



**World Heritage
Advisory Committee
Minutes
Thursday, March 25, 2021**

Location: Natural Resource conference room, Zoom

Chair: Deb Nagano

Attending: Travis Weber, Stephanie Pawluk, Debbie Nagano, Andy Cunningham, Paula Hassard, Alex Somerville, Lee Whalen, Dan Davidson (Zoom), Molly Shore (Zoom), Rebecca Jansen (Zoom).

Regrets: Jackie Olson, Dick VanNostrand, Al Doherty, Brooke Rudolph, Jen Meurer

Delegates: Barb Hogan (Zoom), Mark Wickham (Zoom)

The meeting started at 12:00 p.m.

1. Welcome and brief round of introductions

New Members to the committee include Stephanie Pawluk from City of Dawson, and Andy Cunningham from KVA.

Print copies of the nomination and draft management plan were provided to members present, and are available for pick up at the TH Heritage Department for members in Dawson, or with Rebecca Jansen for those in Whitehorse.

2. Brief Nomination Overview

Barb Hogan provided a brief overview of the nomination chronology over the past 3 years leading up to the current submission to the World Heritage Committee in January 2021. Since May 2018 when the nomination was removed from consideration, there has been considerable work, including expert direction from Anita Smith, submission of the TK revised concept proposal to ICOMOS and subsequent review, and a number of research initiatives and thematic studies. Over the past year, the team, with support from local and international experts, compiled the revised nomination, which is a serial site with 8 component sites, focusing on indigenous people's experience of, and adaptation to, the global phenomenon of European colonialism.

The nomination was submitted for a voluntary review to the World Heritage Centre in Sept 2021. In January 2021 the nomination dossier was officially submitted to the World Heritage Centre and on March 1st we received notice that the nomination is complete and accepted to move forward for evaluation.

3. Evaluation Process

Barb and Lee provided a brief update of the evaluation process leading up to a decision by the World Heritage Committee in July of 2022. It was noted that in total the nomination process takes around 18 months and that there are 2 key points of exchange between ICOMOS and the local team- the site evaluation in late summer/early fall of 2021, and the Advisory Panel meeting in November 2021.

Alex Somerville noted that the site evaluation is a crucial point in the process where the Advisory Committee plays an important role.

Lee noted that it is not fully clear what the evaluation will look like this year with limitations due to COVID restrictions. We will be working with the Parks Canada International staff to achieve some clarity and will have notice with lots of time for preparing for this component of the evaluation. At this time, there is no indication that the process timelines will be effected because of this.

It was noted that the TK evaluation will benefit from the hindsight we have gained from the first submission, in that we have already been through the entirety of the process, and can anticipate how the evaluation will unfold, and what is expected of the local team and when. Lee pointed out that this nomination is much more straightforward and that the component sites are either on settlement land or have been withdrawn from mineral staking and most of the sites already have management plans, so very different from the first nomination.

4. Update on Public Engagement

Lee provided a brief update on public engagement. Current efforts include updating the website, a frequently asked questions document, drafting of pamphlets and a newsletter, and design templates for posters and newspaper ads. We are aiming to have a newsletter and pamphlet available for print in April, to mail drop and have accessible via social media and the website.

Upcoming efforts also include plans for a number of presentations and updates to various stakeholders including COD, KPMA, TH Council, and others as necessary. Barb Hogan will be retained on contract into April to assist with these efforts.

A media release is also in the works. This has been reviewed by the PMC and will be forwarded to the Parties (COD, TH, Parks, and YG), to review. Further discussion will inform whether this is a joint release by the 4 parties- or released by the Advisory Committee.

Alex Somerville noted that since the nomination has already been submitted that no changes will take place and the engagement is to inform and ensure project clarity and support for the nomination, both from stakeholders and from the public.

Molly Shore reminded us that while stakeholder engagement is important, we need to ensure that there is broad community engagement, especially because of changes in the nomination, and past concerns. Lee stated that at this time public engagement will be through the pamphlet and newsletter and social media, with potential for a public

meeting in the future. Newsletters will go out to TH citizens and via a mail drop in Dawson City.

We had a brief discussion regarding social media, and the challenges of monitoring this, especially as the project does not have a project manager at this time. Andy suggested that the KVA could take on some of this social media presence for the project as they are very active on social media.

Lee noted that all engagement materials will be forwarded to the Advisory Committee for review prior finalizing.

5. Co-Chair

As per the TOR of the committee, there are 2 Co-Chairs, one being held by TH and one delegated by the committee. This position was most recently held by Paul Robitaille at KVA who has recently moved on. Lee also indicated, that often the Co-chair acts as a champion for the project, and during the evaluation may be a media lead for the committee, and could play a role during the site evaluation. This discussion was opened to the floor:

- Molly Nominated Alex at the Museum, who felt his schedule would not allow for this level of commitment.
- Travis felt that it was not an appropriate role for Parks Canada, as representative as the State Party to the nomination
- Andy needs to clarify who will be designated a rep on the committee for KVA, and have this discussion internally.

A decision on Co-Chair was deferred until next meeting.

6. TOR

Lee noted that the TOR requires review and updating, mostly to bring it into conformity with the draft management plan, which sees the Advisory Committee continuing on after nomination, to support the Stewardship Board. The TOR also references positions (project manager, communications assistant), which no longer exist. Lee and Barb will be conducting an update of the TOR for consideration by the Advisory Committee at next meeting.

Travis noted that we should add a term of 2 years for the Co-Chairs, which would bring the next appointment through the first year of designation.

Lee suggested that members of the Committee forward him confirmed names of their official member and alternate to append to the TOR.

It was noted that with changes staff and funding that the Project Management Committee composition has changed and needs to be confirmed for the next phase of the project. Lee will reach out to confirm PMC members moving forward.

7. Next steps

It was suggested that our next meeting occur towards the end of April. Lee committed to sending around a calendar invite with a proposed date and time.