

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
May 22, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Councillor Sanders (Chair), Lyris Agarar, Valerie Green, Ken Johnson, Anne Lansdell, Roger Love

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

Regrets: Kay Beckett, Pauline Cohen, Kim Fawthorpe

Guest: Bob Williams, Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria

Minutes

MOVED by A. Lansdell and Seconded by R. Love: "That the Minutes of the Arts Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held April 24, 2014, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

ARCHIVES

Heritage Bus Tour Update

The Archivist provided an update and noted that the bus tour will be a "Literary Journey through Saanich". The Bus has been booked, and St. Aidan's Church is reserved for the tea. Registration will open on August 6th and the cost is expected to be \$30 per person. The tour will be advertised through the Saanich website and the Active Living Guide.

V. Green provided information on the route, and the houses along the route. There is no word yet from the owners of the McClung house with regard to the request to view the home; it may be that the exterior can be viewed but unlikely that the interior will be open for viewing.

HERITAGE

Saanich Museum

The idea of having a museum in Saanich was discussed as a Saanich resident, Mr. David Genn, contacted a committee member in regards to his collection of artifacts that goes back 4 to 5 generations (from 1845). A catalogue of Mr. Genn's artifacts was circulated and it was noted that he also has two discs with his own family history.

The Chair noted that the idea of a museum was raised back in 2006; that was the Centennial year, and the archives expansion started then as well. The Archivist stated that there may be opportunity to look at housing a small collection now however more room is needed for larger items. If there is urgency to this, Saanich could store the items until there is room to display them; keeping the collection together is important as is having a theme and being able to provide an education about the artifacts. She added that until 1950, the log cabin was Saanich's museum but when Central Saanich became their own municipality, the museum went to that district.

If Saanich were to have a museum, consideration would need to be made on how to advertise for wanted items, as well as what materials Saanich would want to collect. There are also costs involved with the preservation of items and with climate control.

Ms. Green and the Archivist will contact Mr. Genn to request a viewing of his collection.

Follow-ups to the Heritage Action Plan

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services provided updates for both the Planning Department and the Recreation Department, and the following was noted:

- The future update of local area plans will contain a heritage component and build on broader directions of the Official Community Plan (OCP)
- Subsequent OCP updates will include thorough consideration of potential heritage benefits and incentives
- The Cultural and Natural Resource Inventory draft has been completed by Planning staff; the inventory is currently undergoing review by other departments to ensure its accuracy. The inventory will be presented at a future meeting; likely in the fall.
- The Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan was endorsed a year ago and is still a medium priority and staff will continue to look for opportunities for workshops, courses, forums etc. that promote cultural awareness.
- The bus tour registration and the walking tour flyers are examples of heritage site promotion.
- Parks will consider opportunities as they arise with regard to investigating opportunities to create heritage planting areas.
- Students from Colquitz School were invited to create arts-based interpretations of the watershed. Students enjoyed taking part in caring for their environment and exploring different arts media (eg: print making and poetry writing). Interpretive signs with the students' art work will be posted on railings in Colquitz River Park boardwalks. Unveiling will take place on June 4th at 1:30pm.

Rental Agreements for Saanich Heritage Properties

Committee asked questions about the rental agreements for those who live in Saanich-owned Heritage Properties. It was suggested that language needs to be clearer with regard to improvements permitted to be made by renters and the need to respect the heritage of Saanich buildings. It was noted that designating interior elements is typically not a good idea unless the elements are really important.

It was suggested that the committee write to the department in charge of rentals to stress that heritage buildings are significant and tenants need to be informed of what can and cannot be done in terms of improvements. It could be written that updates be done so long as they are sympathetic to/respectful of the original character of the building (e.g. heritage elements such as light fixtures/door hardware should not be removed).

Heritage Action Plan

To be further reviewed at a future meeting

ARTS

Arts and Culture Strategy

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services advised that the strategy information was collected in 2008/2009 and priorities may have changed. Staff may bring updated priorities to the Committee in the fall.

The Community Arts Specialist provided information and updates with regard to the goals of increasing arts and culture awareness, establishing and promoting grants that are separate from the Community Matching Funds Program, developing healthy vital neighbourhoods through the arts by supporting art programs and strengthening cultural participation, expanding youth leadership opportunities in the arts, and supporting economic development through the arts.

It was noted that there are not many goals in the Strategy with regard to older adults. One of the other Strategic Plan documents does mention an Aberdeen Program, however more could be done. Members were encouraged to contact the Community Arts Specialist if they had any further questions or ideas about the Strategy.

Arts Updates

The Community Arts Specialist advised that the Carnival of the Arts and the Limelight events were good; there were less people at the Carnival due to other events around town, however there was positive feedback nonetheless. Staff may look at changing the date of the event (e.g. to Family Day weekend). Studio tours are ongoing.

COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER VICTORIA UPDATE

The Community Arts Council liaison provided an update and the following was noted:

- The Look Show is winding up. Uptown has asked the CACGV to coordinate buskers for the summer.
- They are busy writing grants and booking venues for the next six months.
- They have returned their focus to the upcoming art event in September and have an agreement with the Cedar Hill Rec Centre.
- An exhibition at the Arts Centre resulted in some negative publicity, which was kept as low key as possible.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Thursday, June 26, 2014.

Councillor Sanders, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary