

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 4:00 pm

Present: Councillor Plant (Chair), Sean Burns, John Ellis, Leanna Rathkelly, Michele Sealey, Christine Willes, Teri VanWell (SD63 non-voting liaison)

Staff: Suzanne Samborski, Director of Parks and Recreation; Cameron Scott, Manager, of Community Planning; Evelyn Wolfe, Archivist; Brenda Weatherston, Community Arts Specialist; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Irene Corman, Jim Hesser, Kate Sykes-Waller

CHAIR'S REMARKS

There will be a study done on the available performance arts facilities in the region and this committee may have the opportunity to provide input to the study. The CRD is interested in creating a task force that will look at the future of the region's performance arts facilities.

*** S. Burns arrived at 5:10 pm ***

There are differing opinions on the committee's purpose; some members are interested in policy and others are used to taking on projects. It was suggested that a working group be established for those interested in providing input on policies. This working group would provide policy recommendations to the remaining committee members and potentially to Council.

MINUTES

MOVED by M. Sealey and Seconded by L Rathkelly: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held February 21, 2019 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL FIRST NATIONS RELATIONS WORKING GROUP UPDATE

The Director of Parks and Recreation provided information regarding the inter-departmental First Nations relations working group, and the following was noted:

- Saanich is at the beginning stages of building relationships with seven neighbouring First Nation governments.
- Staff have asked for advice and protocol information from each Nation; we have an open mind and heart and have asked that if we make mistakes to please let us know.
- Urban Indigenous residents are directly impacted by our services.
- A lot of work has been gone in to ensuring the territorial acknowledgement is properly done; it took about 18 months.
- We have been fortunate enough to receive blessings for key events such as the Memorial Avenue re-opening and the swearing-in of Council.

- Council to Council dinners have been occurring regularly; our Council is getting to know each of the neighbouring First Nation governments and learning what is important to them.
- The hope is that formal protocol agreements can be made.
- The First Nations relations inter-departmental group will look at providing cultural awareness and safety training to District staff.
- We are relying on the First Nations members to provide us with information about their traditional territories as we do not know their history.
- Information was given about the IMDEES employment program and the Victoria Urban Reconciliation Program.
- Language classes, botany and nature walks, learning about harvesting, and other staff training programs are in the planning stages.
- Appreciation was expressed toward CRD staff who have been helpful during this process.

In reply to a question about inviting a First Nations member to sit on the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee, the Director of Parks and Recreation advised that one person cannot represent all Nations and/or all Indigenous voices as each Nation is unique; putting a lot of pressure on one person. It was suggested that the government to government model is the best for communication at this time, and that the informal relationships being built between Council members will be helpful.

In response to the interest expressed about learning of First Nations culture, it was suggested that it may be possible for committee members to attend a blanket ceremony.

It was noted by the Chair that the intention is to have gender and ethnic diversity for all advisory committees.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES ABOUT UNDER-REPRESENTATED GROUPS IN SAANICH ARCHIVES' COLLECTIONS

The Archivist provided information about the records held in the Saanich Archives and constraints associated with donations. The following was noted:

- Most records held by the Archives are municipal records transferred from other departments.
- Most private records were donated by descendants of European settlers, but Saanich Archives actively collects material related to other groups.
- The archives entrance has an interpretive panel with photos and information about local First Nations.
- The Archives actively seeks out publications and articles about underrepresented groups to add to the vertical files and reference book collection. Some of the original material preserved in the Archives vault is from underrepresented and marginalized groups.
- The Archives has constraints on soliciting or even accepting donations. Different archives in a region will have different areas of focus, and archives do not compete for materials.
- Saanich Archives has a geographical focus, only collecting material related to the Municipality of Saanich.

*** J. Ellis arrived at 5:03 p.m. ***

- The Royal BC Museum and Archives has a broader, regional focus and has a wealth of material related to indigenous people in BC. First Nations communities are moving toward retaining sovereignty over their own records.
- If archivists are perceived as placing any pressure on people to donate, questions may be raised later about ownership. People have strong emotional attachments to their family treasures, and it can be a sensitive issue, especially with underrepresented or marginalized groups.
- Saanich Archives has found that the best way to encourage donations is to raise the profile of the Archives through the website and other community outreach activities. Some specific suggestions:
 - Add information about donating to the Archives website, and encourage donations from underrepresented groups.
 - Put a notice in the Archives newsletter about donating.
 - Create a display on multicultural Saanich history.
 - Seek out speakers from underrepresented groups who are willing to give a talk about their community's history in Saanich.
- Archives is holding an open house on May 8th and everyone is welcome.

HERITAGE

Foundation Membership

It was noted that the Saanich Heritage Foundation has appointed too many people and there is no space left for a member from this committee. It was suggested that as the Foundation receives funding from Saanich, their membership should include a liaison from Saanich.

ARTS

Public Art Update

The Manager of Community Planning provided an update regarding the installation of the Canada 150 public art project which is titled "Earth Drums" by Carey Newman.

It was reported that Mr. Newman, who is currently the UVic Audain Professor of Contemporary Art Practice of the Pacific Northwest, is working with staff on an exhibition at Cedar Hill Arts Centre of UVic students' art work to coincide with the Earth Drums opening. It is hoped that Mr. Newman's "Witness Blanket" might be available for viewing at the official opening, but it is booked for several years.

It is proposed that a soft opening occur at the end of May and that the official opening be held in late July. In reply to a question it was confirmed that they are a little behind schedule due to a variety of reasons, including securing a contractor for installation and a couple of design changes needed to create a better drum sound.

Community Arts Update

The Community Arts Specialist provided information about upcoming exhibitions and the following was noted:

- "Connections" Vancouver Island Surface Design Association exhibition of textile arts will occur from mid-April to early May.

- The Café Gallery and the cubes in the Arts Centre as well as the Window at Saanich Municipal Hall are showing a preview of Saanich Artists Studio Tours. The studio tours will happen in May and June over three weekends. Each tour will have its own brochure.
- A 25-week long Women's Ceramic Circle program has just finished and a display is at the arts wing at Cedar Hill. The program is a partnership with the Victoria Women's Transition House and was very healing for participants. It is hoped that a second year of funding will come through.
- A call for artists for Gorge on Art (part of the July 1st Gorge Canada Day Picnic) has gone out. The event is done in partnership with the Gorge Tillicum Community Association. Applications are due May 24th.
- Limelight Youth Art Exhibition is preparing for its show from May 29 – June 16. Secondary students from 12-14 schools will participate in the show. The reception will take place May 31st from 7:00 – 9:00 pm.

A discussion occurred and the following was noted:

- Both professional and amateur artists are welcome to apply for Gorge on Art. There is an application process and a \$50 fee (for tables/chairs) for anyone who displays their work.
- Studio tours are usually self-organized by artists in neighbourhoods and they liaise with Saanich through the Arts Specialist. Over the years discussions have taken place amongst tour coordinators and the Arts Specialist about possible amalgamation of tours but decisions have resulted in the current tour structure.
- Future outreach could be done about other possible tours but the geographic areas would have to make sense for participants. The tours are advertised on the Saanich website.
- Suggestion was made that Destination Victoria and Tourism Victoria be informed about the studio tours. Destination Victoria may be able to help with marketing.

2019 Goals and Objectives Ideas

Committee members went through the list of goal/objective ideas and organized items into action and policy items as follows:

Action items:

- Arts laureate (similar to Oak Bay).
- Youth and adult poet.
- One event to raise awareness and celebrate professional artists living and/or working in Saanich.

Policy items:

- A commitment to one public art unveiling per year.
- Heritage/art installation on the MOTI lands (Gateway Village, opposite main fire hall).
- Review the Goals and Actions in the 2009 Saanich Arts Culture Strategy so that we as committee members know whether an action has been completed, is underway, or still to be done.

Item to hold:

- Support film studio creation in Saanich.

Items for staff comment/update:

- Arts and Culture Awards presented again.
- Create/reinstitute a Business in the Arts Award Program: award to business in Saanich recognizing their support for the arts - can be financial, or otherwise.

Other related arts items:

A request was made to see if there is information available on how many Saanich artists live off their art. It was noted that the CRD Arts Commission may be able to help with this information.

A request was made to see if there is any interest from UVic arts students to sit on this committee as a non-voting liaison. Staff will provide an update on the Saanich Youth Arts Council at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm and the next meeting is Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 4:00 pm.

Councillor Plant, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary