

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIGHORN NO. 8

HERITAGE RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD JANUARY 18, 2010 AT THE MUNICIPAL OFFICE IN EXSHAW

PRESENT: PAUL ADAMS MEMBER (Council)
DENNIS APEDAILE MEMBER (Public)
MARIA DUNKI MEMBER (Council)
BERT DYCK MEMBER (Public)
LYNDA GRISCHKAT MEMBER (Public)
PAUL RYAN CHAIRMAN (Council)

STAFF: GREG BIRCH ASSISTANT MUNICIPAL MANAGER
ULRIKA GILLESPIE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT

GUESTS: ERYN BUCKLE, ROBERT BUCKLE, MATTHEW FRANCIS,
BRENDA MANWEILER attended the meeting starting at 10:20a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

No additional agenda items were proposed by the Heritage Resources Committee members or staff.

MOTION 01.01.10 DUNKI THAT

the Heritage Resources Committee approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

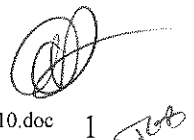
III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chairman asked if there were any changes proposed to the December 7, 2009 minutes. None were noted.

MOTION 02.01.10 DUNKI THAT

the Heritage Resources Committee approve the minutes of the December 7, 2009 Heritage Resources Committee meeting as presented.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



IV. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

A. St. Bernard's Catholic Church

1. Preservation Initiative

Chairman Ryan said that he has spoken with representative from Lafarge recently and that they were interested to hear about the status of the church.

Mr. Birch provided a brief review of the public information session that was held in November last year, and the follow up discussions with some of the more interested persons who attended. He said that, in summary, there seemed to be 8-10 people who might be interested in helping but no person or group that wanted to lead the initiative. Consequently, he said that as an alternative to the recommendation in the agenda package the Committee might want to direct staff to hold another meeting, with specific invitations only to people who could be identified as showing an interest in participating in a church preservation effort. The idea would be to ask that small group if there was someone, or a couple of people, to lead the project.

The members agreed that the Committee had spent a lot of time on this initiative and that they had done all that they could in trying to find an interested party to preserve the old church. They suggested that the people who showed interest in preserving the church be notified that the HRC would be recommending to Council, at its February 9th, 2010 meeting, that the MD decline Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools' offer to donate the church to the municipality. The Committee wanted any interested party to know that there is a short window of time remaining to notify the municipality if they wanted to take on the project.

MOTION 03.01.10 DUNKI THAT

that the Heritage Resources Committee recommend to MD of Bighorn Council that because of a lack of substantive community interest in leading an initiative to preserve the 1907 portion of the old St. Bernard's Catholic Church, Council decline the offer of Christ the Redeemer Catholic Schools to take ownership of that portion of the old church, and that the individuals who had shown support at the public meeting be notified that the HRC will be making this recommendation to Council.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Tracking Form

There was a brief discussion around the tracking form as staff had made the suggested changes to it following the December meeting. Councillor Dunki asked if the Heritage Gift Agreement, item seven on the form, was prepared and said it would need to be brought before Council and that it should be sent to the MD's lawyers. Mr. Birch replied that it was in draft form and that it could be brought back to the February HRC meeting.

The Committee briefly reviewed the Tracking Form and suggested that there be a separate area on the Form to keep track of ideas that may not be projects for the Committee to work on but, instead, list ideas for any future, community based, historical group to consider. They agreed that some of the items in the Tracking Form should be in that second section.

The Chairman said there was a need for a strategic planning session and asked when it could be arranged. Mr. Birch said that the Committee will need to work on the inventory project first in order to keep it on schedule. Specifically, the Committee will need to select 20 of the 40 items on the Places of Interest List which the MD heritage consultants was preparing. Mr. Birch said that the Committee should plan on two meetings with HCI, with the first to be held in March. Chairman Ryan asked that staff try for April for the planning session.

Councillor Dunki noted that she will be away for the May meeting.

B. Recordable Events

1. Olympic Torch Relay

Ms. Gillespie said that the photographer hired is Patti McPherson from Highland Photo Services. She said that she will instruct the photographer to cover as much of the torch route as possible but that it would not be possible to capture the entire Exshaw route. She said that the photographer will also take pictures of staff and Council.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

B. Seebe – Superintendent’s Residence and Old School

Mr. Birch provided background information saying how, for several years, the MD has been trying to get the current land owner, TransAlta Utilities, or the likely future land owner, the Stoney First Nation, to agree to the designation of the Superintendent’s Residence and old school in Seebe as municipal heritage resources. He said that over the years there had been only moderate interest shown or action taken to save the buildings, and that the condition of the buildings has deteriorated. He said that there is no public access to the site and he also explained that an application had been received to subdivide the land on which the hydro power generation facilities are located. He said that he is suggesting to the HRC that it recommend to Council that the MD drop its interest in preserving those two buildings.

MOTION 04.01.10 DUNKI THAT

that the Committee go in camera at 9:37 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION 05.01.10 ADAMS THAT

that the Committee come out of camera at 9:42 a.m.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION 06.01.10 DYCK THAT

that the Heritage Resources Committee recommend to MD of Bighorn Council that, because of the continuing deterioration of the buildings and the apparent lack of interest of TransAlta Utilities Corporation and the Stoney First Nation in preserving those buildings, Council abandon its long standing interest in preserving the Superintendents’ Residence and old Seebe School in the former Seebe Townsite.

Handwritten signature and initials, possibly 'TCB', in the bottom right corner of the page.

Before there was a vote on the motion, Ms. Grischkat asked if it was possible to move the buildings. There was a discussion during which it was explained that this idea had been explored earlier and that it was not a feasible option. Councillor Dunki said that she was not willing to support spending tax payer's money for moving the buildings.

Mr. Apedaile said that he would like to make sure that we have documentation of the buildings and that the information be kept. Mr. Birch said that there is an idea out in the community of a book being written about the story of Seebe. He said that we have a lot of information about the buildings because the Province had required a Historical Impact Assessment before the community was dismantled. He said that the MD likely has a copy.

Councillor Adams said that the two buildings were of historical interest and noted that Council had given eight notices of intent to designate the buildings as historical municipal resources.

The Committee agreed that because of the lack of interest of the landowner the amount of time that had passed and the condition of the buildings, that they no longer pursue preserving the buildings.

The Chairman asked for a vote on the motion that was on the floor (see above).

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION 07.01.10 APEDAILE THAT

before the buildings are lost, administration make an effort, to collect any information that is available about the old Superintendents' Residence and Seebe School, including asking TransAlta for copies of its information.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The Chairman moved to item VIII on the agenda as representatives from both the Municipal Heritage Partnership Program and Heritage Collaborative Inc. had not arrived yet.

VIII. EDUCATIONAL/INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Councillor Dunki informed the Committee that she had picked up the MD's copy of the new "More Big Hill Country" and delivered it to staff.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

The Committee discussed the next meeting date and time. Mr. Birch explained that he had recently spoken with HCI and they wanted to meet with the Committee to discuss the selection of sites to be evaluated in the inventory. He said that HCI is unable to meet on February 1st, the next HRC meeting, and provided dates HCI was available. The Chairman suggested that HCI be reminded that they were under contract to the MD and that they should accommodate the MD's schedule and not the reverse.

Mr. Birch then explained that staff hoped to make notes during the presentation by HCI and then the training from MHPP as part of the minutes. He said that recording things in



the minutes is the best way to keep record of these things. However, it would be very difficult to ensure detailed minutes of all of this training, and asked the members if the next portion of the minutes could be abbreviated. The Committee agreed.

The Chairman called for a recess at 10:008 a.m. to allow time for the consultants and Provincial representatives to arrive and set up. During the break, Robert and Eryn Buckle from HCI, and Matthew Francis and Brenda Manweiler from MHPP arrived.

VI. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

C. HCI Inventory Update

The Chairman called the meeting back together at 10:20 a.m. He moved to agenda item VIC and invited HCI to begin their presentation.

Robert Buckle began his presentation by thanking MHPP for their participation and contribution to funding of the project. He reminded the Committee that 94 sites had been surveyed and, from those sites, 40 sites were selected for the draft Places of Interest List (POIL). He said that from those 40 sites, approximately 20 will be selected to be evaluated for the inventory. He explained that to be on the inventory, a site must have integrity and significance. He said that to help determine this, HCI completes a Municipal Heritage Survey Review Form (MHSRF) and these will be done for the 40 sites.

When asked about the number of sites to be included on the inventory, Mr. Buckle and Mr. Francis explained that it is limited by time and funding. Mr. Buckle said the Committee will decide which 20 sites will be evaluated.

Councillor Dunki asked if there is a public element to the inventory. Mr. Buckle said that they need to talk to the public for research and that such discussion is good for keeping the heritage discussion going in the community. Ms. Buckle said that inventories and designation are good opportunities to inform the public.

D. Municipal Heritage Partnership Program - Training

Matthew Francis began the MHPP session by talking about the designation process and approaches to conservation in Alberta. He introduced the terms: preservation, rehabilitation and restoration. He explained that designating is one tool municipalities can use as it can legally protect buildings, and designation opens opportunities for funding. Mr. Francis said that the Historic Resources Act needs to balance private property and public good. He talked about the Historic Resources Act requiring compensation in some cases and the need for municipalities to address that if they designate a municipal historic resource.

Mr. Francis said that the framework for decision making is based on the Parks Canada Standard and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada. Ms. Manweiler said she would send copies of the Standard and Guidelines to the Committee.

Mr. Francis spoke about the Alberta Historical Resources Foundation and that they disburse annually 2.5 million dollars in matching grants to various historical projects. He explained that applicants can apply twice a year but not all applicants will receive funding.

TBB

Following Matthew Francis' presentation, Brenda Manweiler began her presentation on Values Based Management (VBM) and Historic Places. She said VBM focuses on why a place is important and the Statement of Significance explains why a place is valued. She said for a site to be included in an inventory, a site must be eligible, have significance and integrity.

Ms. Manweiler said that studies have been done in urban settings that show that historic buildings have higher value than non-heritage buildings but that no studies have been done in a rural setting. She said in the future it would be interesting to consider Bighorn in such a study.

When asked about reverse designation or the removal of historical status, Ms. Manweiler said that the Heritage Foundation would not look favorably on any future applications coming from a municipality that removed designation from a site. Money and energy spent on the original preservation effort would be lost. However, such removal is the municipality's option.

Ms. Manweiler clarified that designation and funding are separate matters. She said that once a site is designated, it then is listed on a provincial historical places list and then is eligible for funding.

Ms. Manweiler referred to the manual, "Evaluating Historic Places" which Committee members had a copy of, and spoke about eligibility for inclusion on a inventory. She referenced pages 10 to 13.

At noon, the Chairman called for a short lunch break and the meeting resumed at 12:35 p.m.

Ms Manweiler carried on with her presentation and talked about assessing significance of a resource and referred the Committee to pages 18-19. She then addressed integrity of a resource and referred to pages 33-35.

Ms. Manweiler then spoke about Statements of Significance (SoS). She said that the purpose of an SoS is to explain why a site is valued; it is meant to describe the value and not to provide a short history. She said that it identifies what must be protected and conserved, and an SoS does not include everything about a site.

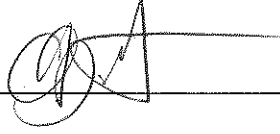
The group then completed an exercise illustrating the importance of a well written SoS. Ms. Manweiler explained that the value needs to be reflected in the character defining elements in the SoS.

Following the SoS exercise and the MHPP presentation, the Chair noted there were no more items on the agenda to discuss. He thanked HCI and the MHPP representatives for their educational presentations.

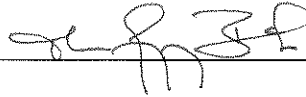
XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 08.01.10 APEDAILE THAT

the Heritage Resources Committee meeting be adjourned at 3:23 p.m.



CHAIR



DESIGNATED
OFFICER