

HISTORICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Held Monday, July 8, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.
In the Council Boardroom

PRESENT: Lindsay Neale, Chair
Robbie Broad, Secretary
Alex Noble
Art Dyer
Jen Martin, Records Manager & FOI Coordinator
David Foster, Councillor

Absent: Mary Watson, Vice Chair, Archivist

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by L. Neale at 2:02 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PRECUNINARY INTEREST – None

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Moved by A. Dyer - Seconded by D. Foster. Resolution 2019-07-01
That the Historical Advisory Committee minutes of June 3, 2019 be accepted.
CARRIED

4. DEPUTATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

None

It was noted by L. Neale that George Potopnyk has expressed interest in addressing the Committee at a future meeting. She will direct him on how to obtain the required Deputization Request form and provide him with the dates of our upcoming meetings.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) Interpretive Signs

War of 1812 Landing Site & History of Wasaga Beach Schools – Both Interpretive Panels have been installed. The Marlwood Panel has now been relocated to the parkette adjacent to Marlwood Golf Course. D. Foster volunteered to obtain the Interpretive Panel files from M. Beecroft so that all members of the HAC can better understand the process going forward.

b) Playland Park Carousel - A discussion took place regarding the Playland Park Carousel. John Robertson of Albion Amusements expressed some concerns that the

horses currently being used on the carousel are not original. A. Dryer noted that the base and mechanisms are most likely original. Going forward it was decided it would be best if the HAC asked for some documentation from Art Gordon and find out what level of involvement he expects the Committee and Town are to have in the project.

c) Walking Tour Brochure – Brochures have been delivered to the Town Office for pickup by interested parties. The brochure was introduced at the opening of the new Welcome Centre at Nancy Island. Park staff are apparently conducting historical walking tours although it was noted that the idea was never brought to the HAC.

d) Social Media – The committee’s social media profile on the Town’s platforms has been largely successful. It was discussed using it to promote the Walking Tour brochures as well as other upcoming projects.

6. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Doors Open Simcoe County – R. Broad visited the Archives and met with volunteer Sharon Bloomfield to discuss the requirements for the day. He reported that there were a number of items from the Archives that he felt were appropriate and would meet the requirements of the “Communication” theme. He will reach out to Angela Webster to coordinate and reach out to local restaurants to see if they could donate items for the day. He will also continue to update Sharon Bloomfield going forward.

Archives – A. Noble reported that, as Archives volunteers were unable to access any Inventory files on the current computer system, the Sub Committee has spent the last 5 consecutive Thursdays working to produce a current inventory for the Archives. To date, 250 individual items have been catalogued and photos have been taken of 137. Photographing will continue this Thursday. She noted that an Excel spreadsheet, with imbedded photos has been created for inventory purposes. P. Van Witsen, previously used by the HAC for a past project, donated her time to take the photos. It is hoped that Archives inventory/photographs will be completed by end of summer at which time the Sub Committee will continue the process with all artifacts in storage. A current and accurate Archive inventory will help to provide information to determine that an adequate amount of space be allotted for the Archives in the new Library. It was noted that volunteers Sharon Bloomfield and Paula Osborne have been invaluable to the Sub Committee during the inventory process.

She added that the Sub Committee has accomplished a number of the initiatives discussed at past Committee meetings. The Archives now has Wifi. It was felt that further investigation regarding the current computer operating system will be required. She noted that the Archives will be open on Saturdays during the summer. The volunteers will get together to decide if the other days of operation should be changed as the current schedule is proving difficult to staff, and visitor attendance has been poor on Tuesdays. The HAC will continue to publicize the Saturday opening on Social Media via the Town Facebook account. The Volunteer Centre is looking for candidates to increase the Archives volunteer base. Any candidates will be vetted and trained by existing volunteer staff. It was also noted that M. Watson arranged for a brochure holder to be affixed to the wall outside of the Archives.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a) Discussions with Library – L. Neale indicates the Library is quite interested in working with the Committee on future projects. Some of the ideas put forward were:

- Audio Walking Tour to go with Heritage Walking Tour
- History talks/seminars at the Library. A. Noble suggested that using the Archive volunteers in some capacity for this type of project would be beneficial. L. Neale added that some suggestions on seminar subjects were the history of the TD Bank in Wasaga Beach, the Dyconia and the Nancy Villa.

b) Budget Wishlist – Items discussed or put forward included:

- Heritage Walking Tour brochures in French;
- Heritage Walking Tour brochures in font that meets accessibility requirements
- Historical Appreciation Day similar to the event held in 2017;
- Display Case for library to display historical artifacts;
- Computer & accessories for Archives;
Reframing of Archive pictures/photographs
- Conversion of Archive VHS tapes;
- New Archives brochure;
- Interpretive Panels for 2020;
- Contingency Fund for vandalism etc;
- Grant for summer student

It was noted that the Archives previously had its own budget when under the direction of Archivist Thelma Morrison. D Foster noted that any HAC budget requests will need to go through Town staff.

c) 2020 Panels - Members were encouraged to come up with ideas for next year's interpretive panels.

d) Staff Update - J. Martin indicated that the Committee vacancy owing to M. Beecroft's resignation will be advertised in the July 18th edition of The Sun and that applications will be submitted to the Clerk's Office. She also noted that she believed some of the Walking Tour Brochures has been picked up from the Town Office.

e) Council Report - D. Foster stated that he attended the opening of the new Welcome Centre at Nancy Island and reported on the details of the event, including his introduction of the HAC Heritage Walking Tour Brochure. He also discussed with the Committee the apparent increase in vandalism in the community and the possible need for the HAC to include an amount for a Contingency Fund in any future budget requests. Also discussed was the vacancy on the HAC and Committee attendance at meetings.

8. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS – None

9. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

August 12, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.

September 9, 2019 – 2:00 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The chair adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.