

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
Thursday, January 18, 2018 at 9:30 am

Present: Councillor Brice (Chair), Lyris Agarat, John Crawford, Ken Johnson, Leanna Rathkelly

Staff: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Evelyn Wolfe, Archivist; Brenda Weatherston, Community Arts Specialist; Stacy McGhee, Program Manager, Strategic Facilities Planning; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Sean Burns, Nathalie Chambers, Michele Sealey, Kate Sykes-Waller

The Chair opened the meeting by reading out an Expression of Respect and thanked the committee members for adjusting their schedules to attend the meeting today.

Minutes

MOVED by K. Johnson and Seconded by L. Rathkelly: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held November 23, 2017 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair noted that there are three new committee members, and hopefully we will meet them at the next meeting. She also expressed that she is grateful of an upcoming art exhibit called "Behind the Lines: Contemporary Syrian Art", which will be at the Arts Centre at Cedar Hill between January 24 – February 5.

SCHEDULE OF REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee members agreed to the 2018 meeting schedule as presented.

MOVED by J. Crawford and Seconded by K. Johnson: "That the proposed schedule of 2018 meeting dates and agenda items be approved, as per the report dated January 12, 2018 from the Senior Manager, Recreation."

CARRIED

COMMITTEE MANDATE

Composition and Terms of Reference

The Committee Terms of Reference were discussed. Members expressed a desire to improve on promotion, education and awareness related to arts, culture and heritage issues in the community.

Motion: MOVED by K. Johnson and Seconded by L. Agarat, "That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee Terms of Reference (version 2013) be adopted."

CARRIED

2018 Work Plan

The Senior Manager, Recreation Services, lead a discussion about the 2018 work plan, and provided a recap about the items that were proposed as topics at the November 2017 meeting. The following comments from staff and committee members were noted:

- Presentations from other agencies is a possibility.
- Is there a way committee can stimulate/nurture recommendations to Council
- Can committee somehow go out and create a greater community appreciation? How can we bring something of value to the community?
- The Plane tree recommendation endorsed by Council recognizes heritage trees; this provides an opportunity for a tie-in to the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI.
- Are we fulfilling our mandate? It seems like we respond well, but don't develop well.
- Community Associations: some are more active than others. Are they represented fairly? A suggestion to identify which areas are more/less active was raised. Staff may be able to map out items like public art pieces and music in the park/other events to help give an idea of areas that could use more support from the committee.
- A list could be provided to Community Associations to show all the events that are held in their area – to help raise awareness.
- Providing information about available community grants could help in raising awareness.
- This issue is broad and involves all advisory committees in some way; Community Associations should be shown how issues filter down into the seven advisory committees. It was noted that the advisory committee mandates are all different; some committees tie into each other, some do not.
- The past Chair had at one time visited the Community Associations and made presentations to 'plant a seed' and promote the various Saanich events.
- It would be great to have a history on many different areas and make these available to the public (eg. Girling farm history, Swan lake hotel history).
- There is information on some places (eg. Girling farm) at the Archives, however this information is not posted onsite for people passing by.
- What does the committee want to have done by the end of the year that has had an impact on the community?

The Chair asked staff to create a draft concept of actions to undertake, and to lay out a practical map/outline for committee to follow, that will help the committee enhance their mandate. She also noted that promotion, education and awareness will be good areas of focus.

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services noted that the mapping could probably be done for the March 2018 meeting, and this should help show any gaps that the committee is concerned about. The Community Arts Specialist noted that the CRD Arts Development Service is implementing a plan this year, and one of their items to focus on is to increase awareness of the arts.

A request was made to have the CRD Arts representative make a presentation to this committee. A suggestion was also made to have a cultural demographic presentation from staff if possible.

STRATEGIC FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services introduced the Program Manager, Strategic Facilities Planning who presented high level information on the Strategic Facilities Master Plan. The following was noted:

- Many services are delivered by and through our facilities. Some facilities are over 40 years old and experiencing multiple issues.
- The district has a history of good maintenance and repair to the facilities, and some are nearing their end of life. There could be risks to service delivery if we lose efficiency.
- Looking ahead, present concerns include:
 - Maintenance becomes more reactive, rather than pro-active.
 - Crowded working conditions will only worsen.
 - Few buildings have been seismically upgraded.
 - Utility costs rise due to energy inefficient buildings
 - Recreational centres although manageable now, will need increased attention.
- Staff have considered future demands on service delivery and operational needs.
- A plan was created that addresses the issue through the analysis of three criteria; capacity, condition and risk.
- Facilities were reviewed according to condition and conformance to building code (including Seismic) and industry standards and practices. An analysis of the ten major facilities was compiled and prioritized.
- A framework outlining all the necessary steps was presented. There will be public consultation and information sessions.
- An online survey is available on the Saanich website until the end of February.

Staff responded to questions, and committee provided feedback as noted:

- The 1% of the budget for municipal building renovation projects in excess of \$250,000 is important to note as it provides opportunity for public art.
- There could be an opportunity to have a proper Civic Plaza at the Hall site.
- The Public Works yard is about 13 acres; there may be opportunity to rezone perimeter areas for other uses.
- The design of buildings is important in areas where people walk by; the Advisory Design Panel will be involved for projects as appropriate.
- Major critical facilities are the priority. In 2019 staff will be able to determine funding available for buildings such as Les Passmore, Goward House, etc.
- It was suggested that the Plan also identify the buildings that are next in line after the priority buildings.

ARCHIVES

The Archivist provided an update and the following was noted:

- Heritage Week is February 19-25.
- An exhibit “Saanich goes to the dogs” which celebrates canines from the 1900s to 1960s will be at the Arts Centre between February 7 and March 7.
- Historian Ron Greene will present “North Dairy to Homestead Farm: Dairy Farming in Saanich” on February 21st from 1:00-2:00pm at the Saanich Centennial Library.
- The Archives department would be happy to host a tour of the Archives for committee members.
- The research for the 100th anniversary of the observatory was done by Dr. Lorne Hammond, BC Museum Curator of History. He is in charge of a traveling exhibit and could be asked to make a presentation to committee.

HERITAGE

Heritage Foundation Report

K. Johnson noted the following update:

- The Heritage Foundation is in its grant phase and they have received requests that will be submitted to Council for the budget process this year.
- Work is being done to maintain Hall House in Knockan Hill Park; a kitchen restoration is being done at a cost of just under \$20,000.
- The Hallmark society received a matching grant of \$17,500 to repair/re-roof the Craigflower Schoolhouse.

Canada 150 Report

It was reported that the Canada 150 time capsule will be displayed at various locations.

The Chair noted high praise for the tremendous amount of work done by the Ambassadors, and the Community Arts Specialist stated she has observed many people looking at the Canada 150 display. It was suggested that the display panels could be photographed for display for smaller areas, as the panels take up so much space.

ARTS

- The Family Arts Festival will be held on Family Day, February 12, 2018 from 11-3pm at Cedar Hill Arts Centre. In attendance will be members from the Symphony, the Conservatory of Music, the Library and various performing groups. Also in attendance will be the UVic English Language centre and the Canada 150 Ambassadors along with the time capsule.
- Last December's exhibit "I've not always been Canadian" was well received.
- A Syrian art exhibit includes work from 19 artists from Syria will be at the arts centre, and the opening reception will include a violin performance by violinist Sari Alesh.
- UVic Faculty of Art Education will have art to display in the gallery.
- A Community Services update was given: a grant was received to partner with a mosque to provide activities for Muslim girls; queer youth are being provided with open mike opportunities; Youth Empowerment Society and the Arts Centre is presenting 'Souper Bowls of Hope' in April.

Committee member L. Rathkelly updated members on her recent experience in being a juror to help choose the displays at the Arts Centre. There were great discussions and diverse proposals and she expressed appreciation for fellow jurors.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

Councillor Brice, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary