

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2

November 27, 2014 at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Councillor Sanders (Chair), Lyris Agarar, Kay Beckett, Pauline Cohen, Valerie Green, Ken Johnson, Anne Lansdell

Staff: Cameron Scott, Manager of Community Planning; Caroline Duncan, Archivist; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Kim Fawthorpe, Roger Love

Guest: Bob Williams, Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria

The Chair advised that this may be her last meeting with this Committee as Council assignments to Advisory Committees are not yet known. Committee members expressed great appreciation for Councillor Sanders' knowledge, support and guiding initiatives regarding arts, culture and heritage and stated that they hope to see her reappointed to the committee.

Minutes

MOVED by K. Beckett and Seconded by A. Lansdell: "That the Minutes of the Arts Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held October 23, 2014 be adopted as amended."

CARRIED

ARTS

Public Art Project for Craigflower Bridge

The Manager of Community Planning explained the Policy on Public Arts Projects and noted the upcoming public art project for the Craigflower Bridge which was approved by Council. A jury has been established and the theme will be "Bridging Perspectives" which ties local people and local ecologies together. A Call for Proposals will be made soon and be distributed to this committee in the future.

Responses to questions from Committee members was noted as follows:

- This project does originate from the Gorge Tillicum Community Association's ideas regarding the art on the bridge.
- There are few sites around the area that are suitable for artwork; there are already some signs located in suitable spaces.
- The project budget is \$30,000 and covers the jury process, a maintenance account and payment to the artist.

It was noted that maintenance can be an issue and it would be desirable to have a better check-up system for maintenance of public art.

ARCHIVES

Saanich Remembers WWI update

The Archivist noted that there are many people in Saanich with stories and connections to WWI. She provided an update on the Saanich Remembers WWI project and shared that just before Remembrance Day, she forwarded an excerpt from Pte. Kenneth Foster's First World War Memoir describing his recuperation at Frodsham Military

Hospital near Chester, England to the local historical society there. The Town Council was very appreciative of the information and will add it to their local archives.

It was also reported that Archives recently recorded an oral history interview relating to Saanich resident Pte. Robert Stark Little who was killed in action in September 1918.

BC Heritage Week

BC Heritage week is February 16-22, 2015; the theme will be “Main Street: At the Heart of the Community”. In partnership with the Greater Victoria Public Library, there will be a heritage speaker (Nick Russell), who will use historical postcards to talk about Saanich’s unique neighbourhoods. This will take place on Friday, February 20, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. in the Centennial Library. Registration for this free event will be available in mid-January through the GVPL website.

HERITAGE

Craigflower Schoolhouse

The Hallmark Society has officially completed an agreement with the Provincial Government for the lease of the Craigflower Schoolhouse; March 1st is the official lease start and there is much work to do before they move in. They have a 1 year licence of occupation, and after that they can enter into a nominal rent tenure which will be a 5-6 year lease.

The Society hopes to hold talks at the schoolhouse for home owners on how to deal with the upkeep of older homes; there is definitely a market for this in the Capital Region with all the pre-1940s homes. In terms of advertising these talks they will use web pages, Facebook, and community papers, as well as utilize the mailing lists they already have compiled. It is hoped that speakers from the industry (eg. paint stores, contractors) will speak.

It was noted that Craigflower Schoolhouse could be a good venue to host the Heritage Bus Tour tea.

Council Chambers and Municipal Hall Interior

The Chair referred to the JC Scott Report “Saanich Municipal Hall Heritage & Arts Enhancement” which was done to ensure consistency throughout the Hall and to appreciate the heritage structure of the building. She noted that people forget about the history of the building (eg. the floor is of great heritage value), yet the new reception area is not even made of real wood. It is important to keep up with technology, however a report from staff that identifies the significant heritage elements in the Hall would be useful to help maintain heritage aspects with inevitable progress.

The Archivist noted that Archives has four original chairs from the opening of the Hall in 1965 that could be used. There is also a podium that was a gift from the City of Victoria to Saanich when the Hall opened in 1965. Also artifacts such as cash registers could be displayed that speak to the history of the building. Some of these items can be brought in for the Heritage Week display.

Committee members took a brief tour of the primary reception and surrounding area, as well as Council Chambers. Comments noted:

- The primary reception “welcome” sign is not really visible; could be improved.
- Elements to be protected have to be identified.
- Many suggestions in the JC Scott report have been completed.

- The wall where the telephone was mounted in Committee Room 2 needs repair.
- Financial impacts of protecting heritage aspects would be minimal; energy or sustainability costs would be the only impact.
- The heart of the building needs to be preserved for the public.
- Heritage designation is not about personal taste; it is about following rules and guidelines in preserving the heritage integrity of significant buildings.

MOTION: Moved by K. Johnston and Seconded by A. Lansdell, “That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee recommends that Council request staff to prepare a report which identifies the significant interior heritage elements of the Saanich Municipal Hall, with the goal to prepare the Heritage Designation of the Hall.”

CARRIED

Rental/Lease Agreements of Heritage Buildings

Further to the response received from the Director of Legislative Services regarding rental/lease agreements of heritage buildings, Committee requested an update about what the legal advice was on consequences for people who make unauthorized changes to heritage buildings.

MOTION: Moved by K. Johnston and Seconded by A. Lansdell, “That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee requests further information outlining the results of the legal advice received regarding possible consequences for unauthorized changes to heritage buildings, particularly with respect to residential rentals.”

CARRIED

COMMUNITY ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER VICTORIA UPDATE

Bob Williams provided an update of the CACGV activities:

- A holiday small works show is being held through to mid-December.
- They are working with Saanich on the upcoming Embrace Aging exhibition.
- Senior’s artwork/accomplishments will be showcased in March; there will be music in addition to visual arts.
- An International Women’s Day show will also be held in March.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Saanich Councillor, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary