

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
Thursday, January 28, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Councillor Sanders (Chair), Lyris Agarat, John Crawford, Ken Johnson, Anne Lansdell, Roger Love

Staff: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Caroline Duncan, Archivist; Brenda Weatherston, Community Arts Specialist (9:45 am); Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Minutes

MOVED by K. Johnson and Seconded by A. Lansdell: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held November 26, 2015 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Committee Membership

The Chair advised that committee membership is low; three new committee members are needed and staff has advertised in this regard.

50TH Celebration of the Saanich Municipal Hall

The Chair thanked members for their work on the 50th celebration last month. There was standing room only at the event and the architect gave a great speech on the iconic Municipal Hall building and its importance. Valerie's speech about the Mayors of Saanich was very good, as was the media coverage of the event. The Chair would like to keep the 50th celebration message going all year if possible.

Cycling Festival

Committee members were asked if they would like to participate in the Saanich Cycling Festival. Members could showcase the new 50th anniversary commemorative sign, promote the heritage register and provide general history of the municipality. A tent would be needed; K. Johnson could bring display boards and members/staff can look for historical cycling photos to display. Perhaps old collector bikes could be found to display. The Arts Specialist can contribute artists' studio tour promotional information to display.

Strategic Plan

The Chair noted there is nothing in the Strategic Plan on Arts, Culture and Heritage; there are indicators, and in 2013 there were implementation items, but it is not known if the items were completed.

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services advised that some projects are done and some are annual/ongoing projects if the budget is available. When doing the 2016 plan, they will need to write action items and make them ongoing if that is what committee wants. Certain items are cyclical.

Members discussed public art funding and having community art projects tied to different areas in the community; it was noted that there is a Public Art Policy that touches on this, however it does not always have the mechanism to support smaller projects.

A discussion occurred about the Heritage Management Plan and how it fits in with the Official Community Plan. It was suggested that a chart showing the processes and plans from the top to bottom (starting with the OCP) would be helpful.

Cedar Hill Arts Centre Sign

The Chair noted that more visible signage for the Arts Centre at Cedar Hill Recreation centre would be valuable. She has reports that people do not know there is an arts centre at the facility. A mural on one of the walls of the centre facing the green space was also suggested.

Staff noted that the sign shop estimated a cost of over \$5,000 for a sign, which is not in the budget this year. Due to a recent wind storm, there is opportunity to have an electronic sign replace one that recently fell over. Staff will provide an update at a future meeting when one is available.

Representative from Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria

This organization currently has very little manpower; they do not have enough volunteers and are struggling to keep their current commitments. Staff will stay in touch with them.

SCHEDULE OF REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee consensus was to continue to hold regular meetings on the fourth Thursday at 9:30 a.m.

150TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF CANADA IN 2017

There are grants available for special events and infrastructure associated with the 150th birthday of Canada. One grant that staff applied for (for infrastructure) was not approved and they are waiting to hear on another grant request. Ideas for a celebration were put forward and the following was noted:

- Archives will pull together a 1967 overview of events, and will look at old Council minutes for significant information.
- Banners for the 150th may be a good idea.
- Having displays/signage would be of benefit; there will be more US tourists due to the lower dollar.

For further discussion at a future meeting.

ARCHIVES

The Archivist provided a copy of the latest Saanich Archives News and Events newsletter that is produced every two weeks.

HERITAGE

The Archivist provided information on a home on Oak Crest Drive that was recently acquired by a McRae family member and is being restored. The home, called Twin Oaks, will be a stop on the 2016 Heritage Bus Tour, and old letters and photos that were found in the attic will be displayed for tour members. This home is near the Cedar Hill Golf Course where the tea will be held. The date is tentatively set for September 18, 2016 and the fee will be \$34.50 again.

A discussion occurred about buildings in the area that could be on the tour route; ideas are to be sent to the Archivist. A request to tour McRae house was made; the Archivist will inquire about this.

Heritage week starts on February 15th and there will be a talk on February 17th at the Saanich Centennial Library by author Dorothy Mindenhall about “Unbuilt Saanich”.

ARTS

The Chair noted that the public arts website is not up to date. The City of Victoria is launching a call for proposals for a cultural development policy and it was suggested this would be better if it was a regional policy. A suggestion was made to have James Lam from the CRD attend a meeting to provide a regional arts update.

Family Arts Festival

The Community Arts Specialist provided information about the upcoming Family Arts Festival (formally the Carnival of the Arts event), being held on February 8th from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Cedar Hill Arts Centre. The province is supporting the event and the Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development will be in attendance to welcome the public.

Arts Awards

The next steps for this event is to submit the idea to Council with a recommended budget, and ask for support. For further discussion at a future meeting.

SAANICH HERITAGE FOUNDATION REPORT

- The Heritage Foundation is going through the budget process and has a grant application in to Saanich.
- The policy surrounding communication with owners of heritage homes has been improved. The Foundation will pay for postage of a letter to be sent to all owners of registered heritage houses that provides information about joining the heritage register.
- Council Chambers was looked at for restructuring and the dias is high because of the concrete underneath; this is a structural part of the building that cannot be changed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Thursday, February 25, 2016.

Councillor Sanders, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary