

**Minutes of the Dionne Home Special
Committee Meeting Held
Monday, March 6, 2017**

Present:

Councillor Mayne, Committee Chair

Councillor Maroosis, Committee Member

Councillor Shogren, Committee Member

Keith Robicheau, Chief Administrative Officer

Peter Carello, Senior Planner

Paula McCloskey, Senior Manager Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services (6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

Special Review Committee Chair, Chris Mayne, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Committee Chair explained the process that will be followed during the Special Committee Meetings.

1. Presentations:

- (i) Sandy O'Grady
 - Copy of presentation provided.

- (ii) Pat Diegel
 - Copy of presentation provided.

- (iii) Jeff Fournier
 - Copy of presentation provided.
 - Introduced Friends of the Dionne Committee Members present.
 - Central downtown area is the preferred option for the Dionne Home.
 - Having the Dionne Home placed beside the Museum has several positives:
 - Perfect entrance way to the anticipated new splash pad.
 - Increases foot traffic.
 - Build a building that could store both the Dionne Home Artefacts and the Museum Artefacts.
 - Not suggesting that the Museum take over completely the running of the Dionne Home but there could be shared services.
 - Trip Advisor rates the Dionne Home as #4
 - Parking availability.
 - Near the Farmer's Market.
 - Safer – lighting and sheltered from the elements.
 - Second Option would be at the waterfront adjacent to the walkway from downtown. The positives for this location would be:
 - Nice pathway from the downtown.
 - Room for expansion.
 - Proposed enviro park behind the Home.
 - Heritage North Bay might be interested in helping with making the Home blend into the environment.
 - It is not feasible to put the Home near the Heritage Railway and Carousel.
 - Local film and television industry could use the Dionne Home in productions.
 - The Friends of the Dionne Home have also created a sub-committee for education. They will be presenting at the next Committee Meeting.
 - The City should be respecting the Dionne Home, the Dionne Sisters and tell the story of the Dionne's.

2. Questions:

The Chair requested that copies of the presentations be provided to the Clerk.

- Is there anyone here from the Museum Board?
 - No.
- Mr. Fournier advised that he has not spoken to the Heritage North Bay Board but he has spoken to the Museum staff and they see the importance of the Dionne Home. The staff feels that they would be chastised if they mention taking the Home.
- The City of North Bay owns the land areas around the Museum.
 - The City leases the land to Heritage North Bay through an Operating Agreement.
- The Committee needs to talk about the physical move of the Home. There may be companies out there that might do the move in-kind.
- Will Council be willing to provide funding for the on-going maintenance of the Home.
- Is there enough room in the Home to display all of the artefacts? If not, where will these be displayed/stored.
- Is the Museum going to be a static display this year and be open next year?
- Who is going to run the Museum?
- The City should be prepared for Nipissing University not to agree to the terms of loaning the paper documents – the Committee will need a Plan B.
- There has to be a building condition assessment done to see what capital costs will be involved.
- These are all questions that we must answer before bringing our recommendations back to Council.
- This Committee needs an Action Plan as follows:
 - Need to speak to the Museum Board.
 - Where are the artefacts going? These have to be protected.
 - How much money is it going to cost to move the Home?
 - Assessment has to be done before moving the Home.
 - Need a commitment from the Friends of the Dionne Home as to a fundraising target.
 - Need a list for grants.
- The artefacts are currently in safe location. There may be some potential partnership with the Museum regarding the artefacts.
- Who is paying for the storage currently?
 - It is either at no cost or minimal cost presently.
- The new location will require a new foundation and landscaping. These costs to be borne by the City.

3. The Chair made the following recommendations.

- (i) Ownership: That the City of North Bay retain ownership of the Dionne Quints Home, the related documentation and the museum artefacts.
- (ii) Digitization: All artifacts shall remain intact and under city ownership along with the Dionne home. This includes the furniture, clothing, feeding bottles, all paper documents etc., (photos, newspapers and clippings); however, under the terms of a memorandum of understanding to be drafted jointly by the Harris Learning Library and the City of North Bay, the paper artifacts will be loaned and entrusted to the library for preservation, archiving, storage and study. The paper artifacts will

remain in the library's care, but under the city's ownership and control, and may be used by the city for display/research purposes etc... at any time, or removed from the library at any time at the city's sole discretion, following a process agreed upon by the two parties. Some artifacts (paper or otherwise) could, from time to time, be loaned to other museums such as the Callander Bay Heritage Museum. A procedure will be adopted to outline this artifact loan process.

- (iii) Moving: That the City of North Bay pay for the costs of moving, relocating and landscaping of the Dionne Quint's Home Museum.
- (iv) Building Condition: That the City of North Bay conducts a building condition assessment of the Dionne Quint's Home Museum and that the City of North Bay pursues funding opportunities with both the Provincial and Federal Governments to address any required capital repairs or improvements required by the home.

Action Items:

- (i) Chief Administrative Officer to contact the Chair and Vice-Chair of Heritage North Bay to request a meeting.
- (ii) John Severino to provide moving costs Strong vs. Waterfront
- (iii) John Severino to provide process of determining the location of the Home.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 13, 2017- 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Councillor Chris Mayne
Chair Dionne Home Committee

Karen McIsaac
City Clerk