

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 9:30 am

Present: Councillor Brice (Chair), Lyris Agarat, John Crawford, Ken Johnson, Anne Lansdell, Leanna Rathkelly, Katherine Whitworth, Stephanie Vieille, Diane McNally (9:43 am, School District 61, non-voting liaison)

Staff: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Cameron Scott, Manager of Community Planning; Evelyn Wolfe, Archivist; Brenda Weatherston, Community Arts Specialist; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Michele Sealey

Minutes

MOVED by A. Lansdell and Seconded by L. Rathkelly: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held February 23, 2017 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS / COMMITTEE INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed new committee member Stephanie Vieille, who introduced herself, and a roundtable of introductions occurred. The Chair also advised that Ms. Blake, who was to receive an arts award from the committee later in the meeting, has sent her regrets due to an injury.

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services circulated some newspaper articles related to Canada 150 for committee member's interest.

Committee members expressed appreciation to those involved in organizing the art tour that occurred in lieu of the March meeting. The tour helped to increase awareness and to stimulate ideas on how to incorporate art into the community. It was noted that artwork does not always have to be on a grand scale to be impressive.

ARCHIVES

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services provided information on the Archive's activities. The archives participated in the Vimy100 commemoration event, and are working hard on the WWI commemoration project. She also provided an update on the Ivan Sayers historical fashion show which will be held on October 22nd at the Cedar Hill Golf Club. The Chair requested that Committee members have priority access to purchase tickets for this event.

HERITAGE

Heritage Bill

Information was circulated about a proposed Heritage Bill C-323, which was raised by a private member. This bill seeks to amend the Income Tax Act to establish a tax credit for expenses related to improving historic properties, and also provide a tax deduction for capital expenses for improvements. It was suggested that this is limited legislation, only covering private historic properties, and that it covers what is already done here by the Saanich Heritage Foundation.

Heritage Foundation Report

K. Johnson stated that the foundation is currently waiting for funding so they can give out their grants. He explained the purpose of the Foundation: as Saanich is unable to give funding directly to homeowners, the Foundation receives grants to pass along to designated heritage homeowners for maintenance/repair and they ensure that the standards for heritage buildings are met.

Concern was expressed that the current owner of a registered house at 1542 Mount Douglas Cross Road wishes to demolish the house to build a modern home.

Mr. Johnson provided information on the difference of buildings being registered and being designated, and he noted that there are about 280 registered and 80 designated buildings in Saanich. Unfortunately people think being designated is restrictive or negatively affects property values. The only way to change perception about the values of heritage buildings and have them designated seems to be to attach a story/provide a history of the building. Property owners can request to have their building designated and they do not have to be old structures.

The Hallmark Heritage Society, which preserves historical architecture and educate people on heritage matters, has a 20 year lease for the Craigflower Schoolhouse which is used as a classroom, community space and lecture space. In exchange for maintaining the building, they are supposed to be tax exempt and pay no rent. There is a policy on leasing provincial property that says the tenant is responsible for taxes so the Society is trying to get this waived. They are funded only by members and donations, and have been assured this will be resolved.

Report from Canada 150 Ambassadors

The Chair provided an overview of the Canada 150 event, and noted that the decision was made that the Ambassadors would look at existing community events to support, rather than try to create a separate event.

Ambassadors K. Whitworth and L. Agarat, informed members of the latest events and upcoming scheduled events that the Ambassadors are participating in including: the Saanich Family Arts Festival, the Cycling Festival, Silver Threads Volunteer lunch, and the Viewmont Little Free Library opening. Ambassadors have reached out to some Community Associations and similar groups to let them know that they can lend support with swag and advertising to help give any planned events the 150th 'flavour'. They will also reach out to local businesses. The attendance at the Cycling Festival was lower due to the weather but it was still entertaining, and they look forward to the upcoming Strawberry Festival, Music in the Park and Canada Day events.

A brochure listing events was circulated, and it was noted that volunteers are needed to help with Music in the Park and the Canada Day events.

It was noted that there seems to be less push (federally) for the 150th versus the 100th Anniversary of Canada and it was suggested that perhaps because people are more historically aware and sophisticated now than they were 50 years ago.

ARTS

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services spoke about community art, and she noted that the Arts Centre at Cedar Hill is in its sixth year of operation, and provided an overview of the variety of programs and events held at the centre. The Artist studio tour will be held in May and Brenda Weatherston, Community Arts Specialist, is organizing this. The map of studios will be located at gobc.ca/tours.

The annual Limelight Festival for youth artists will be held from May 4-16, with the official opening being held Friday May 5, from 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

Committee members expressed interest in having a future meeting at the Arts Centre.

CULTURE IN SAANICH

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services reminded committee members about a past discussion about culture, and referenced the Committee Terms of Reference, the Arts and Culture Strategy and the Comprehensive Arts Policy. Committee members agreed that culture is everywhere, and brainstormed ideas on what comes to mind when thinking about culture. Ideas are hereto attached as “Addendum A”.

The discussion on culture will continue at a future meeting.

ARTS AWARDS

The recipients for the Arts Awards were not in attendance at the meeting. The Senior Manager of Recreation Services will ensure that they receive their awards.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am and the next meeting is Thursday, May 25, 2017.

Councillor Brice, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

ADDENDUM A

What comes to mind when you think of culture?

- Comprehensive in terms of place/time.
- Whose culture gets represented? Some cultures are under a cap/are fading away.
- It is not always visible; it is a way of live and about sharing.
- It is a grey area and very big with lots of filters (arts, heritage, buildings, music, etc).
- Festivals that show diversity and enrich lives.
- For example, pieces of Canadian culture includes: Niceness of Canadians. First Nations are part of our history and ground us; need to recognize that they were here first. Freedom to pursue our choices. Access to healthcare and education. Gun control and less violence.
- Culture is not only one thing, it is everything. A collage of photos could help define what culture is.
- Culture is a sense of values that a community shares.
- Example: In Alberta, people know how to live in a tougher environment. In Whistler, people love the land and exploring. Here there is a culture of sharing.

From your own experience, what have been excellent cultural pursuits/endeavours?

- Natural beauty here, you can step out into nature, buy food directly from farmers, there are lots of churches.
- Summer of love was a cultural event. There are lots of sharing events, history lectures, film sharing, music sharing.
- An Aboriginal tourism festival in Whistler event was run by First Nations in the area and it provided local First Nations history which was eye-opening.
- Around the world experiences: coming of age ceremonies, travels to Japan/China, staying in homes of locals to experience their culture. Going to Base Camp on Mount Everest; Greek festivals, being invited to a bannock breakfast by First Nations people along the West Coast Trail, people watching while travelling.
- Sharing of culture is essential. We should not assume we know different cultures.
- Learning about different cultures helps you grow as a person and expand your horizons.