

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 9:30 am

Present: Councillor Brice (Chair), Lyris Agarat, John Crawford, Leanna Rathkelly, Michele Sealey, Katherine Whitworth, Ned Taylor (non-voting youth 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: Ken Johnson, Anne Lansdell, Stephanie Vieille

Guests: Ray Travers, Joan Wenman and Mary Jane Shaw
Councillor Vicki Sanders

Minutes

MOVED by K. Whitworth and Seconded by Lyris Agarat: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held June 22, 2017 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair and members welcomed youth liaison Ned Taylor to the committee.

PRESENTATION – SHELBOURNE MEMORIAL AVENUE PROJECT

Mr. Ray Travers, Chair, Shelbourne Memorial Avenue Committee (MAC), introduced Mary Jane Shaw and Joan Wenman and spoke about the MAC draft action plan which will be presented to Council. The following was noted:

- London Plane trees are a hybrid tree that live about 300 years. The ones planted on Shelbourne Street are about 100 years old and are a significant part of the local cultural landscape.
- The tree planting was a commonwealth project with the dedication being on October 2, 1921. Trees were to honor the fallen Saanich and BC soldiers in WWI and the original intent was to plant from Mount Douglas Park to Bay Street.
- BC Hydro has ruined many of the Plane trees with poor pruning.
- He has met with staff from Archives, Engineering, Parks, and Planning, and has presented to some of the Advisory Committees; it is felt that the project would be appropriate to commemorate the 100th anniversary of WWI.
- Examples of other memorial avenues in different cities were given.
- Objectives of the MAC project include:
 - New Planting of London Plane Trees from Pear Street to North Dairy approved with street widening, as part of the Shelbourne Valley Action Plan;
 - Install stone gates, north and south end of Shelbourne in Saanich;
 - Support 2017 Saanich Parks Improvement of Gore Memorial Peace Park;
 - Introducing interpretive commemorative panels in people-friendly locations;

- Restoration/modification to name Shelbourne Street to include “Memorial Avenue”
- Reaffirm Shelbourne Memorial Avenue Trees on November 11, 2018, the 100th Anniversary of the end of World War One.
- There are about 70 trees between Cedar Hill Cross Road and North Dairy Road that are coming down – none of them are London Plane trees though.
- The Next of Kin Boulevard in Saskatoon has a commemorative plaque on each tree. The suggestion for Shelbourne Street is to have stone posts/gates on either end of Shelbourne Street, indicating that this is a memorial avenue.
- Shelbourne Street was initially supposed to be a memorial avenue according to initial literature on the roadway, it would be nice to include this verbiage, without affecting present addresses along the corridor.
- Special street signs may be a nice thing to have at each of the 27 intersections.
- Suggested that interpretive panels could be installed along the corridor as well.
- Overall the memorial project would be of benefit to the neighbourhoods along Shelbourne.
- A conservation management plan will help in the project planning and the future care of the trees.

Ms. Joan Wenman stated the following:

- She provided a background of her families which were pioneers in the area.
- Her father was Reg Wenman and she has vivid memories of him talking about his role, along with pupils from the University School on Richmond Road in the planting in 1922 of the first of the London Plane trees.
- Her Dad mentioned that the planting of the London Plane trees was never completed and he regretted this fact. Later in his life when driving along the northern end of Shelbourne Street, he would remark that Hydro had ‘decimated’ the trees with the pruning around the hydro lines.
- The Shelbourne Street/ Memorial Street thoroughfare remains a singular avenue of remembrance to the soldiers of the First World War.
- Believes that London Plane tree planting would greatly enhance the streetscape of Shelbourne Street. A major artery now it could benefit with beautification as the long-standing plans for the route unfold over the next few years.

Committee members expressed appreciation of the project overall. It was suggested that some thought be given to including all veterans, rather than just WWI veterans. The timing of this project is good considering the Shelbourne Valley Action Plan.

Motion: MOVED by M. Sealey and Seconded by J. Crawford, “That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee supports the October 11, 2017, Memorial Avenue Committee’s Draft Action Plan regarding Shelbourne, ‘Street of Unfinished Dreams’.”

CARRIED

Committee members moved to Council Chambers for the next item on the agenda.

PRESENTATION – LAUNCH OF TIME CAPSULE

Both Mayor Attwell and Councillor Brice thanked the Canada 150 Ambassadors for their tireless work in promoting Saanich and in attending the many Canada 150 events this year. The Ambassadors were presented with corsages.

Councillor Sanders thanked and presented a token of appreciation to Oliver Sommer of Saanich News, along with sponsors from Big Wheel Burger, Canadian Tire, Peppers Foods and Camosun College, who were all very supportive community partners over the year. She noted that the time capsule will be located above ground near the sign that commemorates the 50th Anniversary of the Saanich Municipal Hall in the main parking lot. She will be asking for donations and will do an official launch of the time capsule in spring 2018.

Committee members returned to Committee Room No. 2 to continue the meeting.

Motion: Moved by M. Sealey and Seconded by L. Rathkelly, “That youth liaison member Ned Taylor attend the official Saanich time capsule opening in 50 years as the Arts Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee representative.”

CARRIED

ARCHIVES

The Archivist informed members about upcoming fall history talks presented in partnership with the Greater Victoria Public Library.

- October 27, Valerie Green will speak about the Street of Unfinished Dreams
- November 1, Bart Armstrong will speak about Local Heroes of WWI

HERITAGE

It was noted that the Century of Fashion show with Ivan Sayers sold out on the first day.

The Canada 150 Ambassadors reported that each event held over the year had an art board that event participants could share what they are grateful for in Saanich, which is currently shared via social media and will also be displayed at the Cedar Hill Arts Centre gallery in January. The next event is the Christmas light-up at the Municipal Hall. It was noted that Saanich residents have great passion and pride for the municipality and many families have lived in Saanich for generations.

ARTS

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services showed committee some photos of the Seaton Tunnel project from start to finish. Committee members expressed appreciation of the look of the final project and asked that thanks be given on behalf of the committee to the Saanich Police members and Victoria Native Friendship Centre Representatives involved in the project.

The Community Arts Specialist provided an update on various arts related programs, and reported a successful Moon Festival. She asked for a volunteer for the Cedar Hill Art Gallery Exhibition Selection Committee, and Leanna Rathkelly volunteered for this position.

The Manager of Community Planning provided information about the Public Art Jury process and noted they are looking for three artists and two community members to assist with the selection of a work of public art to commemorate Canada’s 150th birthday. This process is part of the Comprehensive Public Art Policy. The theme will be either ‘past, present, future’ or ‘from farming to future’. The budget for the art project is \$75,000.

UPDATES / CARRYFORWARD

Members discussed possible initiatives for 2018. It was suggested that the committee may want to take into consideration possible underserved areas/groups. To be discussed a future meeting along with the committee's composition and Terms of Reference.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.
The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 23, 2017.

Councillor Brice, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary