



National Association of Japanese Canadians Heritage Committee meeting minutes

Meeting date: 8 August 2015

Meeting time:	8:00am PST / 11:00am EST – 9:30am PST / 12:30pm EST
Meeting location:	WebEx online
Meeting called by:	Lisa Uyeda, Chair
Type of meeting:	Committee meeting
Facilitator:	Lisa Uyeda, Chair
Note taker:	Lisa Uyeda
Attendees:	Noreen Kuroyama, Lillian Maguire, Kevin Okabe, and Lisa Uyeda.
Regrets:	Bryon Wilfert

Adopt 8 August 2015 meeting agenda

Motion moved:	Lillian Maguire
Motion second:	Noreen Kuroyama
Result:	Carried

Adopt 27 June 2015 meeting minutes

Motion moved:	Bryon Wilfert
Motion second:	Kevin Okabe
Result:	Correct Maguire spelling. Motion carried and partially completed via email

Business arising from Minutes

1. Museum signage conflicts

Lillian is part of the Hidden Histories Society in Yukon (HHSY) and they were creating an educational website (see <http://hhsy.org/>) featuring a Japanese Canadian agriculturalist. The featured story was based on the individual's oral histories and recollections of a happy childhood during the Second World War despite being forced to relocate. He passed away before the project was completed. His story was featured by the HHSY found it challenging to incorporate his perspective that didn't highlight the



hardships and social injustice. Before the project was completed, Lillian consulted Lisa Uyeda and Ken Noma; they reviewed the final text and provided comments.

Are there guidelines to address similar situations? How do other museums deal with the multiple perspectives?

Kevin and the Calgary group created video books based on oral histories but retained the full context of the individuals' oral histories (i.e. the videos were not extensively edited). Noreen has not encountered this situation before.

The curators at the Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre (NNMCC) have experienced similar situations. The curator and their team of exhibit developers plan the exhibit's content and how it will be displayed. Often, the curator will use a combination of oral histories, photographs, documents, publications and other resources to portray a complete picture. Multiple oral histories can be used to demonstrate a common story told in multiple perspectives.

[Action]: Lisa to ask Sherri and Linda if an article and/or guidelines about the situation have been written and ask if these could be shared with organizations; if nothing has been written, perhaps suggest writing about the topic.

2. Education subcommittee of the Heritage Committee

At the last National Executive Board (NEB), a proposal was made to form an Education Committee. Given the current resource limitations of the NEB, an Education Subcommittee of the Heritage Committee was proposed.

There is a growing interest in educational resources within our community and the Nikkei National Museum (NNM) has recently hired an Education Coordinator, Karah Goshinmon. The NNM is currently discussing forming an education committee consisting of educators and other community members. Lisa would like to propose the NAJC Heritage Committee join the NNM Education Committee. Lisa would be suitable because at the moment, it appears to be a local committee; hopefully, there will be national involvement.

[Action]: Lisa to ask NNM if they are interested in having the NAJC Heritage Committee join their developing Education Committee.

Other organizations in our community have spent time building educational resources and making them available to the public; some of these resources are based on a specific curriculum. The NAJC previously had an Education Committee where they developed an education kit, Justice in Our Time publication, and curriculum resources. Art Miki may be able to provide information on the history of the Education Committee. The National Office used to get requests for resources, not sure if requests are still received.

[Action]: Lisa to ask Jim Suzuki, National Administrator, if these education kits and resources are still available or if they are boxed away in storage. Also ask if the office receives requests for resources.

Survey questions can include asking about educational resources and if there are any members interested in joining the Heritage Committee. Include all areas of education: students; young adults; adults; Canadians; new Nikkei community members; etc.



[Action]: In the survey, ask if there are Heritage Committee nominations and request information on educational resources.

Would like to build an education component on the NAJC website. This could include references to resource sites, NAJC publications (digitized and turned into ebooks), and education kits. Previous publications can be distributed to community library and archives, e.g. Nikkei National Museum, Moriyama Resource Centre, etc.

In the future, the Education Subcommittee could assist in building international connections that could provide student exchange opportunities. At the moment, assisting in developing international opportunities is beyond our committee's resources.

Educational focus will be on Nikkei history and in the future can develop further to incorporate cultural education (e.g. cultural exchanges to Japan). Aim for January 2016 to have members on an Education Subcommittee. Heritage Committee would like a few more members before expanding to include an Education Subcommittee.

[Action]: Lisa to write a call for nominations article and to ask Jim to distribute to member organizations.

3. Strategic Planning

A Strategic Plan for the Heritage Committee to help identify priorities and develop a 5-year goal. Some priorities already identified in the NEB's Strategic Plan. Committee can start by compiling a list of important aspects related to heritage projects, activities, initiatives, etc; these can later be plotted into priorities. Some aspects might be identified from the survey results.

[Action]: Lisa to identify heritage related priorities from the NEB Strategic Plan and compile into a Google Document (a shared editing platform). Committee members to try accessing and editing the Google Document; if some members cannot access the Google Document, one committee member can compile all the comments into a Word Document.

Google Document link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W-zdUhypDkF_3HAYp2yok1gu81TYBA7_-Ljr536mHPY/edit?usp=sharing

Would like to develop a strategic plan in January-February 2016 during a face-to-face meeting. The NEB will be meeting approx. around 5 February 2016. Additional Heritage Committee members not located in Toronto will have to be flown in.

Old business

4. National heritage survey

Heritage Committee would like to use Survey Monkey. Propose upgrading to a paid account to allow for unlimited questions and unlimited responses. Currently, a free account allows 10 questions and up to 100 responses. Propose paying the \$19/month fee from September – November. Kevin suggested the fee can be paid out from the administration budget.

[Action]: Lisa to ask Jim Suzuki to create an NAJC admin Survey Monkey account; cc Kevin on the email.

Reviewed Kevin's draft survey questions, Lisa's comments are in yellow. It is important to try to keep the survey as short, quick, and comprehensive as possible.



[Action]: Survey to be reviewed by email by all committee members and comments sent to Kevin.

Old business

5. Oral history projects

Keep on the agenda as a long-standing item as per the NAJC NEB's strategic plan.

NNM conducts ongoing oral histories but are either project specific or related to a donor donating heritage materials to the Museum's Collection and Archives.

6. Project proposals, approval process, and funding

Heritage Committee would like to host a webinar in late February – early March 2016; topic of the webinar to be based on survey results. Budget reserved for guest presenter honourarium.

7. Budget

Budget for 2016-2017 will be \$6000.00; budget for 2017-2018 will be greater in hopes of hosting (or sponsoring) a large event (symposium, conference, etc.) to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the forced dispersal and internment.

[Action]: Lisa to compile 2016-2017 budget for August NEB meeting.

New Business

8. Road camp signage in British Columbia

Lisa sent out two emails detailing the request from Scott Back of the BC Parks Board. The current road camp signage in Northern BC is not located at a highway pullover stop and is not at an actual road camp site. The signage contract is being renewed this year Scott Back is requesting working with the Nikkei community on revising the current signage and possibly relocating the signage to a more suitable site with higher public engagement. The NNM was originally contacted but was passed over to Lisa to bring to the Heritage Committee.

Scott Back will be leading the road camp signage project. Funding for relocating and installing the signage will be covered by the BC Parks Board and there is a grant opportunity available to Scott Back to cover part of the costs. Redesigning the content of the signage would be undertaken by the Nikkei community. Cost for graphic designs may not be covered by BC Parks Board. The Heritage Committee would like to be involved on the project.

[Action]: Lisa to send an introductory email to the Heritage Committee and Scott Back. Lisa to confirm what funding is available/required for graphic design.

Tosh Suzuki and Roy Inouye of the Apology Legacy Proposal should be informed of the current project. Although the project is specific to the road camp signage in Northern BC, it may provide an opportunity to connect to BC Parks Board staff regarding the internment camp signage.

[Action]: Lisa to email Tosh Suzuki and Roy Inouye about the road camp signage project.



NAJC HC Meeting Minutes

Created: 8 August 2015

Last modified: 22 August 2015

Meeting adjourned

Motion moved:	Kevin Okabe
Motion second:	Noreen Kuroyama
Time adjourned:	10:16am PST / 1:16pm EST
Next meeting date & time:	Saturday, 22 August 2015 at 8:00am PST / 11:00am EST
Next meeting location:	WebEx online