



Wednesday, April 6, 2022
7:00pm → Alberni Valley Museum
Minutes

Attending:

Bert Simpson
Claudia Romaniuk
Colin Schult
Dan Washington
Gareth Flostrand
Ken Watson
Pam Craig
Ron Corbeil
Kirsten Smith (staff)
Willa Thorpe (staff)

Regrets:

Bill Collette
Ed Ross

Called to order: 7:02pm

1. Moved by Pam that the agenda of the April 6, 2022 meeting be approved as circulated.
2. Moved by Colin that the minutes of the March 2, 2022 meeting be approved as circulated.
3. Old Business
 - a. Train Station update
 - i. The RFP for prospective tenants went live on March 30, with a closing date of June 17: www.letsconnectpa.ca/train-station-rfp
 - ii. Construction work is expected to be completed before the RFP closes
4. Correspondence
 - a. BC Arts Council
 - i. Resilience grant of \$25,600 awarded
5. New Business
 - a. Deaccessioning of artefacts
 - i. A set of drawings were created for the children of the Skidegate Mission School by local elders, and given to the Alberni Valley Museum in 1972. Staff's intent is to give the drawings to the Haida Gwaii Museum.
 - ii. Moved by Pam to deaccession these drawings and ship the drawings to the Haida Gwaii Museum. Seconded by Bert, carried.



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6. Reports

a. Chamber of Commerce

- i. The Chamber's focus over the past month has been on the annual audit that we are to complete. I believe that the process is soon to wrap up. We have also restarted Chamber events and I'm pleased to say that our first in over two years was a real success. A breakfast meeting sponsored by the San Group was very well-attended on March 23 with more than 40 people present.
- ii. The Chamber continues to work with businesses in the lower 3rd area and has successfully set up a luncheon scheduled for April 21st at Rim Rock. This event will see the Port Alberni Shelter Society present some ideas for all to see. The event is sponsored by PASS and as a result we are able to drastically reduce our fee to attend. \$10.00* for lunch and presentation.
- iii. The Chamber sat in on a meeting with Hon. Josie Osborne recently where she presented highlights of the BC budget to us.
- iv. The Chamber is also working on other events including:
 1. May 6th – Welcome Back Tourism. This event onboard the Frances Barkley from about 3pm to 6pm that afternoon. Everyone welcome. Tickets: \$35.00* sponsored by Alberni District Coop
 2. May 7th – learn to Tango at the McLean Mill. 7pm to 9pm. This event is set up as a fundraiser for newly formed San Group Foundation who in turn will distribute funds to needy charities in the AV. Tickets \$35.00.
 3. May 26th. Chamber AGM at Dog Mountain Brewery 11am to 1pm. Guest speakers included Andy/Robin owners of Dog Mountain and Mayor Sharie Minions.
 4. Friday, June 10th – Community Excellence Awards – McLean Mill. Attendance projected at +/- 300 people. Nearly 60 award winners will be announced that evening covering 2020, 2021 and 2022.
 5. All events tickets can be purchased online at www.albernichamber.ca

b. McLean Mill

- i. We are recruiting for some key roles at the McLean Mill; please contact Bill or Anita: bill@albernichamber.ca anita@mcleanmill.ca
- ii. Weddings and other events are piling up. Most weekends are now booked through the summer. Plans are well underway to open up the campground – we hope by no later than the May long weekend.



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- iii. We continue to talk with Moment Factory about ideas for the site that could include them. A Moment Factory installation at the McLean Mill would immediately vault Port Alberni into a must-see Vancouver Island destination for most months of the year.
 - iv. We plan to open as early as Easter weekend.
 - v. We have rehired Scott J. who has become our site maintenance resource. Scott is capable of most anything and has already had a tremendous effect for us.
- c. Maritime Heritage Society
- i. Lighthouse Roof Replacement – Javen Simon Roofing has been retained to undertake this work as their schedule and weather permit. In March we received notice that ACRD will contribute \$3000 towards this project. Thanks to the ACRD for their support!
 - ii. Tsunami Exhibit – The 1964 Tsunami Exhibit is now available for viewing and will be a permanent exhibit in our Gallery. Thanks to David Cox and Kirsten Smith and Amy Vandal from the AV Museum for all their work on this.
 - iii. Harbour History Pictorial Display - A new display consisting of a collection of Black & White photographs of Port Alberni's harbour, taken by John Taylor in the 1980's is coming soon. The AV Museum has agreed to loan these photos for a temporary exhibit and also to assist with framing the photos for display. A big thank-you to the AV Museum staff for their help with this project and thanks to Dave Cox and Jean McIntosh for organizing this. This new display will replace our current Vanlene shipwreck display so if you haven't seen that yet come on in and have a look before it is gone.
 - iv. Nahanni Restoration Project – With Spring weather we are resuming the weekly work sessions on Monday's at 10 am restoring this WW 2 vintage RCAF crash boat. If you would like to get involved with this project there is lots of opportunity to roll up your sleeves participate. Thanks to Lawrence Charnell for being the leader on this project.
 - v. Summer Programs – We have made applications for funding from the Alberni Co-op and the Alberni Foundation to help cover the costs of hiring students for our 2022 summer programs. Thanks to Don Jones for his work in putting these applications together.
 - vi. Open Hours - we are open Thursday – Sunday, 11 am – 4 pm. Vaccination passport protocol is still in effect. Stop in at the Gallery to see the new Tsunami exhibit and the outgoing Vanlene exhibit and also renew your membership.



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- d. Community Arts Council
 - i. Gallery Exhibits
 - 1. March 30 to April 23 – Ruth Jeffery – Under, Over & Beyond – Woven wall hangings, Emu egg creations
 - ii. Workshops – 4 new spring workshops, beginning April 8, Presented by 2 artists: Connie Chaplin and Ionne McCauley
 - 1. April 8th NIC 10am to 300pm INTRODUCTION TO FIBRE ARTS
 - 2. April 12, NIC 11am to 300pm SHIBORI 7 INDIGO DYEING
 - 3. April 18, April 19 NIC BATIK
(DAY 1 10am to 3pm, DAY 2 11am to 2pm)
 - 4. April 25, April 26 NIC SILK PAINTING
(DAY 1 1030 am to 230pm, DAY 2 1030 am to 230pm)
 - iii. Book Sale May 6 and 7, September 18 at Athletic Hall
 - iv. TEAS ON THE TERRACE, July and August
 - v. SOLSTICE ARTS FESTIVAL, artists/artisans in the garden, July
- e. Regional District
 - i. Extended contract with VIU to continue monitoring the landfill for gases
 - ii. Bamfield received funding from ICET to build an outdoor gathering space on the west side
 - iii. Applying for funding for the Log Train Trail, Sproat Lake Active Transportation Network and West Coast Multi-use pathway
 - iv. 10th and Redford project – rail ties for landscaping donated by IHS
- f. School District
 - i. Monday April 4 was the stakeholder/partner groups informal conversation with the Superintendent candidates. Tuesday April 5 was the formal interviews. April 6 was the final selection by the Board. We will be ready for an announcement shortly.
 - ii. District is also advertising for Director of Instruction – Inclusive Education; District Principal of Indigenous Education; Elementary Principal for Tsuma-as Elementary.
 - iii. District website had a reminder to families that if they travelled out of the country at Spring Break students must wear a mask.
 - iv. Early dismissal for all schools Aril 5, 6, 7 for Learning Conferences.
 - v. Next public Board meeting is April 12. Easter is April 15 to 18. April 22 is a Pro-D day.



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g. City Council

- i. The City of Port Alberni has received notice of a decision from the Agricultural Land Commission [ALC] in response to the City's application to exclude 11.5 ha of land located at 5366 Smith Road, Port Alberni and commonly known as the McLean Mill National Historic Site. Following receipt of a letter of non-compliance in 2020, the City made an application for non-farm use of the site. The ALC rejected the City's application but noted that the panel would accept the submission of an exclusion application and in March of 2021 an application was submitted following the direction of Council. With the intent of the Agricultural Land Reserve [ALR] and the mandate of the ALC in mind, the City proposed to retain 1.3 ha of the 12.8 ha property within the ALR; minimizing the exclusion area. As a result of the decision, the excluded portion of land will enable the City to continue with the highest and best use of the Site which is currently managed on behalf of the City by the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce. "As business operators of McLean Mill since 2020, the Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce has faced significant challenges given the land designation and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We wish to thank the Chamber for their innovation and persistence through these difficult times. We are happy to now have certainty in moving forward and proud to be able to showcase this incredible historic site to our community and visitors, said Mayor, Sharie Minions." Council wishes to extend our thanks to the Agricultural Land Commission in considering the City's applications. Under section 33.1 of the Agricultural Land Commission Act ("ALCA"), the Chair of the Agricultural Land Commission has 60 days to review the decision.
- ii. Dam Safety Review Council authorized early approval and award of contract to Tetra Tech Canada Inc. in the amount of \$84,656.16, plus applicable taxes as allocated in the "City of Port Alberni 2022-2026 Financial Plan Bylaw No. 5045, 2022" to complete a Dam Safety Review of the Lizard Lake and Bainbridge Lake Dams
- iii. Introduction of Manager of Planning The Acting CAO | Director of Development Services introduced Marianne Wade, the City's new Manager of Planning
- iv. The City of Port Alberni is a step closer to adopting its 2022-2026 budget, with council scheduled to give third reading to the new financial plan on Monday, March 28.



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- v. The budget currently shows a 3.9 percent tax increase, or \$81.33 increase for the average residential home valued at \$480,229.

- h. Historical Society
 - i. We are now welcoming researchers in-person. Our door will be open from 11 am – 3 pm, Tuesday – Thursday.
 - ii. During the month of March, the volunteers logged in 180 hours. Thank you for your dedicated time!
 - iii. The Historical Society has been able to have an in-person Board Meeting in March and will hold another one in April.
 - iv. Our AGM will take place on Wednesday, June 8, 7 pm – 9 pm at Echo Centre. There will be a guest speaker.
 - v. Volunteers are in the Archives - Tues – Thurs, 10 am – 3 pm.

- i. Industrial Heritage Society
 - i. Bob East continues working on fire safety plan at IHC
 - ii. Farquhar steam tractor ready for showing. Need to get more operators certified
 - iii. Roundhouse clean-up continues
 - iv. Planning and preparations for Hayes 100th birthday are ongoing

- j. Community at Large
 - i. 7th - Music of Lent and Easter @ Trinity Anglican Church - organ recital with donation proceeds towards Ukrainian Relief - Noon
 - ii. 7th - Mt Klitsa Garden Club 7pm @ Echo Centre (Dogwood)
 - iii. 9th - Spring Fever Indoor Market - 10-4 @ BW Barclay
 - iv. 9th - Highland Dance competition @ Athletic Hall 9am
 - v. 12th - Hike to High Ground - starting @ Spirit Square Harbour Quay 1pm
 - vi. 16th - Community Easter Egg Hunt @ First Baptist Church (Cherry Creek Rd) 12-2pm - free family event for children 12 and under, register at the event.
 - vii. 23rd - Port Alberni Community Clean Up - sponsored by Rotary Club - must register 731-6555 Dwayne Parfitt - or on FB page - 10-2
 - viii. 30th - Plant, Bake and Book Sale @ AV United Church 11-2
 - ix. May 3/4/5 - Blood Donation Event @ BW Barclay

- k. Museum
 - i. The biennial Art Show is returning in May → Emergence: New Works, New Beginnings will run May 5 – September 3, featuring 60 artists from Vancouver Island
<https://www.facebook.com/Av-museum-art-show-2022-106649348437159/>



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- ii. Though there were no local registrants for the Regional Heritage Fair, staff will be running a truncated version for a few classes in the region on May 6
 - iii. The Young Canada Works program has approved support of two post-secondary students to join the Museum this summer; job postings close on April 8
 - iv. BC's Marvellous Mushrooms, a new travelling exhibit created by the Royal BC Museum, explores the science and practical uses of mushrooms today, highlighting some of the most fascinating of the 3,400-known species in the province. This exhibit runs October – December, 2022
- l. Hupacasath First Nation – no report
- m. Tseshah First Nation – no report
7. Next Meeting
- a. Wednesday, May 4 → 7pm (Rollin Art Centre)
8. Adjourn
- a. Moved by Colin to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm.