

Historic Sites Committee

Meeting of April 1, 2009

A meeting of the Historic Sites Committee was held in the Admin Room, Central Library at 4:35 p.m. with the following present:

Members: Hilary Bates Neary, Chair, Gary Kerhoulas, John Lutman, Arthur McClelland, Anne McKillop, Cliff Oliver, Mike Murphy, Jonathan Vance;

Guests: Don Menard, Heritage Planner, City of London;

Apologies: Gina Barber, Jason Jordan, Margaret Mitchell.

HS09/08 Minutes of the February 4, 2009

It was MOVED by Mr. Vance and seconded by Mr. Murphy that the minutes from the February 4, 2008 meeting be approved as amended.

CARRIED

HS09/09 Business Arising from the Minutes - none

HS09/10 New Business

Mills Project: Thames Corridor Study Plans

Ms. Bates Neary has contacted Mr. Page asking about next steps.

HS09/10.1 Walking Guide - Further Ideas re: Marketing

Controller Barber provided information by email on selling copies of the Walking Guide at City Hall. A copy of the book could be placed in the glass case outside of the cafeteria with contact information for purchase. The book could also be advertised through City online staff classified.

HS09/10.2 HSC Archives – Progress Report

Ms. Bates Neary and Mr. McClelland are continuing work on this project. The next step is to go through the files and discard any duplication.

HS09/10.3 LPL Website and HSC

Mr. McClelland reported on the LPL website. The digitization of London Room photographs are just waiting for copyright permission from UWO. Mr. McClelland will follow up with Ms. Manax Skikos.

HS09/11 Plaques

In Development

Industrial Banner

Ms. Bates Neary and Mr. McClelland met with the Manager of the Scotia Bank at 420 Richmond Street on April 1, 2009. Draft plaque wording was distributed to Committee members.

It was MOVED by Mr. Vance and seconded by Mr. Murphy that the following draft plaque wording for The Industrial Banner be approved:

Founded in 1891 and printed by the London Advertiser adjoining this site, the Industrial Banner was a monthly newspaper promoting organized labour, education of workers, political action, the union label, and industrial cooperatives. Edited by Joseph T. Marks until 1920, the Banner was moved to Toronto in 1913, and ceased publication in 1923.

This plaque erected by the Historic Sites Committee of the London Public Library Board, 2009.

CARRIED

HS09/11.1 Benjamin Cronyn Jr. House/Central Baptist Church/Infotech Farmer's Advocate - Mr. McClelland will continue to work on this.

Farmer's Advocate, Watson Porter - Mr. Lutman will prepare text and select a proposed location for the Farmer's Advocate. Mr. Lutman will try and set up a meeting with Mr. Watson Porter.

Dawn of Tomorrow – Mr. Murphy spoke to Mr. Dave Jenkins and has prepared a draft plaque wording. Mr. Jenkins has consented to have the plaque located at 95 Glenwood.

Committee members discussed launching all three plaques at one time, the possibility of scheduling it during Black History Month and preparing a display on newspapers located in London. More discussion is needed over the next two months.

It was MOVED by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Vance that the following draft plaque wording for The Dawn of Tomorrow be approved:

Founded in 1923 by James and Christina Jenkins (Howson) and for many years printed weekly on this site, The Dawn of Tomorrow was the voice of the Canadian League for the Advancement of Coloured People. The aim of the newspaper was to unify the black population by promoting Ontario events and black success stories.

This plaque erected by the Historic Sites Committee of the London Public Library Board, 2009

CARRIED

HS09/11.2 To Be Monitored

McCormick Manufacturing Company – Mr. Menard reported that the building has been in receivership for almost two years. The receiver is prepared to give up the building because it is deteriorating and they have been unsuccessful in selling. City Council will have to make a decision on the future of this building in view of tax liabilities. LACH has recommended that it be designated without the owner's consent. It is possible that there may be a re-zoning.

Engine 86 – There is a dispute over ownership of property.

Buchan House – Ms. Bates Neary has contacted the real estate agent regarding this property.

Blackburn Sisters – Ms. Bates Neary will make contact again in the summer.

HS09/11.2 To be Mounted in London Room

Locust Mount – Mr. McClelland has been in contact with Nothers to obtain a plastic covering for the photos.

HS09/12 Status of Plaques

Arthur Stringer – The renovation is now complete.

Boomer House at Beal Secondary School - There will be more access to the school than was originally thought.

Siddall House - This is now under new ownership.

Mechanics Institute – The protective covering on the Mechanics Institute plaque which is erected on the outside of the Central Library building has been removed.

Victoria Hall – Mr. McClelland will investigate

Cancer Research – Radiation and chemotherapy were both invented in London. Mr. Kerhoulas will speak to the Dean Carol Herbert at UWO about the possibility of a plaque.

HS09/13 LACH Reports

February 2009

Properties to be

Designated: 458 Simcoe Street

March 2009

Item of Interest: 129-131 Wellington Street

HS09/14 Other Business

Antiquities Shop, 129-131 Wellington Street

Ms. McKillop reported that a request to demolish this building is going to the Planning Committee on April 6th, 2009. It would be very expensive to renovate but it is felt to have some value because of the tremendous amount of detailing on the façade.

Discussion also included other sites such as Great West Beef and the possibility of honouring Sir Adam Beck by naming the Education Centre after him.

HS09/15 Upcoming Meetings

June 3rd

October 7th

December 2nd

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.