

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
Thursday, September 23, 2020 at 4:00 p.m

Present: In Person:
Leanna Rathkelly, John Ellis and Sonia Nicholson.

Via Teleconference:
Michelle Sealy, James Hesser, Marran Dodds, Heron Hanuman, Deb Beaton-Smith.

Staff: Megan Squires, Planner (Community Planning); Brenda Weatherston, Community Arts Specialist (Community Services); and Megan MacDonald, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Councillor Karen Harper, Irene Corman and Mark Leiran-Young.

NOMINATION OF A CHAIR

As the chair was not present at the meeting, Leanna Rathkelly was nominated as chair.

MOVED by J. Ellis and Seconded by J. Hesser: "That Leanna Rathkelly be appointed as Chair for the Arts, Culture and Heritage meeting held September 23, 2020."

CARRIED

SAANICH HERITAGE FOUNDATION UPDATE

Sonia Nicholson presented an update on the Saanich Heritage Foundation and stated:

- The Saanich Heritage Foundation meeting schedule was impacted due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, meetings have resumed via electronic/virtual participation.
- Recent outreach efforts include the creation of social media accounts and a new logo.
- Outreach aims to inform residents about grants and funding that are available as well as to encourage new Heritage designations.

PUBLIC ART UPDATES

Megan Squires, Community Planner provided an update on current Saanich public art initiatives:

- The redevelopment process for Saanich Fire Hall #2 in Royal Oak is currently underway. As per the *Saanich Comprehensive Arts Policy*, the project will meet Civic Public Art Program requirements, which includes a jury process for selecting the proposed artwork.
- The jury process will likely be initiated in 2021, with the redevelopment project being anticipated to be completed in 2022.
- The Arts Culture and Heritage Committee (ACH) will receive a presentation on the redevelopment project from Stacy McGhee, Program Manager, Strategic Facilities Planning, at a future ACH meeting.

SAANICH ARCHIVES REPORT

MOVED by J. Ellis and Seconded by M. Sealy: "That the Saanich Archives Report dated September 23, 2020 written by E. Wolfe, Archivist, be received for information."

CARRIED

ARTS PROGRAMMING & COMMUNITY ARTS INITIATIVES

Brenda Weatherston, Community Arts Specialist provided information on community arts initiatives. The following was noted:

- The COVID-19 pandemic led to cancellation of multiple community arts initiatives.
- HeArts Together is an initiative undertaken with community partners, which recognized the need to support members of the community who may be isolated and organizations adversely impacted by shut downs related to the pandemic.
- Members of community who took part in the HeArts Together Program (Website: <https://www.saanich.ca/EN/main/parks-recreation-community/arts/hearts-together-community-art-project.html>) decorated wood and clay heart cut-outs, which were created and donated by community partners. The decorated hearts were then displayed at various locations through the community. Approximately 150 hearts had been completed to date.
- Moon Festival displays have been put up at Gordon Head Rec Centre, as well as a Flow Thru lantern and light display, which can be viewed on foot, by bicycle or car.
- There were a number of small pop up style Music in the Community and Arts in the Community engagements in the parks.

Members of the committee were grateful for the music and art displays that have taken place in the community despite the current challenges.

COMMITTEE ROUNDTABLE

The committee discussed possible initiatives that could be taken on in light of the current pandemic and restrictions on large gatherings. The following was noted:

- Most community events Saanich events have been put on hold.
- It was noted that Saanich does not have a formal Arts Council. Members of the committee are interested in promoting the arts and music that already exist within Saanich. Some municipalities have an Arts Council, including Victoria and Esquimalt.
- Some members of the committee are interested in obtaining more information regarding the possible role of a Saanich Arts Council or additional support for existing arts groups.
- An informal working group was formed by J. Ellis, M. Sealy and D. Beaton to explore the idea of forming a Saanich Arts Council, and what the role of the committee would be.
- Brenda Weatherston suggested visiting the Arts BC website for some resources. <https://artsbc.org>

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 pm.

Leanna Rathkelly, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary