

**CITY OF VICTORIA
HERITAGE ADVISORY PANEL
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2024**

Present: Jim Kerr (Chair)
Alissa Wrean
Deniz Unsal
Genevieve Hill
John Boehme
Liberty Bears
Veronica (Nikki) Strong-Boag

Regrets: Imogen Goldie
Lorenda Calvert
Valerie Lindholm

Guests: **Heritage Designation Application No. 00208 for 1132 Empress Avenue –**
Taylor McCarthy (Applicant) & Joh Dam (John Dam and Associates);
Heritage Alteration Permit No. 00264 for 700 Government Street –
Judy Kitts, Greater Victoria Harbour Association (Applicant); Glenn Reid, Greater
Victoria Harbour Association; & Kate Etcher, Greater Victoria Harbour
Association

Staff: Kristal Stevenot, Senior Heritage Planner
Laura Saretsky, Heritage Planner
Kasha Janota-Bzowska, Planner
Alicia Ferguson, Recording Secretary

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Veronica (Nikki) Strong-Boag was not present at the time the meeting convened.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved: Jim Kerr

Seconded: Deniz Unsal

Motion: That the April 9, 2024 Heritage Advisory Panel meeting Agenda be approved with the inclusion of Item No. 7 – Victoria’s Centennial Square Fountain and that the agenda be renumbered accordingly.

Carried Unanimously

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the March 12, 2024 Meeting

Moved: Joh Boehme

Seconded: Alissa Wrean

Motion: That the March 12, 2024 Heritage Advisory Panel meeting Minutes be approved as circulated.

Carried Unanimously

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. **Announcements**

None.

5. **Heritage Designation Application No. 00208 for 1132 Empress Avenue (Fernwood)**

Staff presented a presentation outlining the application.

Taylor McCarthy, *Applicant*, and John Dam, *John Dam and Associates*, responded to questions from the Panel.

Panel Questions and Comments

- Clarification on the proximity and connection between the two buildings and covered parking/deck area.
 - Rationale for the siting including City servicing requirements.
 - Approximately 8 meters between the two buildings.
- Whether the covering of the parking area is the only proposed change to the existing building.
 - Yes, including extending the existing stairs in that area. But no changes to the existing character-defining elements.
- Whether there are plans to update the building exterior in collaboration with the Victoria Heritage Foundation.
 - In the future, yes, particularly to remove the paint from the original stone.
- Whether the veranda is part of the original building?
 - Believes this was replaced sometime in the past along with a few other elements.
- Whether the Statement of Significance will only include original elements?
 - Yes, it only includes original character-defining elements to allow for potential future restorations.
- Whether the property is currently registered?
 - Long-term plan to designate but in order to rezone and add the proposed building this became a requirement.
 - Confirmed there is no current heritage status on the property.
- Encouraged the applicant to tweak the Statement of Significance to capture the reasons why the property is of historic value by including a sentence at the beginning of the first paragraph such as some wording regarding its use by working-class residents of Victoria and that it has been continuously occupied as a residence.

Moved: Liberty Bears

Seconded: Deniz Unsal

Motion: That the Heritage Advisory Panel recommend that Council approve the heritage designation of Application No. 000208 for 1332 Empress Avenue.

Carried Unanimously

6. **Heritage Alteration Permit No. 00264 for 700 Government Street (Downtown)**

Staff provided a brief introduction of the application.

Veronica (Nikki) Strong-Boag joined the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Judy Kitts, *Greater Victoria Harbour Authority*, presented a presentation regarding the application and was accompanied by her colleagues Glenn Reid and Kate Etcher.

Panel Questions and Comments

- Colour and design of the umbrellas?
 - Same style and colour for all 12 umbrellas, currently being finalized by the artist.
- Confirmation of the placement.
 - Inner causeway near the Legislature building side.
- Whether the installation method is reversible?
 - Chose the most non-destructive method, bolt holes match the current cement and blend well so when removed they can be refilled with concrete.
- Style of the umbrella holder?
 - Black to match surrounding fixtures.
- Fulfilling an important function of providing shade and acting as a rain shelter.

Genevieve Hill left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Moved: Deniz Unsal

Seconded: John Boehme

Motion: That the Heritage Advisory Panel recommend to Council that Development Permit Application No. 00264 for 700 Government Street be approved as presented.

Carried Unanimously

7. Victoria's Centennial Square Fountain

Jim Kerr (Chair) introduced the item, advising that the Centennial Square redesign project is currently underway with the City and encouraged members to support a motion requesting that Council refer the matter to the Panel for consideration and input.

Jim Kerr further highlighted the historic importance of Centennial Square and the surrounding area including the Statement of Significance and the involvement of the Heritage Advisory Panel in the original design.

Panel Questions and Comments

- Highlighted that there is no longer an Art in Public Places Committee to review these types of proposals.
- The Panel's Terms of Reference to advocate for protection and review alterations to historic areas noting that this could relate to intangible cultural heritage due to the prominence and importance of the area.
- Clarification that there are no legal protections associated with the site including registration or designation.
- The Statement of Significance that was circulated to the members ahead of the meeting as being drafted in 2018 by the previous Heritage Planner during a former review of the area.

Deniz Unsal left the meeting at 12:43 p.m.

Alissa Wrean left the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

The meeting lost quorum and therefore was adjourned at 12:43 p.m. The previous item (Victoria's Centennial Square Fountain) will be included on the next agenda for further discussion.