



Hamilton

MINUTES: Hamilton Historical Board
Tuesday, 19 November, 2013 – 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm
Lister Block Basement Meeting Room

CHAIR: Rob Hamilton

MINUTE TAKER: Lee-Anne Dantzer

PRESENT: Mary Anderson, John Nixon, Carolyn McCann, Pat Saunders, Robin McKee

STAFF: Christopher Redford

REGRETS: Ian Kerr-Wilson, Christine Lei, Susanne

Noordyk, Russ Powers, Bob Williamson. James Elliot has resigned

GUESTS: Sonia Mrva will speak on behalf of Ian Kerr-Wilson, Will Rosart

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

That the November Agenda of the Hamilton Historical Board be approved. ()

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST (none)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

That the October 2013 minutes of the Hamilton Historical Board be approved
 (Carolyn, Mary, PASSED)

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Robin- Cemetery tours are over for the season. Great article in the paper.
- Rob- Remembrance Day in Toronto and Hamilton
- Pat's letter to the editor- 7 cenotaph celebrations
- Christopher- Next year Gore Cenotaph will be under construction. Looking into other options for Downtown Remembrance Day event.

4. ITEMS OF MOTION

4.1.1 Communications & Education Sub-committee

4.1.2 Editorial Team

4.1.3 Heritage Events Sub-Committee

4.1.4 Joint Plaquing Sub-Committee

MOTION: That the amendments to the Harmony Building Heritage Recognition plaque requested by the plaque's sponsors, Vince Agro and Joseph Abichedid, be accepted by the Historical Board. (Robin McKee, John, PASSED).

CITY CREST

The Harmony building, erected in 1935, was the dream of Dr. Vincenzo Agro. He immigrated from Italy and was troubled by the Fascist movement in this city. He believed some local Italians showed more love for the old land than the new.

Agro led the drive to open a hall, a place that he hoped would encourage loyalty among its members towards their adopted country. Dances, plays, pageants and meetings were held here.

The front of the building is stone. Etched in it are instruments of ancient times – the lyre, the lute, a horn. Bountiful clusters of carved fruit – pineapples, grapes, plums – are draped over the door and around the windows.

In June of 1940, Italian leader Benito Mussolini declared war on the Allies. Within hours, the RCMP and Hamilton police began rounding up dozens from the city's Italian community. Frightened immigrant parents piled Italian schoolbooks – history, grammar, spelling texts – into fireplaces and burned them.

Some local Italians, including tailors, grocers, steelworkers, musicians, were sent to the Petawawa internment camp. By late 1943 most had been released (1) without ever having been charged. (2) Many other Italians joined the forces, eager to prove they were Canadians. When the war ended, activities at the Italian hall never did resume, and the building became the Harmony Apartments.

**HHB Heritage Recognition
2014**

The Hamilton Historical Board gratefully acknowledges the support of Vince Agro and Joseph Abichedid

Background to the two changes:

- (1) wants it known that these were overwhelmingly loyal persons who were not charged
- (2) removed reference to having joined AND fought, as those who joined were kept on the home front by the Canadian military (not of their own choosing)

4.2 OTHER ITEMS OF MOTION

4.2.1 Communications & Education Sub-Committee

4.2.2 Editorial Team

4.2.3 Joint Plaquing Sub-Committee

4.2.4 Heritage Events Subcommittee

5. 2012 HHB Budget & Work Plan/MHP Report – Sonia Mrva

- Culture Plan Book
- Downtown Built Heritage Project- report back will take place on December 2- ERA to explain methodology and its application
- Dundurn- drainage tunnel video will be made accessible to watch to HHB
- Victor Copps Auction
- Children's Museum- D-class estimate for expansion. Council to speak on direction it would like to go based on recommendations.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.1. Committee Reports (5 minutes each for questions)

6.1.1. Communications & Education Sub-committee – John Nixon

- Bennetto applications have gone out

6.1.2. Editorial Team – Christine Lei/ John Nixon

- Progressing. Final items to come in and then final edit
- Will go to 2014 for paper publishing. Creation of a triple issue 2012/2013/2014 to send out to select institutions. 2015 not yet decided. Christopher had suggestion for a non-thematic issue. A collection of items, relating more to a year-end report
- Note: copyright issues. Be sure to have permission for all images used. Images older than 50 years may still need copyright

6.1.3. Heritage Events Sub-Committee – Pat Saunders

- committee did not meet- next will meet on Dec 9th
- panel for greatest Hamiltonian
- call for volunteers for the market to collect votes for Saturday Nov. 23
- Christopher had suggestion to set up for this Saturday and leave unattended for voting if no volunteers

6.1.4. Joint Plaquing Sub-Committee – Robin McKee

- Henderson plaque to be unveiled Jan 16 2014
- 6.3- plaques to be moved. Opportunity for an east end plaque for historicity, right at the bus stop at Kings Forest
- 6.6- West Hamilton cenotaph unveiled
- 7.3- James Elliot resigned from Joint Plaquing.
- Burlington races to come off the agenda.
- Woodward school plaque unveiling
- Carolyn- speaking to inventory, example of format passed around. Christopher made suggestion for GPS locating once complete.

That the reports of Item 6.1 be received. ()

**6.2. Questions Arising from Other Reports/Projects
(5 minutes each for questions)**

- 6.2.1. Municipal Heritage Committee –**
- 6.2.2. War of 1812 Bicentennial C.A.C. – Robin McKee**
- 6.2.3. City Museums Programme Committee – Carolyn McCann**
- 6.2.4. City Museum & Archive Sub-Committee – Rob Hamilton**

That the reports of Item 6.2 be received. ()

6.3. Questions Arising from Museum Reports (5 minutes each for questions)

- 6.3.1. Battlefield House Museum & Park – Christopher Redford**
- 6.3.2. Hamilton Children's Museum - Carolyn McCann**
- 6.3.3. Dundurn National Historic Site – Pat Saunders**
- 6.3.4. Hamilton Military Museum – Christine Lei**
- 6.3.5. Fieldcote Memorial Park & Museum – Susanne Noordyk**
- 6.3.6. Griffin House – Robin McKee**
- 6.3.7. Hamilton Museum of Steam & Technology – Bob Williamson**
- 6.3.8. Whitehern Historic House & Garden – Mary Anderson**

That the reports of Item 6.3 be received ()

7. Other HHB Business

7.1 Grounds Use Requests

That the reports of all items be received ()

8. New Business

Children's Museum- Carolyn McCann

- 1) Moved, That the Hamilton Historical Board support the Gage Park Master Plan (Report PW10033) in general, and in particular the Staff consultation [which] resulted in the preparation of the park vision and guiding principles and refinement

to the park program. Furthermore, The HHB supports the new program additions including a multi-use building that will house an expanded Children's Museum. (Robin, Carolyn, PASSED)

2) Moved, That the Hamilton Historical Board support in principle that the City take a more active role in the management of its heritage patrimony, and to direct Staff to expedite the pertinent areas of the Transforming Hamilton through Culture: The Cultural Plan 2013 (PED12117(a)) , and begin the immediate exploration of a new Children's facility and a Heritage Resources Facility (to house the City Archives and Record Centre, Museums Curatorial Centre and Conservation Lab). (look at bigger picture and reacting to book) (Robin, Carolyn, PASSED)

HHB membership- John Nixon

3) Motion: That an ad hoc HHB committee be formed in consultation with staff and councilor, and report back to HHB on the discussion for recommendations regarding the number of members, recruitment of members, and clarification of this roll. (John, Carolyn, PASSED)

- Change of term cannot be changed. But can fill empty spot mid-term
- Can a non-voting group be picked by HHB?
- Request for staff to investigate if HHB can take people on subcommittees that are not part of HHB

Mary- Museum Reports

4) Reminder that liaison to be mentioned at the top of the Museum Reports. Lee will send out request via email, and request for Children's Museum report.

9. Adjournment ()

Next Meeting: December 17, 2013- Dundurn Castle