

**Minutes of the Dionne Home Special
Committee Meeting Held
Monday, March 13, 2017**

Present:

Councillor Mayne, Committee Chair
Councillor Maroosis, Committee Member
Councillor Shogren, Committee Member
Keith Robicheau, Chief Administrative Officer
John Severino, Managing Director, Community Services
Peter Carello, Senior Planner
Paula McCloskey, Senior Manager Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services

Special Review Committee Chair, Chris Mayne, called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

The Committee Chair provided a brief introduction of the Committee members to the members of the public in attendance. A brief overview of the goal of the committee was also explained.

1. The Chair did not ask for the approval of the Draft Minutes dated March 6, 2017.
2. Presentations:
 - (i) Ed Valenti
 - Copy of presentation provided.
 - Details related to the relocation of the Dionne Home and site arrangement recommendations were provided.
 - An offer of in-kind contributions was highlighted from various businesses, individuals and groups who expressed interest in participating in this endeavor. The offer of either partial or full in-kind contributions was in the area of time, equipment, and services to both transport the home and construct the necessary foundation structure for the home to be placed on.
 - Will the City of North Bay accept these in-kind contributions and repurpose any savings to a Reserve Fund for the Dionne Home for future capital costs and set-up costs?
 - All companies indicated that they like the heritage feeling of the Dionne Home and what it offers to the region.
 - A diagram of the Dionne Home with area measurements was provided to the Committee.
 - (ii) Jeff Fournier
 - Copy of presentation provided.
 - Mr. Fournier provided a photo shopped picture of the Dionne Home next to the Discovery North Bay Museum.
 - Draft recommendations were provided to the Committee:
 - That the City of North Bay retain ownership and jurisdiction of the Dionne Quints Home, and all museum artifacts, contents and related items.
 - All artifacts and related items shall remain intact and under city ownership and jurisdiction together with the Dionne home.
 - The artifacts of the Dionne Home Museum are to be safely and properly stored by the City of North Bay and be made available for public display, subject to a memorandum of understanding between the City of North Bay and any interested parties.
 - That the City of North Bay confirm a new location for the Dionne Quints Home Museum at the North Bay waterfront park, in the immediate vicinity of the North Bay Museum.
 - That the City of North Bay be responsible for all costs related to bracing (if required), moving, relocating, foundation preparation and landscaping of the Dionne Quint's Home Museum.

- A three step proposed action plan was also presented which includes recommendations for a Dionne Quintuplet Homestead Museum Board and the disbanding of the Friends Committee once the Board is formed.
- Museum funding comparison was provided as well as a timeline recommending further public meetings on March 20, 2017 and March 27, 2017 followed by a Friend Proposal/Vision Presentation to Council on April 4, 2017.
- Photos of the Strong Agricultural Society buildings were presented.
- Council has asked the Friends to do a Fundraiser on March 17, 2017. A dinner/dance will be held at the Davedi club.

(iii) Miles Peters

- Mr. Peters liked the recommended location for the Dionne Museum and stated that there are 1.86 million reasons to resolve this.
- Encouraged the City to choose the second location as the ideal location and use the vacant parking building as a supplementary building. This is a highly accessible location and when properly lit will showcase the Dionne Museum.
- Recommended black railing with a gate around the building as a further landscaping feature.
- He states that the Friends are determined to see this as an asset to the City not a liability and he would be concerned if the property was not retained.

3. Comments/Questions:

- ❖ The Chair thanked the presenters for their information, work and effort.
- ❖ With the move, and if the City retains ownership, we will move the Dionne home to the waterfront. The proposal costs will come from using some funds from the sale of the Chamber property. No side deals can be arranged but a Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued and we will follow the City's processes on this.
 - Do we have to follow a structured process on this?
 - We would need to follow the process you indicated. There is some discretion if it falls under a certain amount we can request quotations and follow a less formal process. The winning proponent would then do the work and if the Contractor chose to do so they could give whatever funds to the Friends of the Dionne Home.
- ❖ The City will be seeking a general contractor to lead this project and we will be looking to ensure that this company would be prepared with the correct liability coverage to indemnify the City.
- ❖ There would be the need for organizations to make donations outside the contract process. We can seek proper legal consultation regarding any of this.
 - The Chair is on record bringing recommendations to council on March 21, 2017 if we want to do the recommendations on March 21. These may not wash and it may be sent back and remain on Committee and then go to Council on April 4, 2017.
 - It is recommended that the information yet to be provided by the Friends of the Dionne Museum be sent by email.
- ❖ It was suggested that any recommendations coming forward at this point for the Dionne Home be simple and general in nature.
 - Is there a building condition report available? Can we share it with everyone next week?
 - There is an assessment underway and a report pending.
 - Are there any operating costs available for the past operations of the Museum?
 - There was a curator that worked for the Chamber. This person was paid for 12 months but worked for the Museum for only 6 months. The annual salary was roughly \$30,000.00 - \$40,000.00 and the job description included

- other duties for the Chamber. Students were also hired to provide tours and often we received grants for this.
 - Reports were provided verifying an operating loss of \$75,400.00 for operating the Museum. This is 2014 information and the loss did not include employees that worked year round. The Chamber of Commerce absorbed many of these costs.
 - Utility costs – can this be done in the home?
 - The home would not be equipped to manage this. We did estimate that it would take \$125,000.00-\$175,000.00 for utilities to operate the home.
 - Are the Friends still looking to form a non-profit group?
 - Yes. We would be incorporated as a board and have a lawyer prepared to complete the paperwork.
- ❖ We have to make a report to Council by April 4, 2017. We have not made a decision on location. We have to make a decision about RFP. We also need to make a decision about operating costs. It will not be operating in the summer of 2017 but will likely be summer of 2018. The artefacts in the home may be limited but there are 3 options: 1. Display on the main floor of City Hall; 2. Store at the North Bay Museum; 3. Store at the Callander Bay Museum.
- ❖ The City has a responsibility to store the artefacts and keep them together. Where will we put it? What is the cost? What is the operating plan?
 - Did you meet with Heritage North Bay?
 - Yes. A meeting was held today. Possible discussions regarding location for the home were held. There are agreements with the City regarding Heritage Covenants, etc. The 10 year agreement runs from 2011-2021. The City can propose items, buildings, facilities and installations but these are to be self-sustaining. There are restrictions with the location of the Dionne Quint Home near Discovery North Bay.
 - When are we going to pick the location?
 - The location will be determined by next Wednesday.
 - Who will pick this spot?
 - This will be a decision of the Committee. The spot recommended is down at the waterfront area.
- ❖ The Committee reviewed the downtown map using Google Earth. Councillor Mayne presented a recommended location to the group.

4. The Chair made the following recommendations.

- (i) Location: That the Dionne Quint Home be moved to the grassy area between Marina Point and the North Bay Museum.

Action Items:

- (i) Contact the North Bay Museum to finalize the recommended location of the Dionne Home.
- (ii) Contact City staff to determine the nearest services such as electrical, etc. for the recommended location of the Dionne Home.
- (iii) John Severino to provide moving costs Strong vs. Waterfront
- (iv) Finalize the general operation plan for the Dionne Home Museum.
- (v) Finalize the recommendation to be presented to Council.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 20, 2017– 6:00 p.m.
Meeting adjourned at 7:41 p.m.

Councillor Chris Mayne
Chair Dionne Home Committee

Judy Bechard
Deputy City Clerk