

Schedule 3 to the Minutes of the Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Committee meeting of Richmond City Council held on Tuesday, February 28, 2017.



From: kelvin Higo [mailto:kelvinhigo@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, 16 February 2017 14:21

To: Mayor and Councillors

Cc: Semple, Dave; Fernyhough, Jane

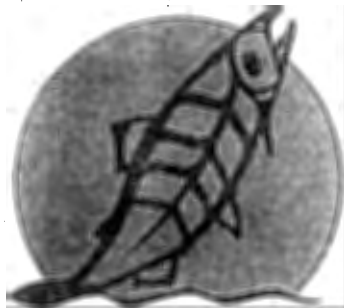
Subject: Atagi/Yamanaka Boatworks

Earlier this year, I sent a letter to the chairman of the Steveston Harbour Authority, a copy of which is attached, suggesting that the SHA and the City review whether there was an opportunity to do a property exchange for the Atagi/Yamanaka Boatwork site and have it attached to the Britannia Historic Shipyard property which is located immediately to the west of these buildings.

The Atagi/Yamanaka site would be used to preserve the history of the boatbuilding industry in Steveston as well as other maritime activities related to the fishing industry. Personally I do not think that Federal or Provincial institutions such as the Harbour Authority can only look at their mandate through a narrow lens but rather they should also be cognizant of the environmental, historical and cultural importance of the properties they manage on behalf of its citizens.

Recently the SHA sent me their response which I have also attached. I still believe that the acquisition of the Atagi/Yamanaka Boatworks buildings would be a valuable asset to the City especially at this time when we are reviewing the possibility of having the Steveston area designated a historic site.

As the City has not had the opportunity to consider the suggestion of acquiring the Atagi/Yamanaka Boatworks site, I thought it prudent to raise this matter in the event that the City wishes to pursue this directly with the SHA.



February 14, 2017

STEVESTON HARBOUR AUTHORITY

12740 Trites Road, Richmond, B.C. V7E 3R8 604-272-5539 Fax 604-271-6142

Kevin Higo
kelvinhigo@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Higo,

Thank you for your letter dated July 11, 2016 and our sincere apologies for the delayed response.

The Steveston Harbour Authority has a mandate to operate a commercial fishing harbour on behalf of the Government of Canada. While your suggestion is an interesting one, we are very mindful of the need to operate within this mandate, particularly in light of so many fishing stocks appearing to be rebounding. It is our view that the best way to preserve the heritage of the fishing industry in Steveston is to ensure that current fishers have a place to operate their businesses for decades, and hopefully centuries, to come.

Thank you for your interest in the Steveston Harbour Authority.

Best regards,

Robert Kiesman, Chairman
Steveston Harbour Authority

Ken Yoshikawa, Secretary/Treasurer
Steveston Harbour Authority

July 11, 2016

Mr. Robert Kiesman
Board Chairman
Steveston Harbor Authority

Dear Mr. Kiesman:

My name is Kelvin Higo and I am a long time resident of Steveston. I am currently president of the Steveston Kendo Club and chair of the Steveston Japanese Canadian Cultural Center Advisory Committee.

As our Community Groups representative I wish to bring to your attention a suggestion for your Board's consideration.

As you know the Harbor Authority has jurisdiction over many buildings and structures along the Steveston waterfront. In particular there are two buildings that I feel should be part of the City of Richmond's property inventory. I am referring to the Atagi/Yamanaka Boatworks buildings located just east of the Britannia Historic Shipyard complex.

If these two buildings are preserved and added to the City's inventory, my suggestion is for these two buildings to house displays depicting the Japanese boat building history in Steveston. For example, it could permanently display the "Ryoshi - Nikkei Fishermen" display that was installed at the Gulf of Georgia Historic Cannery several years ago. It could also house other maritime artifacts in the City of Richmond collections.

I feel that the site where these buildings are situated could be exchanged for other property under the domain of the City satisfactory to both parties.

I think that the addition of the property to the Britannia Historic Shipyard site would add another dimension to the preservation of the fishing history in Steveston.

Your Board's consideration of this suggestion is appreciated. I can be reached via email at kelvinhigo@gmail.com or by telephone at 604-241-7444.

Yours truly,

Kelvin Higo