

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 6:00 pm

Present: Councillor Plant (Chair), Irene Corman, John Crawford, John Ellis, Leanna Rathkelly, Michele Sealey, Kate Sykes-Waller, Christine Willes

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

Regrets: Sean Burns

CHAIR'S COMMENTS / INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed committee members and thanked them for volunteering their time. Roundtable introductions were made.

*** C. Willes left the room at 6:20 pm ***

Minutes

MOVED by M. Sealey and Seconded by K. Sykes-Waller: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held September 27, 2018 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

*** C. Willes returned to the room at 6:21 pm ***

2019 MEETING SCHEDULE

The proposed meeting dates as outlined in the January 17, 2019 memo from the Senior Committee Clerk were acceptable to committee members. It was noted that the April, May and June 2019 meetings will start at 4:00 pm, and the remainder of the meetings will start at 6:00 pm.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chair noted that the Terms of Reference for Saanich Advisory Committees belong to Council and the Senior Manager of Recreation Services further elaborated on the mandate of this committee. A general discussion occurred and the following points were noted:

- A request was made to encourage attendance from the School District liaisons and to solicit a youth liaison for the committee.
- Committee members may be asked by Council to provide feedback and/or recommendations on the Strategic Plan. If feedback is required this would occur sometime after the budget process is completed.
- A comment was made about definitions of arts, culture and heritage. The definition of culture as noted in the Arts and Culture Strategy was read.

- Community Arts (Arts and Culture Strategy) is under the Recreation Department, and Public Art (Comprehensive Arts Policy) is under the Planning Department.
- It was suggested that some of strategies and guiding documents are outdated and a request could be made to update the various documents. Guidelines from other agencies could be used as resources.
- It is important to be inclusive of all types of art and culture.
- Sometimes it feels like the arts are marginalized and are included with other groups instead of being stand-alone.

Committee discussed the Saanich strategies and policies surrounding Arts, Culture and Heritage and upon the suggestion that a motion be made to update the documents the Chair suggested that members read them first prior to deciding they are not suitable. Staff noted that advisory committees do not review strategies unless asked to by Council, and that a high level of public input is collected when reviews occur.

ARCHIVES

The Archivist provided a report which highlighted the ongoing core work of the Archives Department performed by three part-time staff members. A description of the work that goes into the digitization, storage and sharing of records was given along with information about community engagement, public talks and exhibits. The Archivist replied to a variety of questions from committee and noted that although they would like to have more records in areas where they are lacking, they do not put a call out asking for donations.

HERITAGE

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services spoke to the memo dated January 10, 2019 from the Manager of Community Planning regarding an update on public art and heritage items. Information was provided about the Canada 150 Public Art Project, the Comprehensive Arts Policy, the Heritage Management Plan and the Salmon Totem at Saanich Commonwealth Place. It was noted that typically one member of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee also sits as a member of the Saanich Heritage Foundation, however there are no volunteers at this time.

In reply to questions, staff noted that both Dodd House and Stranton House are tenanted and Dodd House is open to the public a couple times a year.

Concern was expressed about hanging art in heritage buildings. It was noted that First Nations artwork is sought after for display in the Saanich Municipal Hall however care must be taken that this be done with thought to the heritage aspect of the building.

ARTS

- The Community Arts Specialist provided information about upcoming festivals, including the Family Arts Festival on Family Day, February 18th. She noted that about 70 exhibits are planned this year that celebrate arts and culture.
- The Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee held an awards event in 2016. Committee will look at having another event either this year or next year. The budget for the committee was also discussed.
- A brief discussion occurred about funding the arts through CRD Arts Development Services and it was noted that Saanich municipality contributes the most to the fund.
- There are many programs in Saanich including: Music in the Park, Limelight Festival, Artist Home Tours, Spoken Word Poetry, and Gorge on Art, to name a few. The Active Living Guide has an extensive amount of programs to choose from as well.

FUTURE ITEMS

- Committee will discuss what they would like to achieve this year (projects).
- Question raised as to whether there is a list or any data available about professional artists in the region.
- Committee discussed taking a tour of the municipality to look at the variety of public artwork on display.
- Question raised as to the art that has been done with the funding given to the CRD.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2019.

Councillor Plant, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary