

*THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF CENTRAL SAANICH*

Report of the **PUBLIC HEARING**  
Monday, March 22, 2010, at 6:30 p.m.  
Central Saanich Municipal Council Chamber

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**PRESENT:** Mayor Jack Mar  
Councillors Bryson, Garrison, Kubek, Olsen, and Siklenka  
Gary C. Nason, Administrator  
Susan Brown, Municipal Clerk  
Hope V. Burns, Director of Planning & Building Services

**ABSENT:** Councillor Mason

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**A. OPENING STATEMENT BY THE MAYOR**

Mayor Mar noted that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear representations in regards to "Central Saanich Heritage Designation (Saanich Pioneer Museum) Bylaw No. 1631, 2010" (7910 Polo Park Crescent).

Mayor Mar then read a prepared statement outlining the procedures for the Public Hearing.

The Municipal Clerk, Ms. Susan Brown, advised that additional copies of the Public Hearing Agenda were available for viewing at this Public Hearing. Ms. Brown noted that copies of the Land Use Bylaw, the Official Community Plan, and the Community Energy Plan were also available for viewing at this Public Hearing.

**B. PUBLIC HEARING**

**1. "Central Saanich Heritage Designation (Saanich Pioneer Museum) Bylaw No. 1631, 2010"**

The Municipal Clerk advised that the Public Hearing Agenda included copies of the following documentation (which she itemized):

- a) Notice of Public Hearing for Bylaw No. 1631, 2010 including Notice Letters to registered interest holders and occupiers of the subject property;
- b) "Central Saanich Heritage Designation (Saanich Pioneer Museum) Bylaw No. 1631, 2010"  
[A Bylaw to Designate the Saanich Pioneer Museum as a Municipal Heritage Site (7910 Polo Park Crescent)];
- c) Staff Memorandum dated January 11, 2010, from the Manager of Community Services entitled "Proposed Heritage Designation of the Saanich Pioneer Museum, 7910 Polo Park Crescent" (which includes as an attachment a Staff Memorandum dated December 18, 1995);
- d) Excerpts from the Council Meeting Minutes Regarding the Heritage Designation, Authority to Prepare the Bylaw, the Necessary Readings of Bylaw No. 1631, 2010 and the Referral of the Bylaw to a Public Hearing;
- e) Statutory Informational Report;
- f) Correspondence Previously Received by Council:
  - i) Saanich Pioneer Museum, March 3, 2008 (attached to January 11, 2010 Staff Memorandum); and
- g) Correspondence Received Since the Introduction of Bylaw No. 1631, 2010 and Publication of the Notice of Public Hearing:
  - i) J Carroll, Saanichton Village Association, March 9, 2010.

**The Director of Planning and Building Services**, Hope V. Burns, noted the purpose of the proposed Bylaw is to designate the building commonly known as the "Saanich Pioneer Museum" located at 7910 Polo Park Crescent, on land legally described as: Park, Section 5, Range 2 East, South Saanich District, Plan VIP64549 (as shown on the Public Hearing Notice); as a Municipal Heritage Site. She advised that should the Bylaw be adopted the heritage value and heritage character of the building would be protected, and the designated building could not be altered except in accordance with the Bylaw or a Heritage Alteration Permit.

The Director provided an overview of the Staff Memorandum dated January 11, 2010, from the Manager of Community Services (included in the agenda package). She noted that the Saanich Pioneer Museum was built in 1933, and is the oldest, continuously used, purpose-built museum in B.C., built to house the memorabilia and culture of the early settlers of Central Saanich. She advised that it has been and continues to be, used for socials and meetings, and to house the archives of the Saanich Peninsula, and that it was the site of the first Central Saanich Council meeting.

**Mayor Mar** opened the Public Hearing to the gallery, and invited the applicant, the Saanich Pioneer Society, to speak on the application.

**N Sealey, Resident**, spoke on behalf of the Saanich Pioneer Society. She noted that heritage designation has been a long time coming, and that it is important to preserve the heritage of the site for future generations. She summarized the history of the Saanich Pioneer Museum and the process to protect and preserve the site, concluding that the Museum should be given heritage designation.

**The Mayor** then invited members of the public to speak on this proposed Bylaw, and the following speakers came forward to make representations.

**R Stevenson, Resident**, advised that he does not object to the building being designated, but that it should be relocated to the site of the Saanich Fair Grounds. He noted that the latter site would bring visibility and the ability to raise revenue to the Museum. He expressed concerns over the use of the current site by youths to party, do drugs and damage property, which has become a constant problem to the neighbourhood, and concluded that the best place for the Museum is the Fair Grounds.

**A Layfield, Resident**, queried the terms of the original agreement with the developer, and the presence of a commitment by the developer to preserve the Museum buildings. He gave the opinion that the Museum should be in a location that is more permanent.

**The Director of Planning and Building Services** responded to the speaker's question. She noted that the Saanich Pioneer Society is the owner of the Museum building. She explained that in the early 1990's the District of Central Saanich entered a long term Licence Agreement with Saanich Pioneer Society, giving the Society the responsibility to maintain the site. She advised that the heritage designation is at the request of the Society in the interest of maintaining the structure.

**R Stevenson** reiterated his support for designation of the building, but not on the current site. He confirmed he is opposed to designation if it is tied to the site, as there are problems with the location.

**N Sealey** explained that at the time the surrounding development went in, there was a suggestion to move the Museum, but that an assessment by a consultant indicated that it was not suitable to move because of the nature of the structure. Ms. Sealey advised that the building will remain where it is whether or not it is designated, but that designation would provide protection. She noted that there are problems in the area, but also in other neighbourhoods as well, and that the only way to control such problems is to work with District staff and the Police, as is currently being done. She concluded that the building is unsuitable to move.

**R Stevenson** addressed the issue with drug use and noted that there had been a meeting with Police, with assurances that lights would be installed last summer – which had not been done. He suggested that the situation would be improved with the installation of motion sensor lights to illuminate hiding places, and he gave the opinion that the District has the responsibility to install such lights.

**T Peard, Resident**, queried whether the issue of the feasibility of moving the building had been checked recently, and gave the opinion that a further study of the building should be undertaken, perhaps with funding from donations.

**A Layfield** expressed agreement that a second opinion on the moving of the building should be obtained and that he would like to see the results in “black and white”.

**N Sealey** noted that the issue was the heritage designation, not whether the building should be moved.

**R Stevenson** queried whether designation would be just for the building or for the location as well.

**The Director of Planning and Building Services** clarified that the designation is for the building but that it is for the building in the current location.

**M Stevenson, Resident**, expressed concerns with the designation of the Museum at its present location, due to the problems on the site affecting the neighbourhood.

**T Peard** confirmed his opposition to the Bylaw.

**R Stevenson** proposed that a further study on moving the building be undertaken.

In response to a question, **the Municipal Clerk** clarified the public hearing process.

**Mayor Mar** called three times for any other speakers from the public to make representations in regard to Bylaw No. 1631, 2010. There were no further representations.

**Mayor Mar** declared the Public Hearing for Bylaw No. 1631, 2010 closed at 6:54 p.m.

### 3. ADJOURNMENT

*On motion, the Public Hearing for Bylaw No. 1631, 2010 held on Monday, March 22, 2010 adjourned at 6:54 p.m.*

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Jack Mar  
Mayor

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Susan Brown  
Municipal Clerk

Recorded by: Susan Brown  
Municipal Clerk