

**Minutes of the Special Committee Meeting
Dionne Home Held
Monday, March 20, 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 and Leisure Services

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

1. Adoption of Minutes:
The Minutes of March 6, 2017 and March 13, 2017 were reviewed and approved by the Committee. The minutes will be presented to Council on April 4, 2017.
2. Presentations:
 - (i) Andrea Lefebvre:
 - Copy of presentation can be located at <https://share.nearpod.com/vsph/XRrLgtOAFB>
 - Would Ms. Lefebvre be willing to be on the Operating Board in relation to the educational component?
 - ❖ Yes, more than willing to take on that role.
 - Have you consider taking your students to the Capitol Centre, Library and to City Hall for tours?
 - I need to take into consideration where the students can safely walk.
 - You are not here officially on behalf of the school board.
 - ❖ No I am not. I am speaking on my own behalf. I have been asked to relay that you do have the support of the Joint Principal's Board.
 - (ii) Joshua Pride:
 - He is part of the education sub-committee of the Friends of the Dionne Home.
 - He believes that students need authentic learning experiences i.e. attending museums, etc.
 - Need to think outside the textbook.
 - Museums are multi-subject learning tools.
 - Future fundraising efforts could be:
 - Mayor's Luncheon
 - Pioneer Event the Arts Community could also take part in this.
 - Dionne Quints Musical
 - The City needs to keep the Dionne Home as it is a valuable resource.
 - (iii) Jeff Fournier
 - Copy of presentation provided.
 - The Friends of the Dionne Home are adamant that the City keep all of the artefacts.
 - There are some questions regarding where all of the artefacts currently are.
 - Went through Draft Recommendations from the Friends of the Dionne Home.
 - MP Rota has concurred with Mr. Fournier that if the Home is with the Museum there will be better chances for funding.

3. Comments/Questions:

The Chair only set out the Agenda today. This other Committee Members have not had an opportunity to fully review the recommendations.

4. Draft Recommendations:

- (i) Ownership: That the City of North Bay retains ownership and jurisdiction of the Dionne Quint's Home, all museum artefacts, contents and related items.

This will be the recommendation going forward.

- (ii) Location: That the City of North Bay locates the Dionne Quint's Home at the North Bay waterfront park, on the west lawn, near the North Bay Museum.

This will be the recommendation going forward.

Discussion:

The location will have to be approved by the Heritage North Bay Board. The preferred location would be to have the Dionne Home right beside the Museum. The Community Waterfront Friends are in favour of having the Home at the Waterfront.

- (iii) Moving: That the City of North Bay be responsible for all costs of moving, relocating, foundation preparation and basic landscaping of the Dionne Quint's Home, and that the money for the costs of the move, relocation, foundation preparation and basic landscaping come from the proceeds of the land sale, not to exceed \$150,000.

This will be the recommendation going forward.

Discussion:

The City has received an Opinion of Probable Costs for the relocation. Depending on the exact location of where the home will be situated, the cost of the move would be in the range of between \$75,000.00 to \$108,000.00. Basic landscaping: interlocking sidewalk, sod and landscaping beds estimated cost of \$15,000.00; chain link fence \$9,000.00; or an ornamental fence \$15,250.00. This does not include any geotechnical study that will be required. The basement will be a crawl space.

Does this work have to be tendered? Yes. Ed Valenti at the last meeting spoke to in-kind. We can investigate sole sourcing this project.

Jeff Fournier enquired of the Chair why the Committee was not using the Friends of the Dionne Home recommendations. The recommendations that the Chair has brought forward were recommendations from two weeks ago. The Friends have worked hard on these recommendations.

- (iv) Storage: The artefacts of the Dionne Quint's 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.

This will be the recommendation going forward.

- (v) Building Condition and Maintenance: That the City of North Bay conduct a building condition assessment of the Dionne Quint's Home Museum and that the City complete any required work to return the home to an

acceptable building code standard so that public tours may be conducted within the building by the May long weekend in 2018, and that the City pursues funding opportunities with both the Provincial and Federal Governments to address any future required capital repairs or improvements required by the home.

This will be the recommendation going forward.

Discussion:

The Operating Board would have to come to Council for capital upgrades to the Home. The Operating Board would also need to fundraise.

Jeff Fournier: The Museum has lobbied the Council for funding to replace the roof on their building for years. It is the City's responsibility to take the building back to its original state.

John Severino: The Building Condition Assessment has indicated that there are no significant upgrades required today.

Jeff Fournier: The City gives the Home to the Friends and we have the responsibility of fixing it up and responsible for funding. Is it ready for tours, can the second floor be utilized?

The Chamber closed the second floor some time ago not sure if it was due to structural or accessibility concerns.

The Building Condition Assessment needs to be finalized and then a copy can be provided to the Committee. It is expected to be done by the end of the week.

There should be a budget line for the Dionne Home. There is no budget line for the North Bay Museum. The Museum's requests come before Council by way of a Report.

- (vi) Paper Artefacts: that a memorandum of understanding drafted jointly by the City of North Bay, the Board and the Harris Learning Library, so that the paper artefacts may be loaned and entrusted to the library for preservation, digital archiving, storage and study. The paper artefacts will remain in the library's care, but under the City's ownership and jurisdiction.

This Recommendation will not be brought forward to Council. This would be a matter for the City's Legal Department to review at a future date.

- (vii) Antique Artefacts: all artefacts and related items shall remain intact and under City ownership and jurisdiction, together with the Dionne Quint's Home Museum. This includes, without limitation, the furniture, clothing, feeding bottles, dishes, glass collectibles, all paper documents, photos, all forms of negatives, newspaper clippings and so forth, and further that certain artefacts other than the paper documents as outlined in item #8, may be loaned from time to time to other museums. The City of North Bay and the Board will jointly draft a procedure outlining the artifact loan process.

This Recommendation will not be brought forward to Council. This would be a matter for the City's Legal Department to review at a future date.

- (viii) Dionne Quintuplets Museum Operating Board: That the City would invite proposals from interested Community Groups to operate the Dionne Home in the future.

This will be the recommendation going forward.

Discussion:

Jeff Fournier: Every Museum has a line on the budget. This Home has to be brought up to an acceptable level and which needs to have the co-operation and commitment from the City. Mr. Fournier is not committed to do this as a volunteer – he had made this very clear from the beginning. The North Bay Museum gets zero dollars from the City and this is unacceptable to the Friends of the Dionne Home Committee.

(ix) Operations:

- (a) That for a period of one year, the Board will operate the Dionne Quint's Home Museum as a static display. This one year period will allow additional time for the Board to establish a solid core of volunteers, raise funds via fundraising activities/events and, in cooperation with the City of North Bay, seek government grants via senior levels of government and,
- (b) that the Dionne Quint's Home Museum re-open in 2018 as a museum and,
- (c) that the normal annual operating season will be from the May Long weekend through the Labour Day weekend in September. The normal annual operating season may be adjusted upon agreement between the City and the Board to eventually allow the Dionne Museum to remain open until the closure of the annual Farmer's Market in October and at other times so that it may participate during special events such as the annual Downtown Christmas Walk, the Downtown Gallery Hops and other events which may take place in the Downtown Waterfront area throughout the year or other events organized by the Board and,
- (d) that the Board works toward re-branding the Dionne Quint's Home Museum as an educational interpretive centre once further funding is acquired in the future to do so.

This Recommendation will not be brought forward to Council.

(x) Costs:

- (a) That the Board be granted \$50,000 from the City of North Bay for operations,
- (b) That the City of North Bay and the Board negotiate an agreement for maintenance of the home and,
- (c) That the City of North Bay and the Board pursue funding opportunities with both the Provincial and Federal Governments on an ongoing basis, to enhance the Dionne Quint's Home Museum's funding for operations and maintenance requirements.

This Recommendation will not be brought forward to Council.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 27, 2017 – 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Councillor Chris Mayne
Chair Dionne Home Committee

Karen McIsaac
City Clerk