

**MINUTES**  
**ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2  
**Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 6:00 pm**

Present: Councillor Plant (Chair), Irene Corman, John Ellis, Leanna Rathkelly, Michele Sealey, Kate Sykes-Waller, Christine Willes, Teri VanWell (SD63 non-voting liaison)

Staff: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Sean Burns

Guest: Sheila Colwell, Saanich Heritage Foundation

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**Minutes**

**MOVED by L. Rathkelly and Seconded by J. Ellis: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held January 17, 2019 be adopted as circulated."**

**CARRIED**

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

The following was noted:

- Following up on the news regarding an increase in rental rates within the Royal McPherson Theatre Society, it was noted that Saanich is 1/3 owner of the Royal Theatre. One strategic goal of the Capital Regional District Board is to have discussions regarding the future facility needs in the region. It may be possible to have a presentation from the CRD Arts Commission regarding programming of professional and non-professional arts organizations.
- While there are Saanich documents and policies that could be better used, a reminder was given that policy documents do not belong to this committee. Policy changes could be recommended, but the Terms of Reference and policies are broad enough for committee to work on a few potential projects this year.
- Mr. Crawford has resigned from the committee; his past service is very much appreciated.

It was noted that a member of the Saanich Heritage Foundation is present to provide information however it was not noted on the agenda.

**Motion: MOVED by M. Sealey and Seconded by K. Sykes-Waller, "That the February 21, 2019 Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee agenda be amended to include a presentation from the Saanich Heritage Foundation."**

**CARRIED**

## HERITAGE

### Archivist's report

A discussion occurred regarding the materials held in Archives and it was noted that they may be mostly euro-centric in nature. A suggestion was made that Archives be asked to send out a call for donations of records of non-european descent.

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services stated this is an operational issue and suggested the Archivist be invited to attend a meeting to answer questions about acquiring more culturally varied items, learn more about the Archives in general, and find out about their capacity and staffing.

It was noted that some cultures may not wish to relinquish control of their heritage items into a generic archive and may prefer to donate to a museum or archive specific to their culture.

The Chair noted that inviting the Archivist to speak and find out how the committee can be of support would be beneficial and that this task should be done strategically.

**Motion: MOVED by C. Wiles and Seconded by M. Sealey, "That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee recommends to Council the inclusion of diverse materials from populations other than those of European descent be included in the Saanich Archives."**

**the Motion was DEFEATED with**  
**C. Plant, I. Corman, J. Ellis, L. Rathkelly, M. Sealey, and K. Sykes-Waller OPPOSED**

### Saanich Heritage Foundation overview

Sheila Colwell was present to provide information about the Saanich Heritage Foundation (SFH), and its relationship with the ACH advisory committee. The following information was presented:

- The Municipality's historical progression of heritage protection starting in 1974.
- The development of a Heritage Advisory Committee over time and the establishment of the Heritage Foundation.
- Information about the heritage inventories of 1983, 1991 and 2008. The heritage inventory was completed in 1991 with over 200 buildings recorded.
- The overlapping role that the Foundation and the ACH committee shares to promote heritage conservation and awareness.
- All Foundation funding comes from Saanich. It would be great to solicit help in fundraising.
- The heritage designation process was described and it was noted that the foundation reviews grants, advises Council on requests for changes, organizes rentals of Dodd and Stranton houses, performs site visits and issues plaques for newly designated homes among other things.

It was noted that if there was a liaison from the ACH committee as noted in the Saanich Heritage Foundation's Terms of Reference, the mandate for each committee could be strengthened. Members Michele Sealey and John Ellis both agreed to share the position of liaison with the Foundation.

**Motion: MOVED by L. Rathkelly and Seconded by K. Sykes-Waller, “That John Ellis and Michelle Sealey be appointed as liaisons (shared position) to the Saanich Heritage Foundation.”**

**CARRIED**

## **ARTS**

Staff provided an update and the following was noted:

- The Family Arts Festival was a success again this year; about 2,500 people attended.
- An Embrace Aging program with clients from Aberdeen Hospital is being completed and an art show of the participants’ work is currently on display at the Cedar Hill Art Gallery.
- Saanich Artists Studio tours will occur in either late May or early June.
- The installation of the Canada 150 public art piece will occur in the late spring near the Cedar Hill Arts Centre (intersection of Finlayson and Cedar Hill Cross Road).

## **RECREATION MARKET ANALYSIS**

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services provided highlights of the Community Summary of the Draft Market Analysis Study on recreation wellness and health programs, services, activities and experiences. The following comments were noted:

- Most art programs are held at the Cedar Hill Arts Centre; it would be good to look at other areas for art activities.
- There are school theatres and St. Luke’s Players, but a theatre in Saanich is desirable. McPherson and Royal Theatres may not fully satisfy the region’s needs.

## **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

### **Review of relevant policies and strategies**

Committee members discussed the policies that are relevant to this committee. The following was noted:

- The last project using the 1% public art fund in the Comprehensive Arts Policy was the Craigflower Bridge project.
- Saanich is reaching out and building relationships with the indigenous community. The desire is to have reciprocal relationships/partnerships with our First Nations community.
- Suggestion made that the ACH Terms of Reference include a representative from a First Nations member. It was noted that residency in Saanich is a pre-requisite for committee membership.

**\*\*WITHDRAWN\*\***

**Motion: MOVED by C. Wilkes and Seconded by I. Corman, “That in the spirit of honouring the process of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee recommends to Council that an advisory seat on this committee be approved exclusively for a First Nations representative from the Saanich Peninsula First Nation, regardless of their address in Greater Victoria.”**

The motion supports the principle of cultural diversity but there are many cultures to acknowledge. Additionally there is a policy about committee members' residency within the municipal boundaries.

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services noted that there is an interdepartmental First Nations group and that the Chair of this group can be invited to a future meeting where committee members can find out how they can support cultural diversity within the district.

**the Motion was WITHDRAWN**

Discussion about policies continued and the following was noted:

- The Comprehensive Arts Policy overall is good and relevant but could use a refresh.
- Concern was expressed about the number of staff available to implement the Strategic Planning items.
- The Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plan is to be updated in 2020. The Arts and Culture Strategy is to be updated in 2021. There are no plans to review the Official Community Plan at this time.
- Overall there is a lot of interest in diversity in the community.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 4:00 pm.

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Councillor Plant, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Committee Secretary