

**MINUTES OF THE
SAANICH HERITAGE FOUNDATION MEETING
HELD VIA REMOTE MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022 AT 5:30 P.M**

Present: Veronica McEllister, President; Sonia Nicholson, Vice President; Art Joyce, Treasurer; Sarah Anderson; Charlotte Clar; and Sheila Colwill; and James Thomson

Regrets: Councillor Karen Harper

Guests: Kate Lemon, Architect KMBR; Joana Nicolae, Designer, KMBR; Stephane Chan, Project Director, KMBR; Marni Vistisen-Harwood, School District #61 (Greater Victoria)

Staff: Cameron Scott, Manager of Community Planning; Silvia Exposito, Planner (Community Planning); and Shirley Leggett, Secretary

Minutes: MOVED by S. Nicholson and Seconded by C. Clar: "That the Minutes of the February 8, 2022, Regular Meeting be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

3910 CEDAR HILL ROAD – CEDAR HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL (REGISTERED) – PROPOSED RE-DEVELOPMENT OF SITE AND REMOVAL FROM HERITAGE REGISTER

At the January meeting, the Manager of Community Planning, and proponents from KMBR Architects Planners Inc., provided an overview regarding the School District's proposal to re-develop the site at 3910 Cedar Hill Road in order to construct a seismic replacement for the current Cedar Hill Middle School (built in 1931 as Mount Douglas Secondary School until 1971 when it became Cedar Hill Junior School and then Cedar Hill Middle School).

Foundation members recommended that a Professional Heritage Consultant from an independent third party review the 1931 portion of the site and to report the current state of its Heritage Value. School District 61 retained Katie Cummer, CHC, Cummer Heritage Consulting, and she prepared the Heritage Values Assessment dated February 2022.

Kate Lemon, Architect, KMBR, stated:

- The report prepared by Cummer Heritage Consulting provides background information and history on the school and recognizes its historical/cultural value as well as the building's integrity and the various changes it has undergone over the years.
- School District 61 is requesting that the 1931 structure be removed from the Saanich Heritage Register to align with the funding approval from the Province which was granted based on a project scope of replacement and not retention.
- Following the suggestions in the Heritage Report and from the community, the School District and Design Team plan to incorporate a number of items from the old school into the new school design.
- They are considering retaining and repurposing the stained-glass windowpanes that was part of an art project done by students and led by the art teacher in the 1960's and retain some the student art that lines the corridors.
- The wood bench currently located in the administration office can be repurposed either in its entirety or a portion of and incorporated into the lobby or a collaborative area for students in the new school.
- They are also open to searching for a time capsule which is believed to be below the flagpole base and retaining the concrete imprint, or create a new imprint at the base of the new flagpole that commemorates both the original 1931 date and the date of the new construction; it could also contain a new time capsule.
- They are planning to provide some photographs and plaques within the school and on the

site to commemorate the history of the property and significance of the school to the community. There is also the opportunity to commemorate Indigenous history and knowledge about the site which may have been historically overlooked.

In response to questions and comments from Foundation members, Ms. Lemon stated:

- There are currently no community partners indicating a desire to retain and renovate the building for another purpose.
- It would be a costly proposition and retention would have significant impact to students and the community.
- With the 1931 structure being located near the centre of the site, retention would mean the number of grass playfields on the site would be reduced from 2 to 1.
- The approved funding assumes that the geothermal field could be located on the footprint of the existing school taking advantage of the need to excavate during demolition.

Comments from Foundation members include:

- The Heritage Consultant's report states that if it's not feasible to retain the building, then it should be thoroughly documented for the historic record prior to demolition. A series of photos should be taken for the Saanich Archives.
- There should be commemorative plaques and pictures inside and outside the new school so the students and public can see what the original school used to be like.
- The building's well-known architect, Hubert Savage, should also be recognized for his work and numerous contributions in both Saanich and Victoria and also up-island.
- Taking videos of the school should also be considered like they did for Vic High School. They should also work with the Mt. Doug and the Quadra Community Alumni Associations.

MOVED BY A. Joyce and Seconded by S. Nicholson: "That:

- 1. The Saanich Heritage Foundation (SHF) reluctantly recommends to Saanich Council the removal of the Cedar Hill Middle School from the Saanich Heritage Register on the condition that the Architect, SD61, and the Project Management Team work with the Heritage Consultant (Cummer Heritage Consulting) in regards to incorporation of heritage elements from the existing building in the new building; and**
- 2. Further, that the SHF recommends that the Architect and Project Management Team work directly with the Quadra Community and Mount Douglas Alumni Associations on any interpretive signage or interior displays regarding the subject building and alumni of same."**

CARRIED

1248 BURNSIDE ROAD WEST (STRANTON LODGE) - UPDATE

The President stated:

- She received a revised quote from Twin Oaks Projects Ltd. dated Feb. 11, 2022 in the amount of \$3,150 (the Sept. 26, 2021 estimate was \$2,940) for the window restoration work which was started last summer.
- Vintage Woodworks also revised their quote from last year and is now \$3,849.56 to replace the four single glazed casement sash on the east side of the house – up from \$3,664.19.
- AG Stained Glass provided an estimate dated March 1, 2022 in the amount of \$600 to remove 3 windows from existing sash and reinstall into new sash.

MOVED BY S. Colwill and Seconded by C. Clar: “That the revised quotes from Twin Oaks Projects Ltd. (\$3,150), Vintage Woodworks (\$3,849.56), and the estimate from AG Stained Glass (\$600) be approved, for the continuation of the window restoration work identified in the Building Condition Assessment for 1248 Burnside Road West (Stranton Lodge) which commenced in the summer of 2021.”

CARRIED

4139 LAMBRICK WAY (DODD HOUSE) – UPDATE

S. Colwill stated:

- She is getting quotes for insulation and ventilation in the crawlspace as per the John Dam Building Condition Assessment.
- Trevor from Arbor Renovations will be repairing and replacing damaged pickets on the fence in preparation of repainting it next year.
- The President advised that she had taken some photos of the new exterior paint that was completed last year and sent them to John Dam.

TREASURER’S REPORT – UPDATE

The Treasurer provided the following balances to march 1, 2022:

Operating Account:	\$3,697.05		
Grant Account:	\$56,318.69	GIC:	\$20,810.06 (due April 4, 2022)
		GIC:	\$13,489.04 (due May 7, 2022)
Hall House Account:	\$8,388.18	GIC:	\$24,302.24 (due June 12, 2022)
		GIC:	\$ 5,254.91 (due Nov. 1, 2022)
Dodd House Account:	\$41,470.33	GIC:	\$21,604.34 (due Oct. 4, 2022)
		GIC:	\$10,509.80 (due Nov.1, 2022)

MOVED by A. Joyce and Seconded by S. Colwill: “That the Treasurer’s report be received for information.”

CARRIED

SAANICH COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM – GRANT REQUEST TO COUNCIL

Copy of the Contribution Agreement from the Director of Finance pertaining to the Council policy regarding the Saanich Community Grants Program, which sets out the purpose statement and general guidelines for the District to provide financial support to non-profit community associations and organizations.

The proposed Agreement is for a five (5) year term with a sum of \$35,000 for each year of the term paid to the Society as a lump sum by the 31st day of May of each year.

The Secretary reminded Foundation members that at the January 11, 2022 regular meeting, they passed a motion that based on the total dollar amount from the Restoration Grant Applications received for 2022, they would submit a Saanich Community Grant request to Council in the amount of \$52,000.

Foundation discussion noted:

- There has been an increase in house grant applications over the past few years and construction costs have increased as well as inflation.
- There are also secretarial costs and Director's Liability Insurance to pay each year.
- If the grant amount is only \$35,000 each year for the next five years then we may need to reduce the amount of 35% grant funding to homeowners which has been in place for many years.
- The Grant Program has to be viable. We should be hesitant to commit to a five year agreement with no increases each year.

The Secretary stated that they were to review the agreement prepared at Council's direction and either return duly executed by the SHF or provide any feedback on terms that are not acceptable.

The President stated that she will draft a response to the Director of Finance requesting that the amount of the Foundation's Contribution Agreement be increased from the proposed \$35,000 per year to \$52,000 per year for the next five (5) years.

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES

C. Clar stated:

- To celebrate International Women's Day she posted on Sylvia Grace Holland who was born in 1900, and in 1924 became a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects. She later went on to become one of the first female animators at the Disney Studios in California.
- She hasn't started any posts on the Med Grill in Royal Oak yet (formerly the original Saanich Municipal Hall).

ADVOCACY AND OUTREACH – UPDATE

The Vice President stated:

- She has nothing new to report on.
- She hasn't heard anything new from the Uvic student that is working on an article and a timeline of the history of the building at the corner of Quadra Street and Tattersall Road.

UPDATES FROM THE ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ACH)

The Vice President and liaison to the ACH stated:

- At the February 23, 2022 ACH meeting, the Planner from Community Planning and Project Manager of the Cadboro Bay Local Area Plan (LAP) provided a presentation on the Draft Cadboro Bay LAP.
- The ACH passed a motion requesting Council consider a mural project that can support and recognize local First Nations culture and history within the Cadboro Bay Local Area Plan. The LAP is going to Council on March 14, 2022.
- The next ACH meeting is March 27th.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m. with the Annual General Meeting to follow.

NEXT MEETING

The next Regular meeting of the Saanich Heritage Foundation will be held **via remote meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.**

..... CHAIRPERSON