

**MINUTES** of the **SPECIAL MEETING** of the **COUNCIL** of the **DISTRICT OF MISSION** held in the Conference Room of the Municipal Hall, 8645 Stave Lake Street, Mission, British Columbia, on June 2, 2009 commencing at 5:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Mayor James Atebe  
Councillor Terry Gidda  
Councillor Paul Horn  
Councillor Danny Plecas  
Councillor Mike Scudder  
Councillor Jenny Stevens

Council Members Absent: Councillor Heather Stewart

Staff Members Present: Dennis Clark, director of corporate administration  
Ray Herman, director of parks, recreation & culture  
Wendy McCormick, deputy director of parks, recreation, and culture  
Kerry Bysouth, manager of parks and facilities  
Carmelle Jullion, executive assistant

## **1. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **Fraser River Heritage Park Overview/Update**

Mayor Atebe welcomed Mission Heritage Association Board of Directors members Bill McAuley, Klaus Werner, Jack Ethier, Stephanie Ediger and Don Brown, Manager of the Fraser River Heritage Park (FRHP), and stated that the purpose of today's meeting was to discuss and celebrate the successes achieved at the Fraser River Heritage Park. The mayor commended and thanked the Mission Heritage Association (MHA) for their dedication and commitment to the preservation of this historical site and stated that without the MHA and its many volunteers the Fraser River Heritage Park would not be the beautiful and welcoming space it is today.

Don Brown, Manager of Fraser River Heritage Park, distributed a document dated June 2, 2009 titled "Planned Projects of the Mission Heritage Association at Fraser River Heritage Park" and provided council with the following summarized information:

- The Mission Heritage Association was founded in 1980 by Norma Kenney;
- Through the efforts of MHA, the former OMI land, which had initially been approved for a high density housing development, was allocated as parkland in 1986:
- Since the acquisition in 1986, MHA has developed the park into a site which serves Mission and the surrounding area with numerous cultural and community activities all the while preserving its unique historical significance;
- Approximately 60,000 people visit the park each year;
- Including thousands of volunteer hours, MHA has contributed approximately \$1.86 million dollars in improvements and maintenance for the park since 1999.

Current Projects:

- Development of a perimeter trail: 2.3 km of walking trails/paths around the entire boundary of park, 3 metres wide and surfaced to accommodate wheelchair use;
- Restoration of the old orchard: clearing the blackberry bushes that have taken over the slope, stabilizing the remaining fruit and nut trees, and planting heritage fruit trees;
- Development of a heritage walk: a rambling pathway throughout the park with an estimated 15 resting stations which will feature historical storyboards, and
- Landscaping projects: plantings of native specimen trees, the proposed development of a riparian/pond area, the removal of existing cottonwoods, and the removal of old dirt piles that have been overgrown with weed trees.

Mr. Brown also reviewed capital requirements over the next 5 years and stated that some of the projects include:

- A dedicated maintenance area and a new riding mower in 2010;
- Expansion of the washroom, construction of a portion of the heritage walk, and replacement the truck in 2011;
- The construction of a heritage centre which would include a showroom, gift shop and rental space in 2012;
- Replacement of the large mower and construction of a trail to the Chamber of Commerce in 2013; and
- Replacement of the 4 wheel drive tractor/loader/mower in 2014.

In conclusion, Mr. Brown expressed his hope that council will continue to support the park as a viable, ever expanding, ever improving, and changing space and that council will continue to share MHA's vision for this unique and valued land.

Council thanked Mr. Brown for his presentation and indicated that the District of Mission could align its capital projects with MHA to assist in facilitating their vision for the park.

Mayor Atebe concluded the meeting by thanking all in attendance and expressing his desire that communication between MHA and the District continue to improve in order to maximize the potential of this historic first class site.

## **2. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councillor Stevens, seconded by Councillor Horn, and

RESOLVED: That the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.



JAMES ATEBE, MAYOR

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DENNIS CLARK, DIRECTOR OF  
CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION

**K. Ridley**  
Deputy Director of  
Corporate Administration