

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Councillor Sanders (Chair), Lyris Agarat, Kay Beckett, Kathleen Brennan, John Crawford, Ken Johnson, Roger Love

Staff: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Cameron Scott, Manager of Community Planning; Caroline Duncan, Archivist; Brenda Weatherston, Community Arts Specialist; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Absent: Valerie Green, Anne Lansdell

Guest: Bob Williams, liaison, Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria

Minutes

MOVED by R. Love and Seconded by J. Crawford: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held January 22, 2015, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

ARCHIVES UPDATE

The Archivist provided an update on the heritage bus tour, which is sponsored by this committee and will be held on Sunday, September 13, 2015. Ken Johnson will be the guide and the theme will be Saanich owned and repurposed buildings with an inside tour of the Craigflower Schoolhouse. The price will increase between \$2.00 and \$4.00, and the tea will be held at the Cedar Hill Golf Course Clubhouse. The route is currently in the planning stages.

HERITAGE UPDATE

Heritage Week

The Manager of Community Planning and the Archivist provided information on Saanich's Heritage Week events that took place during the week of February 16th.

- The heritage walking tour of Royal Oak was well attended and featured many buildings including the old Municipal Hall, Women's Institute, Royal Oak Schoolhouse, and the former Pimlott's Royal Oak Grocery. Following the walk, participants enjoyed tea at the Fireside Grill (built in 1939 as the Royal Oak Inn).
- Two exhibits took place during Heritage week – one in the Hall featuring the interior heritage of the Hall and one at Cedar Hill Arts Centre featuring early postcards from the Saanich Archives collection.
- In partnership with the GVPL, Saanich Archives hosted a talk by historian and author Nick Russell on heritage structures and early postcards in Saanich.

Martelli House Update

Staff is writing a report to Council asking to look at the heritage designation of Martelli House.

Municipal Hall Landscaping

Staff provided information regarding the Bylaw surrounding the Municipal Hall landscaping which includes a legal description of the designated land area but there are no specific protected landscape features. The Heritage Foundation suggested to the Chair that all water and landscape features within about a 100' radius should be protected, and that obtaining an original building site plan from the Building Department may be a useful reference document.

Motion: MOVED by K. Johnson and Seconded by K. Beckett, “That the Arts Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee recommends that Council request staff to identify existing significant landscape features of the Municipal Hall grounds for inclusion as possible amendments to the Municipal Hall Designation Bylaw No. 6387.”

CARRIED

The above request is done with a view to add any significant landscaping features into the Municipal Hall Designation Bylaw No. 6387.

Review of JC Scott Report

The Manager of Community Planning noted that the JC Scott report done on the Municipal Hall was to look at the interior of the hall and provide operational guidance. A discussion occurred and it was noted that JC Scott has recently noticed some ‘creep’ (ie: operations into public spaces). Additionally, the Chair noted that the integrity of Council Chambers needs to be maintained when doing upgrades.

It was noted that staff may need reminders about the suggestions in the JC Scott report. The Senior Manager of Recreation Services stated she can bring this issue to the next Directors’ meeting as a committee priority, and report back to committee in this regard.

50th Anniversary of Saanich Municipal Hall

Ideas for celebrating the 50th anniversary of Saanich Municipal Hall were discussed and the following was noted:

- An open house could be held at the Hall; a video or dynamic display could be set up.
- Education regarding the architectural style of the building may be useful; the architectural style of the building is hip and current right now.
- Raising public awareness of the 50th anniversary was discussed.
- Could consider “conserving modern architecture” as a theme.
- Showing chronology of the hall and past halls was discussed.
- Showing how you can grow/modernize and maintain heritage aspects of buildings.
- Hall tours could be done with oral histories from staff.

The Senior Manager, Recreation Services will also notify Directors that the 50th anniversary date is December 2015 and that planning and funding for an event needs to be discussed.

ARTS UPDATE

Comprehensive Arts Policy

The Manager of Community Planning noted that the Public Arts Policy was identified as an important item and will be discussed at upcoming Strategic Planning meetings of Council. A public engagement process would need to occur if going forward with adding a street art/graffiti item to the policy. The Chair noted that the fund distribution section Part 2, Section 7.1, 'Civic Public Art Program' in the Arts Policy needs more parameters/clarification.

Street Art/Graffiti

The Community Arts Specialist provided a background on how the street art/graffiti item was introduced to the committee. It was noted that the Planning Department has policies regarding murals and there is no mechanism for a rotating street/urban/graffiti art program. Examples of other city's policies on urban art were provided. It was acknowledged that graffiti is a concern and noted that urban art murals and graffiti are two separate issues. The Chair noted there are community volunteers that are given supplies by Saanich Public Works to help cover graffiti. No action to be taken on this issue at this time.

Arts Centre Update

The Community Arts Specialist circulated information about the Embrace Aging Through the Arts and Community, an art exhibition being held between March 19 – April 2, 2015 at the Cedar Hill Arts Centre. She noted that positive feedback is always received with this event. Also, exhibits in the café gallery will be shown in conjunction with the Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria.

SAANICH HERITAGE FOUNDATION REPORT

Mr. Johnson reported that:

- The Heritage Foundation has applied for a grant of \$42,000 because staffing costs have increased.
- They are giving grants to five designated homes that are on the registry.
- There are new members on the Foundation.
- Lists of properties on the inventory are being reviewed; there are about 1268 heritage properties in the Capital Region not on the registry and the Foundation intends to contact the owners to see if they want to be on the registry.
- Two houses (321 Gorge Road and 3261 Harriet Road) were added to the registry recently; these houses are doing well.

COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER VICTORIA REPORT

Mr. Williams reported that:

- The 16th annual Look Show is on from now until March 21st.
- They are involved in partnership with Saanich Recreation with the Embrace Aging exhibition which includes visual and performing arts.
- There will be an International Women's Day art show.
- They are re-launching a youth drop-in at the arts studio.
- Global Voices choir, comprised of about a dozen choirs, will perform mid-March.
- New in May 2015, a Juried Art Show with artists from Sidney/Sooke and Victoria.

OTHER BUSINESS

A discussion occurred about cultural representation on this committee; how can we improve, focus on what brings us together rather than what divides us. Events like the Moon Festival celebrate diversity. There doesn't seem to be a policy on culture, only statements in the OCP on heritage. Archives may be able to re-create neighbourhoods with their 1911 and 1921 census data and see the ethnic history in different neighbourhoods.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Thursday, March 26, 2015.

Councillor Sanders, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary