



Heritage Kenora

~ Minutes ~

January 27, 2011 - 9:35 a.m.
Lake of the Woods Museum Boardroom

Present:

Lori Nelson	Tara Rickaby
Bill Richards	Barb Manson
Tim Davidson	Councillor Rory McMillan
Murray MacDonald	John Nabb
Charmaine Romaniuk	Jim Clarke
Pam Bryson	Chief Warren Brinkman
Councillor Ron Lunny	Councillor Charito Drinkwalter
Karen Brown	

Lisa Moncrief (10 a.m.), Sharon Smith (10:12 a.m.)

1. Call to order The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am.

2. Welcome to new members Lori Nelson welcomed new members Charmaine Romaniuk and Jim Clarke and everyone introduced themselves.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Murray MacDonald declared an interest in an item under No. 6, CIP Applications as a sign contractor.

Charmaine Romaniuk declared an interest in No. 6, CIP Applications – Lake of the Woods Hotel, as a family member.

4. Adoption of Minutes – November 19, 2010

Moved by: Bill Richards **Seconded by: Tim Davidson**

THAT the minutes of the Heritage Kenora meeting of November 19, 2010 be adoption as distributed and forwarded to Council for acceptance.

CARRIED

5. Kenora Fire Hall Heritage Attributes – Discussion with Council representatives and Chief Brinkman

Chief Brinkman distributed information (attached) describing the “Bell Ceremony” and reviewed the history of fires in Kenora. He explained that the bell is a traditional symbol for

the fire service. The Chief stated that he is speaking for all of the members of the Kenora Fire Service as well as those members of the neighbouring communities, and as a member of the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs.

The original use of the call boxes installed in various locations throughout the former Town of Kenora and the alarm bell and ticker tape component, which was located in the fire hall and warned of a fire and gave its approximate location.

Chief Brinkman said that fire service can do a better job of preserving the historical elements because the fire fighters are the people with the history and tradition.

He explained that both the bell and alarm box/bell will be preserved in such a way that the public will have access to them; Beaver Brae Secondary School has a proposal for the bell, which will be located outside, and there are areas, throughout the new fire hall, where artifacts will be showcased.

In response to a question by Jim Clarke, Chief Brinkman indicated that the bell is cracked, and the mechanism is non-operational, however the bell can be rung manually.

Councillor Lunny stated that there is a difference between a bricks and mortar heritage building and the tradition of a uniformed service. The people in uniform live the tradition, which is constant and they, therefore, are best to protect the tradition.

Councillor Drinkwater indicated her support for the Fire Chief's position and the people in uniform who protect the community. She wondered who could take that [tradition] away from them?

Lori Nelson explained that the preservation of the two items is not the issue; both parties agree on that point. The issue is how best to preserve the bell and alarm box. Lori stated that because the items were designated, they are part of the built heritage of the fire hall. It is the role of the heritage committee to advise Council on the best way to preserve the items, for the entire community. Heritage Kenora discussed the matter at a previous meeting and resolved to maintain the two items "in situ", at the former fire hall on Second Street because i) the value of the two elements is strongly connected to the context of the fire station. Their removal diminishes the value of the bell and the alarm box/bell; they should remain where they used to be functional; ii) The two items are part of the designation and are therefore protected – if they are removed they are no longer protected. While it is recognized that the fire staff understand and recognize their value, in future nothing prevents the bell and alarm box/bell from being destroyed; and iii) If Council starts amending designating by-laws, and permitting items to be removed, it is a slippery slope. If these two items are removed, if another owner comes forward to remove items, precedent has been set.

Lori reminded those present that, at the Heritage Kenora meeting on August 14, 2010, the general consensus, of the Committee, was that all heritage elements identified in the designation should remain in the building as they are protected by the by-law.

Jim Clarke asked, for clarification purposes, whether or not subsequent property owners must maintain heritage attributes in perpetuity. Lori replied in the affirmative. Mr. Clarke suggested that maybe the context of the items changes when the use changes.

Lisa Moncrief acknowledged that the issue is emotionally charged, but the basis of the designation is that the context remains when the assets remain "in situ". She suggested that the people who served previously [in the fire hall on Second Street] also have to be respected. Ms. Moncrief went on to remind those present that Heritage Kenora is a committee struck by Council and that it represents the entire community. Lisa stated that everyone who already has a property, which has been designated under the Act, will be watching and amending the by-law may diminish the importance of designation.

Bill Richards said that, in his conversations with members of the public, most people wouldn't have an issue if the artifacts had a designated place to go. He said that the integrity of the fire service to look after the items is not at issue but that Heritage Kenora was created to look after heritage matters.

Murray MacDonald indicated concern at setting a precedent in amending the designating by-law.

Tim Davidson stated a concern with what could happen to the items if they are kept within the new use of a brew pub and wondered how they would be protected.

Ron Lunny stated that he is not speaking on behalf of Council when he says that he has never seen the bell [in the tower] in all the years he's lived here and he suggested that to remove it to another location would be to give it life. He went on to suggest that in ten years no one will know what the alarm box/bell was for, but [if it were located in the new fire hall] every person would be able to explain it.

Rory McMillan asked if there were other options such as putting the items on permanent loan to the new fire hall. Lori Nelson replied that it is her understanding that, if the items are removed, they are not longer protected.

Jim Clarke expressed concern about undermining the mandate and recommendations of Heritage Kenora but wondered if there was a way to establish a link if the items were removed.

Tara Rickaby suggested that Council could require a contractual agreement which would outline how the items are to be protected/displayed, if they chose to amend the designating by-law, including linking the heritage to the former fire hall.

Discussion took place with respect to whether or not consideration had been given to putting in a new bell when the new facility was constructed. Warren Brinkman indicated that part of the hose tower was to house a bell but it added approximately \$1 million to the project and therefore was abandoned as the budget could not bear it.

Lori Nelson said that the prospective owners feel strongly about the retention of the two items in the former fire hall. She then reviewed the process for consideration of a request to amend a designating by-law (flow chart attached). Discussion took place.

Discussion ensued with respect to the process of designating the items and the participation by stakeholders.

Warren Brinkman stated that he would be shocked if Heritage Kenora did not acknowledge that the fire service would provide the best protection [for the items] as they are in the business of protection.

10:31 Ron Lunny, Charito Drinkwalter, Warren Brinkman and Karen Brown left the meeting.

6. CIP Applications

Murray MacDonald and Charmaine Romaniuk left the meeting.

- a) Lake of the Woods Hotel – 2nd application – This is a re-submission which has removed the request for funding for the façade facing Hennepin Lane. The Committee, while very supportive of the renovation, requires more detail, including

dimensions of the sign, location of goose neck lighting. Lori will contact them to advise them that there is funding for professional design services. The Committee considers the colours chosen to be appropriate, but the domed awnings are not part of the design elements considered in these applications.

10:50 a.m Charmaine returned to the meeting

b) Urban Shag

Moved by: Tim Davidson

Seconded by: Bill Richards

THAT the application for sign replacement, by Urban Shag, be approved to a maximum of \$600, being 50% of the quote provided by Alpine Printing.

CARRIED

10:55 a.m. Murray returned to the meeting

c) Doner Block – Nothing to report

d) Outstanding projects - Southview on Second – Signage – the owners have indicated they will be moving forward shortly.

- Pizza Hut – No response to request for status update

e) St. Alban's - There was a vestry meeting on January 23rd to discuss whether or not to proceed.

The Committee would like a financial status update on the CIP budget for next meeting.

7. Amendment to terms of reference

This will be on the agenda for the next meeting. The current terms will be circulated with the minutes.

8. Budget Request

Discussion of which department the budget request should be flowed through. Most committee members felt that the request should go through the Planning Department and Operations. Tara to follow up with the managers.

9. Other business

- **Ontario Heritage Conference 2011 – *Creating the Will* – June 3-5 Cobourg, ON** Lori explained that the focus of the workshop will be public education respecting the foundation of heritage preservation. Murray indicated that he would be interested in attending and he would be able to stay with family. Charmaine also indicated interest in attending. This will depend on budget discussions.
- **Heritage Week – February 21st – 27th, 2011** Discussion took place respecting how best to showcase Heritage Week in Kenora. Lori will draft a press release and a decision will be made for an appearance on a local morning television program
- **Mink Bay Wetlands** Barb indicated that the information to be used as a background for designating the area will come forward at the next meeting. This will be the first landscape to be designated.
- **Leave of absence** Lisa Moncrief indicated that she will be taking a year-long leave of absence but would like to attend this Committee's meetings. The Committee will discuss this as part of the review of the terms of reference.

10. Election of Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary

Lori Nelson explained that City staff are not eligible as voting members on the Committee.

Moved by: Jim Clarke Seconded by: Bill Richards
THAT Tim Davidson be nominated as Chair of Heritage Kenora.

CARRIED

Tim accepted the nomination. Lori called for nominations for Vice-Chair.

Moved by: Bill Richards Seconded by: Murray MacDonald
THAT Jim Clarke be nominated as Vice-Chair of Heritage Kenora.

CARRIED

Jim accepted the nomination. Lori called for nominations for Secretary.

Moved by: Rory McMillan Seconded by: Tim Davidson
THAT Charmaine Romaniuk be nominated as Secretary of Heritage Kenora.

CARRIED

Charmaine accepted the nomination. Staff will research whether or not a Secretary to the Committee is a requirement of a heritage committee, or if Staff can provide the administrative resource.

Discussion took place on how the Committee's recommendation with respect to the possible amendment of the by-law designating the fire hall. The motion, made at a Heritage Kenora meeting in 2010, will be part of a report/recommendation to Council. Rory McMillan indicated that he will be out of town for the February Committee of the Whole, Property and Planning and Council meetings. The role of the Committee and the effect of designating a property were discussed.

The Committee discussed signage in the downtown as a result of Sharon Smith's observations about signs located perpendicular to a building.

11. Next meeting: February 24, 2011 at 9:30 in the Museum Boardroom

12. Moved by Lori Nelson That the meeting be adjourned at 11:35 a.m.