

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
Wednesday November 25, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Present: In Person:
Councillor Nathalie Chambers (Chair), Leanna Rathkelly, Marran Dodds and Sonia Nicholson.

Via Teleconference:
Michele Sealey, Jim Hesser, Irene Corman, John Ellis, Deb Beaton-Smith.

Staff:
Nadine Kawata, Planner (Community Planning); Brenda Weatherston, Community Arts Specialist (Community Services); Stacy McGhee, Program Manager, Strategic Facilities Planning; Adam Fawkes, HCMA Architecture, Project Architect and Megan MacDonald, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Mark Leiran-Young and Heron Hanuman.

ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

MOVED by J. Hesser and Seconded by M. Sealey: "That the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee held on September 23, 2020 be adopted."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Councillor Chambers advised that the Mayor made changes to Advisory Committee Chairs and she is very excited that she has been appointed as Chair of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee. Councillor Chambers advised that she has extensive knowledge in local heritage and experience with heritage houses. Roundtable introductions of the Chair, committee members and staff took place.

I. Corman exited the meeting at 4:11 p.m.

REDEVELOPMENT OF FIRE STATION NO. 2

Stacey McGhee, Program Manager, Strategic Facilities Planning; presented an update on the redevelopment of Fire Station 2 and stated:

- Fire Station 2 has been identified as needing to be updated due to size limitations and inadequate post disaster status.
- There is approximately \$ 160,000 that will be allocated to the public art piece as per the 1% budget allocation for the project.
- There will be a road closure of a portion of Viewmont Avenue, two existing municipally owned lots will be consolidated, the existing public pathway will be reconfigured, and the bus stops will be relocated.
- The new fire station will include a training room as well as a public meeting room.
- There will be enhanced greenspace and retention of existing trees.
- The building will be built to net zero energy standards, including solar panels on the roof.

- The corner will be opened up, creating a public plaza with a waiting area for the improved transit stop. Pedestrian routes will be improved with more sidewalk and a large landscaped area.
- The public art installation will be near the corner of Royal Oak Drive and Elk Lake Drive, which is a busy intersection. The corner intersection is seen as good opportunity for free-standing art, which can be viewed by cyclists, traffic, and pedestrians alike. Art can be placed within landscaping or more on plaza hard surface.
- The design team and artists will be involved early on; there is a range of options, including an interactive display.

MOVED by J. Hesser and Seconded by M. Sealey: “That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee recommends that the jury selection process be initiated immediately. Further, the jury should invite the architect to work together on the project as soon as possible.”

CARRIED

SAANICH ARCHIVES REPORT

The committee reviewed the Saanich Archives Report, which highlighted that Archives was once again open to the public. Archives has been expanding their online presence, with a Collections & Research web page. The fall newsletter was distributed and shared on social media.

SAANICH HERITAGE FOUNDATION UPDATE

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

- Saanich Heritage Foundation (SHF) will be proceeding with two Heritage Conservation Plans, one for Dodd House and one for Stranton Lodge, both of which are municipally owned properties that are managed by SHF.
- Additional Heritage Conservation Plans may be suggested for other municipally owned properties at a later date.
- SHF is in the process of appointing members, which will be announced in the near future.

ARTS PROGRAMMING & COMMUNITY ARTS INITIATIVES

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

- The HeArts Together Community Art Project is ongoing, with new partnerships being formed and new displays being installed.
- Some art programs have been put on hold or cancelled in light of new restrictions and guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The pop up art/music programs were well received in 2020, and they will continue in 2021.
- Given the ongoing pandemic, planning for the 2021 community art events will be focused on virtual events, take out(in home), and small pop-up style events rather than large gatherings.
- Art exhibits at Saanich Municipal Hall have recently resumed.
- Cedar Hill Recreation Center will have public art exhibits reopening in the near future.
- Planning for the Family Arts Festival is underway, which will be adapted to restrictions on events and public gatherings.

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:

- There is a continued interested holding Arts Awards, to recognize members of the community for their contributions. It was noted that a working group may need to be formed in order to have the awards happen in the near future.
- A strategic plan for art initiatives should be created.
- The CRD has a review of performance facilities which is currently underway. The study has included public consultation. A report will be made public in the near future, it would be beneficial for the committee to review that report once available.
- The working group related to the possible creation of a Saanich Arts Council has had some discussions, more work will be needed to determine the feasibility.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 pm.

Councillor Nathalie Chambers, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary