

Minutes of the
City and Borough of Juneau
Historic Resources Committee Advisory Committee

Wednesday, October 5, 2016 CDD Conference Room, Marine View Building 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Members:

___ Zane Jones (Chair)	___ Don Harris (Vice-Chair)	___Shauna McMahon (recorder)
___ Karenza Bott	___ Myra Gilliam	___Abs___ Gerald Gotschall
___Abs___ Gary Gillette	___ John J. Fox	

Staff: ___ Allison Eddins (CBJ Community Development)
___ Laura Boyce (CBJ Community Development)

Guest: Don Burford and Fred Thorsteinson (Pioneers of Alaska)

- I. Call to Order: 5:07
- II. Approval of Agenda: Approved unanimously
- III. Approval of Minutes: approved unanimously with correction re membership size

Public Testimony on Non-agenda Items: none

V. Business

1a. Welcome and round robin introductions to guests and new HRAC committee member John J. Fox

1. Introduction of CBJ's new Code Enforcement Officer, Craig Mikkelson

Contact enforcement is on the CBJ website. Some sample issues he expects include sheds, junked vehicles, and code violations. He has issued Notice of Violations related to the sign ordinance helping implement the changes HRAC worked towards.

2. Presentation from Fred Thorsteinson from Pioneers of Alaska

Mr. Thorsteinson gave a PowerPoint presentation giving historical summary and describing upcoming history event planning related to the SS Princess Sophia. Mr. Thorsteinson began with an overview of the ship and its sinking. Then he transitioned to memorial events being planned in the next few years.

V. 2. Presentation from Fred Thorsteinson from Pioneers of Alaska- continued

The ship was 245' long and built in 1911 in Scotland. It was used by the BC Coastal Service (affiliated with the Canadian Pacific railway) for runs between Victoria and Skagway. On October 23, 1918 it ran aground off of Vanderbilt Reef near Juneau - it is considered the worse marine disaster of the 20th century in Pacific Northwest. Being October the ship many passengers- lots of interior Canadians returning home at the end of the season. There were approximately 350 passengers and crew aboard. There was a Gale Storm and the ship hit the reef at about 2:00 am. SS Peterson from Haines was the first vessel to come and try to assist. The lighthouse tender Cedar from Juneau also came later but they both were unable to offload the passengers due to the weather and scenario. The Juneau community was impacted by loss of the service and community members were active participants in the recovery efforts and supporting grieving visitors. This all occurred in the midst of a challenging flu epidemic as well.

Pioneers of Alaska in conjunction with the Alaska State Parks are preparing a memorial site by the state park by the Methodist Camp in Juneau It would include a bronze plaque, interpretative sign about Juneau's rescue efforts, and a dedication event on 10/25/18 in Juneau and its other ports of call. There is also a separate effort by the Maritime Museum of BC that the Pioneers of Alaska is also providing planning support for. There will be a travelling exhibit that discuss Dawson families and has wheelhouse simulation. It is to be a cooperative Alaska-BC exhibit. The travelling exhibit is expected in Juneau in August 2018.

HRAC members noted different resources that may be helpful to the Pioneers of Alaska planning efforts- both the memorial and the travelling exhibit events. Allison Eddins mentioned a Ship Hunters television program that mentioned the Princess Sophia. Myra Gilliam noted that former Office of History and Archaeology director Dave McMahon has strong focus on maritime archaeology in Alaska and may be a good resource. Karenza Bott noted there could be opportunity to document native Alaskan perspective on the event- passengers, crew, recovery participation, impacts of ship route and loss. Myra Gilliam reminded members of a gravestone rehabilitation project at Evergreen Cemetery that was of a Princess Sophia passenger.

-MOTION- HRAC asks CDD staff to write a letter of HRAC support for project and consultation related to the travelling exhibit
(Myra Gilliam motioned, seconded by Karenza Bott)

V. Proposals for Capital Improvement Projects for FY2018

CDD state noted proposals for the CIP list are due by November, 11 and encouraged HRAC members to provide proposals for consideration. HRAC members discussed signage as potential projects such as Tlingit language signs for specific places of Tlingit significance and signs denoting the former Juneau “downtown” coastline and its dynamics through mining fill projects and community activity

VI. Committee Member Comments – none

VII. Next Regular Meeting – November 2, 2016 5:00 pm City Hall Room 244

VIII. Adjournment 6:30