niagara's freedom trail. On October 18th, Paul Miller from Queenston Neighbours will provide a talk about the Queenston neighbourhood. October 22nd and 29th will have a family history workshop. In addition, renovations to the museum are currently taking place to house two new galleries.

Lorraine Giroux asked if photographs taken from the Spirit Walk are something that can be shared in the Merritton Matters. Adrian Petry says that this is something that can be done.

Lorraine Giroux spoke about the Welland House. The previous owners of the Welland House have offered four (4) armchairs from the house to the museum. Adrian Petry spoke about the possibilities for using them in a display.

Gail Benjafield spoke about the overlap of information between the Heritage Committee and the museum. Additionally, Gail Benjafield expressed the need for communication between this group and other organizations such as the library.

Moved by: Holly Washuta

"That the SCHAC receives the information from Adrian Petry about the St. Catharines Museum"

CARRIED

9.4 Heritage Permit Committee Meeting Update James Neilson, Heritage Planner

James Neilson spoke about the recent Heritage Permit Committee meeting. There were four applications, and all were approved.

Councillor Carlos Garcia expressed concern regarding the 44 Lock Street application and the property's encroachments on city property.

Brian Narhi spoke about the significance of 44 Lock Street, which was home to relatives of Mary Pickford and the father of John Mantley.

Moved by: Holly Washuta

“That the SCHAC receives the information from James Neilson about the August meeting of the Heritage Permit Committee”

CARRIED

10. Business Updates from Sub-Committees

10.1 Designations, Plaquing and Ceremonies

Lorraine Giroux spoke about the previous meeting of the Sub-Committee where the group brainstormed locations for informational plaques along the first and second Welland Canal. The Welland Canal task force is interested in having plaquing that is consistent with its design and information. Lorraine Giroux spoke about the possibility of inviting Colleen Beard to attend one of the future plaquing meetings.

Brian Narhi spoke about the text for the Collier Mill plaque which was completed but the plaque has been deferred until there is more information from the Welland Canal Task Force. Brian Narhi also spoke about the Hostetter-Cooke Cemetery.

Moved by: John Crawley

“That the SCHAC receives the information from Lorraine Giroux about the Designations, Plaquing and Ceremonies sub-committee”

CARRIED

10.2 Public Outreach and Education (POE)

No business arising about item 10.2

10.3 Research and Inventory (R & I)

No business arising about item 10.3

10.4 Miscellaneous Items

Gail Benjafield spoke about new metrics, policies and procedures. Several years ago, there was a request to have a flowchart made to show each of the departments. Gail Benjafield suggested that it would be helpful to include flowcharts that show the positions within Planning and Building

Services as well as the Communications department. James Neilson spoke about sending out the flowchart via Email. Gail Benjafield spoke about the policies and procedures regarding the City of St. Catharines YouTube channel. Gail Benjafield also spoke about the procedures regarding the contact information of the Committee members.

Tami Kitay spoke about the previous questions from Gail Benjafield. The Planning and Building Services flowchart is something that can be sent out. As for the YouTube channel, it is something that can be looked into at the clerk's office as they review the content. Additionally, as for the contact information and procedures of the Committee members, there is a grey area regarding people's personal privacy.

Lorraine Giroux requested clarification about an issue mentioned in the August issue of the Current. The clarification is regarding pre-approved street names to be created in consultation with the public. Tami Kitay addressed this clarification. There was a request from Council to look at the existing street naming policy to have it better align with the City's Parks Naming policy. Because of COVID-19, this request was put on hold and resurfaced during the meeting of August 8th, 2022. The recommendation from staff to Council was that there should be a central list to contribute to street names. This list includes the Significant Individuals List. The existing Significant Individuals list is provided to developers in the event they are looking for street names for their development. Gail Benjafield asked if there was a separate list from the Heritage Advisory Committee's list of Significant Individuals? Tami mentioned that staff can provide the Committee with the list. Tami also spoke to the naming of streets in specific areas.

Brian Narhi suggested that it may be a good idea for one of the sub-committees to review the list of significant individuals and update it for future use.

Brian Narhi asked about the potential to return to live meetings for the Advisory Committees. Tami Kitay spoke about the hybrid options and how there will be continued monitoring of the Covid-19 situation with the return to school in September.

Holly Washuta spoke about the recent news about the VIA Rail station. It was recently signed over to the region. Tami Kitay spoke about the implementation of the GO Station secondary plan area. The region has ownership of the station and are applying for a Site Plan Application to redevelop the lands around the station for improvements (such as transit

loops, active transportation and parking). This will be incorporated as part of the station renovation and rehabilitation.

Holly Washuta asked about the Welland House Hotel. Tami Kitay addressed this question saying that the property clean up has continued and is at about 80%. The environmental work has been sent out for results.

Holly Washuta spoke about discussing budgeting for the next Advisory meeting.

Councillor Carlos Garcia spoke about the start of the 6th annual Celebration of Nations to celebrate Indigenous heritage. Additionally, Councilor Carlos Garcia spoke about the passing of a local musician Peter Shea who was also the co-founder of the Niagara Jazz Festival.

11. Date of next meeting

Thursday October 13, 2022

12. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by: Robert Speck

“That the SCHAC meeting is adjourning at 3:57 pm.”

CARRIED