



City of Surrey

Surrey Heritage Advisory Commission Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2007
Time: 10:09 a.m.

Present:

Chair - H. Lindenbach
A. Clegg
C. Johnston
J. Monk
S. Sidhu
M. Stibbs
W. Tracey
Councillor Higginbotham (10:25)

Absent:

D. Bowyer
R. Fuller

Guests:

L. Pasacreta, Donald Luxton &
Associates Inc. (10:12 am)

Staff Present:

A. Kopystynski, Planning & Development
N. Dyrbye, Legislative Services

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Surrey Heritage Advisory Commission Minutes - November 28, 2007

It was Moved by Commissioner Johnston
Seconded by Commissioner Tracey
That the minutes of the Surrey Heritage
Advisory Commission of November 28, 2007, be adopted, as circulated.
Carried

B. DELEGATIONS

C. CORPORATE REPORTS

1. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

(a) Surrey Statement of Significance 2007 - 2008

The Senior Planner (Heritage) has provided a report regarding a presentation to be heard by Don Luxton regarding Statements of Significance for Surrey schools.

This item was dealt with later in meeting.

The Senior Planner (Heritage) made the following comments:

- The Commission had retained Don Luxton and Associates to assist in undertaking the research on seven sites with existing or older schools and preparing Statements of Significance.
- The fieldwork was completed in September/October of 2007 and the findings have been compiled into a report on the various schools.
- This report is the first draft and is open to comments and suggestions. It will be circulated to members of staff as well for any changes and a

final version will be presented to the Commission early in 2008 for the HAC to forward to Council for approval.

Laura Pasacreta presented on behalf of Donald Luxton & Associates Inc. and made the following comments:

- They have conducted research of the development of the public school system in British Columbia and compiled a report of the various schools from colonial times. At that time, there were two separate colonies and development of the school system – one on the mainland and one on Vancouver Island.
- There was an Anglican dominance in the public school in the early times and the first school to be built was in 1849.
- The gold rush of 1857 brought settlers to the area, which in turn fueled the demand for more schools.
- In 1866 the two colonies united and there was interest to organize a public school system.
- In 1871, 21 new schools were built and in 1872 the Provincial Schools Act provided for the centralization of school governance.
- There was an educational mandate by the province to standardize the construction of schools and in 1908, the Department of Land and Works became the Department of Public Works.
- The first school in Surrey was located in Clover Valley on 176th Street and 60th Avenue and was built in 1882, which was mainly due to Henry Thrift who donated the land to build the school.
- The Surrey School District was established in 1906 and at present time, Surrey School District 36 has the largest enrollment in British Columbia and is also the largest employer with more than 7900 employees and 4900 teachers. In 2006, the School District celebrated its 100th anniversary.

Councillor Higginbotham arrived at the meeting.

- A number of new schools were built between 1910 and 1920 reflecting the ongoing community growth and development of Surrey. In 1919, Cloverdale School became the first dedicated high school in Surrey.

The following are some specific schools that were researched and presented on:

- Grandview Heights Elementary School Annex – 17561 – 20th Avenue
 - This school is a small front-gabled, one-room rural schoolhouse with a banked wooden frame, 6-over-6 double-hung windows with a simple rectangular form and separate boys and girls entrances.
 - This school is valued for its association to the growth of the Grandview Heights neighbourhood in the 1920s and community need for a school to serve its growing population

- and experienced regeneration in growth after the First World War.
- This school is in a prominent location on the hillside overlooking Semiahmoo Bay and served students who previously had to travel many miles away to attend other schools.
 - The school was built on land purchased by the Surrey School Board who also provided the materials and a carpenter. The school was built in part by volunteers in the community and construction was completed in 1922. The first teacher of Grandview Heights Elementary School was Mrs. Delta Hugh.
 - This school was one of the last active one-room school houses remaining in Surrey which closed in 2006.
- Mud Bay School – 4382 King George Highway
 - This school is a one-storey wood-frame building with a rectangular plan and hipped-roof structure that is now a residence in the original location but once functioned as a one-room schoolhouse which was built in 1883.
 - Mud Bay School is valued as the second oldest school in existence in which the land for it was donated by early residents John Barstow Chantrell and his wife and was constructed by John Murchison for \$950.
 - The school was permanently closed in 1920 and Elgin School was constructed and opened in 1921 to replace Mud Bay School.
 - The building also functioned as a church until 1885 and after it was closed in 1920, it reopened as a manual training centre from 1929 to 1931.
 - Clayton Elementary – 7541 – 184th Street
 - This school is a two-storey, side-gabled Arts and Crafts inspired schoolhouse with banked windows and a central entryway which is situated in front of a newer school. It is valued for its prominent rectangular massing, side gabled roof with exposed rafters, central stairway and separate boys and girls entranceways.
 - The school was a one-room log cabin built by a homesteader and has been continuously used as a school since 1891.
 - Mr. John A. McLean was the first teacher at this school which had a total of 15 students.
 - Kensington Prairie Elementary School – 16842 – 32nd Avenue
 - This school is a one-storey stucco-clad schoolhouse with a basement and is distinctive for its fieldstone foundation with raised tuck-pointing, a front-gabled roof with shaped brackets and front gabled projection with paired entryway flanking with separate boys and girls entrances.

- The school opened in 1914 as a two-room schoolhouse and demonstrates the growth and development of the community and the value that was placed on public education.
 - This building was constructed of all local materials and was without electricity until 1946.
 - A separate three-room annex was added during the 1950s which contained a staff room kitchen, medical office and office. A gym was added in 1967-68 and a library followed in 1972.
 - This school is a significant example of standardized architecture that typified educational institutions at this time.
- East Kensington Elementary School – 2795 – 184th Street
 - This school is a one-storey, wood-frame schoolhouse in the Grandview Heights area of Surrey. It is noted for its banked wood-frame window openings, a projecting front-gable entrance on the south side and a hipped roof with overhang. The property contains a .4-hectare schoolyard with a partially grassed yard and perimeter plantings and has separate boys' and girls' entrances.
 - The school was established in 1898 – 99 in a small outbuilding which originally operated as an assisted school. In 1908 a larger one-room schoolhouse was built which was again replaced with the current school constructed in 1924 and designed by the Department of Land and Works.
 - This school still has the original siding intact, which is now covered with stucco.
- Crescent Park Annex – 2378 – 124th Street
 - The school is a small, one-storey, one-room schoolhouse with a partial basement, a front-gabled entrance, corbelled brick chimney and ribbon windows situated on a large lot which is surrounded by grassed open space and a number of trees and perimeter plantings.
 - The school was built in 1918 and the land was donated by Benjamin Stevenson in 1916 which served students from grades one through eight.
 - In 1913, transportation links improved in the area with the Great Northern Sea Line and the inauguration of Steveson Road in 1924 which permitted car traffic from New Westminster to White Rock.
 - This school is valued as an example of architectural schoolhouse design regulated by the province.

Commissioner Johnston left the meeting at 11:04 a.m. and the Commission thanked her for her efforts and contributions to the Commission over the past years.

- Port Kells Elementary School – 19076 – 88th Avenue
 - This school is a large, one-storey stucco clad institution with a twin-gabled façade and a hipped roof with flared bell cast

- eaves with a large open area of grassed field with mature coniferous and deciduous trees situated behind the school.
- The school opened in 1907. Since that time, there have been a number of modifications and additions to the school as well as a large extension on the eastern side, however, the building still retains its original historic character and is a neighbourhood landmark.
 - The Great Northern Railway removed the tracks in 1929 built through Mud Bay in 1909 which facilitated vehicle access to the area.
 - The design for the school was provided by the provincial Department of Land and Works in 1907 and is valued as an example of the standardized architecture that typified educational institutions at this time and the school is still in use today.

The following comments were made in response to the presentation:

- Suggestion was made to edit the report as follows:
 - Note the effect of confederation and provincial responsibilities under the British North America Act on formation of the centralized school system in BC;
 - If possible, determination of the oldest school still present in Surrey;
 - Determine the influx of settlers around the areas of the school and determine the boundaries of school districts prior to centralization, including those for non-existent schools like the Woodward Hill School, in Brownsville and on Old Yale Road across from St. Helens Church;
 - Confirm the dates of the time periods of the high schools in the Cloverdale (e.g. Surrey High School which was later the first Lord Tweedmere School) and New Westminster areas;
 - Add the date of completion of the Pacific Highway to the report;
 - Include names of those involved in the construction of the Grandview Heights Elementary School and what year in which the subsequent school was built;
 - Confirm that the roof finishes for all school buildings for the correct time periods be included in the report;
 - Confirm the timeframe in which Crescent Park Annex became a public school and the use of St. George-on-the-Hill for the new Crescent park School; and
 - If possible, include map of where pre-District 35 schools were situated.

The Commission thanked L. Pasacreta for the presentation and look forward to receiving a revised copy of the report in the new year.

There being no further business to discuss, L. Pasacreta left the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

2. PARKS AND RECREATION

There are no reports from the Parks and Recreation Department.

3. ENGINEERING

There are no reports from the Engineering Department.

4. LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

(a) Surrey Historical Society

Letter dated December 5, 2007 to the Surrey Historical Society addressing questions and concerns previously put forward to the Surrey Heritage Advisory Commission.

- This item was received by the Commission.

D. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Heritage BC

Letter from Heritage BC announcing Heritage Week 2008 and enclosing posters featuring the City of Nelson's renowned commercial district.
(Posters to be provided on-table).

It was
for Heritage Week 2008 to the Manager of Heritage Services for distribution and display.

Moved by Commissioner Monk
Seconded by Commissioner Clegg
That the Clerk's Office forward the posters

Carried

F. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. Presentation from Surrey Foundation

Councillor Higginbotham has requested that Dan Effa from Surrey Foundation come to the next SHAC meeting to discuss Heritage funding.

It was Moved by Commissioner Tracey
Seconded by Commissioner Stibbs
That the Clerk's Department invite Dan Effa
from Surrey Foundation to attend as a guest to speak about Heritage funding at
the January SHAC meeting.

Carried

2. Distribution of Heritage Books

- It was decided that the Senior Planner (Heritage) would work with the Clerk's Department to compile the list of Heritage Sites and owners and to distribute the books to them.

3. Financial Assistance By-law

- The Senior Planner (Heritage) raised the question as to whether heritage properties which consist of more than one building are eligible for financial assistance on each building or all buildings as a whole.

It was Moved by Commissioner Stibbs
Seconded by Commissioner Tracey
That the SHAC recommend to Council that
the General Manager of Planning and Development prepare a Corporate Report
that the by-law for heritage assistance for heritage buildings be amended to
stipulate that each building associated with a heritage designation on a lot is
entitled to its own financial assistance.

Carried

G. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Heritage Advisory Commission is scheduled for
January 30, 2008 in the Mayor's Executive Boardroom - 9:00 a.m.

The Commission also gave special thanks to Commissioner Clegg and Commissioner
Bowyer (Commissioner Bowyer was unable to attend this SHAC meeting) for their hard
work and contributions to the SHAC over the past years of service.

H. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by Commissioner Clegg
Seconded by Commissioner Monk
That the Surrey Heritage Advisory

Commission meeting do now adjourn.

Carried

The Surrey Heritage Advisory Commission adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Hazel Lindenbach, Chairperson
Surrey Heritage Advisory Commission