



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COUNCIL

TO: Richmond City Council
FROM: Councillor Harold Steves, Chair
Community Services Committee
DATE: July 6th, 2000
FILE: 4045-20-04-WA
RE: PHOENIX, IMPERIAL AND BRUNSWICK CANNERIES

The Community Services Committee, at its meeting held on Tuesday, June 27th, 2000, considered the attached report, and recommends as follows:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

That the City write to the Honourable Joan Sawicki and the Honourable Corky Evans to make them aware of the September 17, 2000 deadline date regarding the demolition of the Phoenix, Imperial and Brunswick Canneries, and request that the Provincial Government make their intentions towards these buildings known by September 17, 2000, in order that a possible request for their demolition can be considered in light of this information.

Councillor Harold Steves, Chair
Community Services Committee

Attach.

VARIANCE

That the City write to the Honourable Joan Sawicki and the Honourable Corky Evans to make them aware of the September 17, 2000 deadline date regarding the demolition of the Phoenix, Imperial and Brunswick Canneries, and request that the Provincial Government make their intentions towards these buildings known by September 17, 2000, in order that a possible request for their demolition can be considered.

REPORT

ORIGIN

As part of the Rezoning Application by B.C. Packers for their property in Steveston, there was an undertaking by B.C. Packers that the Phoenix, Imperial and Brunswick Canneries would not be demolished before September 17, 2000. This date was chosen as a result of the Public Hearing in September 1998 and was to give the various interested parties two years in which to consider options for these buildings, including a fish auction, and to work out arrangements between the parties.

ANALYSIS

I understand that the conditions of rezoning surrounding the B.C. Packers' property in Steveston are coming to a conclusion and therefore, fourth and final reading of the Rezoning Bylaw may take place in September 2000. As part of the Public Hearing process, B.C. Packers undertook not to demolish the Phoenix, Imperial and Brunswick Canneries until September 17, 2000 to enable interested parties to consider the buildings and in particular, the Steveston Fisheries Alliance to explore the possibility of a fish auction in one or more of the buildings with B.C. Packers.

The date of September 17, 2000 is rapidly approaching and therefore, there is a strong possibility that B.C. Packers may apply for a demolition permit for these buildings (if they are required to do so as most of the buildings are in Provincial jurisdiction.)

I understand that the Phoenix building and virtually all of the Imperial building lay within Provincial property and therefore, those two buildings would revert to the Provincial Government once the land is subdivided, which would happen upon dedication of a dyke alignment. I further understand the Brunswick Cannery is partially on Provincial property and partially on private property.

The Provincial ministries responsible for the disposal of Provincial assets are the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

As these buildings will become a responsibility of the Provincial Government, there must be a clear statement or position made by the Province as to their future disposition,

As Council is aware, the City owns the Britannia Heritage Shipyard and Park complex and the Federal Government owns the Gulf of Georgia Cannery and Museum. The Provincial Government does not have investment in any historical sites along Steveston Channel. Therefore, it would seem reasonable that if one or more of the three cannery buildings in question are to be retained, that the Provincial Government take responsibility for these projects.

CONCLUSION

Final reading of the Zoning Bylaw dealing with the B.C. Packers' lands is rapidly approaching. In addition, the deadline date of September 17, 2000, before which B.C. Packers committed not to demolish the Phoenix, Imperial or Brunswick buildings, is approaching in approximately three months. Upon subdivision of the property, which is a condition of the Final Reading of the Rezoning Bylaw, the three canneries will revert to the ownership of the Provincial Government. Therefore, Council should have a clear indication from the Province of their intention for these buildings before Final Reading of the Rezoning Bylaw and the resulting demolition of the cannery buildings.

Attached is a copy of a letter from the British Columbia Heritage Trust to the Steveston Fisheries Alliance giving their opinion that the Phoenix, Imperial and Brunswick Canneries have outstanding historical significance. This position, as outlined in their letter, should accompany the City's request to the Provincial Government.

Greg Halsey-Brandt
Mayor

BRITISH COLUMBIA
*Heritage
Trust*

June 9, 2000

Mr. Douglas R. Day, President
Steveston Fisheries Alliance
12004 Number One Road
Richmond, BC
V7E 1T3

Dear Mr. Day:

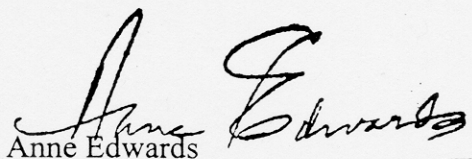
The Board of Directors of the British Columbia Heritage Trust has considered the heritage value of the Brunswick and Imperial Canneries in Steveston, Richmond. It is the opinion of the Board that these two canneries have outstanding historical significance as important vestiges of the working people and fishing industry in British Columbia and as part of the visual continuity of Steveston's historic Cannery Row.

Because the Trust has co-funded a structural feasibility study and a business plan for these canneries, it is aware that the buildings, pilings and decking are in generally sound condition and that it appears possible to put the buildings to economically self-sustaining new uses. Hence the Trust certainly supports their retention and conservation in principle.

At the same time the Trust encourages the Alliance to work closely with the City of Richmond, BC Packers, other non-profit groups and individuals to retain the heritage values of the remaining Cannery Row.

The Board of the BC Heritage Trust would like to wish the Steveston Fisheries Alliance every success with its attempts to conserve, rehabilitate and re-use this very valuable part of the province's heritage.

Yours sincerely,


Anne Edwards
Chair
British Columbia Heritage Trust

pc. Mayor Halsey-Brandt and Council, City of Richmond
Richard Gregory, Senior Vice President, BC Packers

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