

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
January 23, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Councillor Sanders (Chair), Lyris Agarat, Kay Beckett, Pauline Cohen, Anne Lansdell, Roger Love

Staff: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Kim Fawthorpe, Valerie Green, Ken Johnson

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

New member Lyris Agarat was welcomed to the committee and roundtable introductions were made.

Minutes

MOVED by A. Lansdell and Seconded by K. Beckett: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held November 28, 2013 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

SCHEDULE OF REGULAR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

ARCHIVES

The Chair advised that the Archivist has requested suggestions for themes for the 2014 heritage bus tour. The Archivist has been exploring the possibility of tea at the Butchart Gardens with an emphasis on the historic buildings there. Committee members can email in suggestions. A discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- The Abkhazi Garden may be an appropriate destination as there is a heritage home there.
- It may be nice to touch on more native history as a tribute to First Nations.
- There is a historical water tower at the University; the gardens there may be a good place to visit. The area also has the house on Hibbons Close which has heritage value. The theme could be education.
- There are many homes in the Tattersall and Maplewood areas that would be nice to view if possible.

Bob Williams arrived at 9:50 a.m.

HERITAGE

Heritage Properties Maintenance Standards Bylaw

The Chair provided an update on the Heritage Properties Maintenance Standards Bylaw. Council has asked staff to provide a report that addresses heritage properties that are left to deteriorate without proper maintenance.

It was noted that heritage homeowners can apply for grants to help with property maintenance; they must apply for heritage alteration permits for any improvements or alterations. The new proposed Bylaw will help protect heritage properties from neglect.

ARTS

Comprehensive Arts Policy

It was noted that the Comprehensive Arts Policy document contains both policy and procedures; committee will look at separating the two. It was also noted that there is no public art fund component in the policy.

The Chair noted that the Committee will next look at the Arts and Culture Strategy. The Senior Manager, Recreation Services, advised that this is in the work plan and staff will update the Committee on the Strategy this year. The Community Arts Specialist will be invited to a future meeting to discuss.

Gorge on Art

The Senior Manager, Recreation Services, explained that events and programs are evaluated annually. The Gorge on Arts event is in its 15th year and has had declining attendance. It is challenging for some artists to take their work to the event, and capital projects that are being done in the area have also interfered with the event. Last year the event was included in the Canada Day Picnic; it was a smaller location with less artist participation.

In planning for this year it was noted that the Gorge Road closures will be an issue. The Canada Day Picnic that brings in about 10,000 people and it was suggested that this would be a better venue with more opportunity for artists to sell and showcase their work.

Committee member comments were noted as follows:

- It would be nice to see a community day held at the Cedar Hill Arts Centre; the Centre is underutilized and if the weather is poor it is a good venue because of the available indoor space.
- The ideas presented by staff are good; hopefully the participating artists are happy with the proposed change.
- Studio tours are very popular; however there are bylaws that must be adhered to.

The Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria Liaison stated he has had preliminary discussions about creating a mini Art Expo in September which would include artists, suppliers of arts, arts clubs, instructors, demonstrations and performances etc. (music, visual and performing arts would be included). The costs of renting a venue for this type of Expo are high so it is necessary to ensure that public attendance is good in order to make it feasible for the artists to participate. This type of event has not been held in

Victoria; the Moss Street event has been the premier event in town, however there have been comments from the art community that it has become too commercial and therefore they are less willing to participate.

Committee members felt that the idea of a September event is good; timing is appropriate for with the start of school. Maybe a flyer could be circulated in August.

Carnival of the Arts

Staff will have to analyze the future of the event; this is the last year that funds are available and at this time there are no sources to replenish funds. This year's event will be held April 26, 2014.

UPDATE FROM THE CHAIR – 2013 STRATEGIC PLAN

The Chair provided an update and noted the changes that were made to the Plan based upon previous committee feedback. She noted that the committee needs to work within the Strategic Plan priorities.

UPDATES/CARRY FORWARD

The Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria Liaison stated that plans are being made for three events using the greenspace around the Cedar Hill Arts Centre, including:

- Play Victoria – interested in outdoor environmental art at the Carnival of Arts.
- Paint in the Park – an outdoor event where artists will demonstrate their craft. Visual and performing artists will be in attendance as well. To be held in the summer.
- Environmental Art Event – via a grant from the BC Arts Council; professional artists work with young people. Planned for spring 2015; the CHAC greenspace is a potential site. The CACGV needs to find out what youth are interested in. The theme will be “My Place in the Community”.

It was noted that people regularly ask for street art/graffiti art; it was suggested that panels could be set up for this.

The Senior Manager, Recreation Services, informed committee that the Cedar Hill Arts Centre was nominated for a BCRPA excellence award.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, February 27, 2014

Councillor Sanders, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary