

To: Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Committee

Date: March 26, 2019

From: Councillor Harold Steves

Re: Reorganization of Steveston heritage organizations.

Referral: That governance of Steveston Heritage sites be reviewed to consider:

1) the establishment of an overall Steveston Heritage Sites Board including London Farm, Britannia Shipyard, Steveston Museum and Gulf of Georgia Cannery Societies, with possible representation from the Heritage Advisory Committee.

2) the responsibility of the Steveston Historical Society be expanded to include the Steveston Tram and Branscombe House.

3) the responsibility of the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society be expanded to include the Phoenix Net Loft and new moorage float, Imperial Landing Float, Garry Point Pilings, and Scotch Pond.

Background:

Steveston has all of the City of Richmond's active historic sites including two federal national historic sites yet there is a general lack of coordination of heritage development and activities. A Steveston heritage board would assist in co-ordinating City and Federal operations.

When the Steveston Tram building was constructed it was anticipated that there would be a major meeting room under the auspices of the Steveston Community Society but it was downsized. The same staff serve the Steveston Museum. The Branscombe House was the first office and meeting space for the Britannia Shipyard Society. Since becoming an "artist in residence" it has become isolated from other heritage sites and its' use is being questioned. Attendance does not warrant the present use. The City has not been co-ordinating the sites, there is no publicity, and Branscombe and the Tram have no society or public involvement in their operations. When the Fishermen's Benevolent building was added to the Steveston Museum it was designed to operate without additional staff and one section was for use for weddings. Weddings could also be included at Branscombe House.

Scotch Pond has a Fisherman's Co-op that gets free moorage for harbour upkeep. It is an ideal location for "Parks Afloat" canoeing and kayaking, safe from river currents. A proposal for Parks Afloat at Scotch Pond with a historic private caretaker float was turned down and there have been no further proposals. While use by the Co-op could continue the operation of Scotch Pond, Garry Point Piles, Imperial Landing and the Phoenix Net Shed and Float should be assigned to the Britannia Shipyard Society.