

NIAGARA FALLS BOARD OF MUSEUMS
Thursday, February 15, 2007
MINUTES

- Present:** Gordon West (Chair); Tony Caruso; Margaret Dunn; Don Jackson; Margaret Mingle; Daniel Rodrique
- Regrets:** Dino Fazio; John Harkness; Marie Henry
- Guests:** Wendy Canavan, Main & Ferry Community Improvement Plan
- Staff Present:** Kathleen Powell, Museums Manager; Kevin Windsor, Curator, Lundy's Lane Historical Museum; Sara Byers-Ogilvie, Curator, Willoughby Historical Museum; Deborah Legge, Recording Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by Gordon West, as Chair.

Presentation:

G. West welcomed Wendy Canavan representing Main & Ferry BIA. This association has committed to present \$1000 per year over the next five years to the Niagara Falls Board of Museums towards the bicentennial project. Ms. Canavan talked about the redevelopment of the Main and Ferry area (Drummond Road to Stanley Avenue, North Street to Murray Street) to emphasize its historic importance. The plan is to acquire key pieces of property on the battlefield, and to develop the area into a year-round, seven-day marketplace. The City wants to open dialogue and discussions with stakeholders, including the Museums, and incorporate Museum expansion into plans for the rest of battlefield area and market. This is the first discussion of the process. Discussion ensued regarding the Museums' place as an important part of the process. K. Powell is on the Community Improvement Plan Committee and will attend the next BIA meeting; she will keep the Board of Museums updated regularly. The Plan will go to Council within the next few weeks, and Board members are asked to attend to lend support.

K Powell introduced curators and staff to new Board Members and encouraged them to visit the three Museums.

Election of Officers:

- a) Chair
MOTION to nominate G. West, by D. Jackson, seconded by M. Dunn.
There being no other nominations, Mr. West accepted the nomination and was acclaimed Chair
- b) Vice Chair
MOTION to nominate M. Dunn, by D. Jackson, seconded by G. West
MOTION to nominate D. Rodrique, by T. Caruso, seconded by G. West
MOTION to nominate D. Jackson, by M. Dunn
It was decided that the matter of the election of Vice Chair be tabled until the next meeting when there is expected to be more Board members present.
- c) D. Rodrique advised that as a member of the Niagara Military Museum group, he was concerned about possible conflict of interest. Ensuing discussion involved clarification and definition of conflict of interest; in the case of monetary matters concerning the Military Museum, Mr. Rodrique will declare conflict of interest, otherwise his input into matters concerning that group and the Armoury will be welcomed.

Minutes:

MOTION: That the Minutes of the meeting of Thursday, January 18, 2007, be adopted as distributed.

M. Dunn/D. Jackson
Carried

Business Arising

- a) It was explained that revisions to the current by-laws are being prepared by the City Clerk's office an haven't been presented to Council yet.
- b) Nostalgiafest has been cancelled due to funding obstacles.
- c) The citizen requesting funding for a fence abutting Armoury property has been instructed to appeal directly to Council.
- d) K. Powell will have copies of the proposed Armoury lease currently being negotiated with the City solicitor and the Niagara Military Museum made for Board members for discussion.
- e) K. Powell read a letter from the architect involved with the original 1987 feasibility study, outlining costs, timelines, concept development, reporting, fundraising, budgeting and other services.

MOTION: That the Board meet with John McDonald, City CAO, for permission to go ahead with an updated Feasibility Study.

M. Mingle/T. Caruso
Carried

Subcommittee Reports

- a) Fundraising: The classic car raffle project was explained to new Members. Appreciation was expressed for the great amount of work done to date. With the commitment of the Board, a lot more fundraising needs to be done.
Ruth Ann Nieuwesteeg, of Patterson Funeral Home, has suggested the Board approach funeral homes to suggest planned giving to the Museums to their clients. This was discussed.
- b) Committee Structure The various sub-committees of the Board of Museums were introduced and discussed. Included in the discussion was a Volunteer Sub-Committee and its potential activities. D. Jackson suggested that a list of working committee positions be prepared for the next meeting.
- c) Armoury Ad Hoc: The matter of the lease and Schedule D has been left with the city solicitor to discuss with the Niagara Military Museum's solicitor. Environmental company working on asbestos and the mouldy basement is finished; K. Powell will meet with them next week. The Armoury project is at a standstill until the City budget is passed. There was discussion of work in the building and building code issues.
- d) 1812-2012 Task Force: The Task Force met today and set in motion the preparation of a business plan to be presented to City Council, the Provincial and Federal governments. The first event will be a reenactment of the Battle of Queenston Heights on Saturday, October 13, 2007. The Task Force is committed to supply lunch on Saturday, either by preparing it themselves or by procuring a sponsor to provide it. There followed discussions of the Task Force and bicentennial activities. A network of volunteers will be needed to help with activities. Board members are invited to join the Task Force, which meets every six weeks on Tuesday afternoons. The next meeting will take place on March 29.

Correspondence

- a) Letters from Frank Leslie and Wayne Campbell regarding Board of Museums application.
- b) City council to proclaim next week Heritage Week
- c) Accounting office at City to transfer operating funding left over from last year into reserves.

Manager's Report

- a) K. Powell distributed her report and explained the procedure.
- b) M. Mingle volunteered to do chair a marketing sub-committee of the Board. D. Rodrique volunteered to sit on the sub-committee.

New Business

- a) There is a proposal to redo the interpretive panels at the Battle Ground Hotel Museum. Quotes have been received for \$616 or \$812 plus tax, depending on the size of board used. This amount has been raised in donations at that Museum.

MOTION: That the heavier gator board be used.

D. Jackson/M. Mingle
Carried

Adjournment

MOTION: That this meeting be adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

T. Caruso/D. Jackson
Carried

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 15, 2007
7:00 p.m.
Lundy's Lane Historical Museum Board Room

Chair

Manager

Date