

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre in the Art Gallery
Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 4:00 pm

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

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

Regrets: Sean Burns, Teri VanWell (SD63 non-voting liaison)

Guest: Barbara Adams, Oak Bay Arts Laureate

Minutes

MOVED by M. Sealey and Seconded by J. Ellis: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held April 18, 2019 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair expressed appreciation of the venue for today's meeting (Art Gallery at Cedar Hill) and suggested that the majority of committee meetings be held in this space if possible. Committee members agreed with this suggestion.

The Chair noted that a CRD Arts Commission will strike a task force to explore performance arts facilities, how facilities are governed and/or how they harmonize with other facilities. This committee may be asked to weigh in on this subject at some point.

The Chair thanked members for volunteering for this committee and suggested that members feel free to bring forward items for discussion. A motion may or may not be required depending on the amount of thought/discussion needed per item. There is a good list of items to discuss this year, and hopefully members feel this is time well spent.

PRESENTATION FROM OAK BY ARTS LAUREATE

Barbara Adams, Oak Bay Arts Laureate, was introduced and she circulated the Arts Alive Oak Bay 2017/2018 public art pamphlet for information. Ms. Adams described her background and how the Mayor of Oak Bay approached her about being the arts laureate for their municipality. The following points were noted:

- At the time she was approached by the Mayor, there was only one public art piece located in the Oak Bay recreation centre.
- To begin the process it was important to find out what the community wanted and see what community art groups existed. There were six groups in Oak Bay and they all felt somewhat isolated. Ms. Adams explored how to bring the groups together.
- The municipality's Public Arts Policy needed improvement and the Parks and Recreation department existed but they needed to add some sort of culture.
- Ms. Adams looked at areas where public art could be installed and found that there were about 28 places on municipal land that were appropriate and accessible to pedestrians and cyclists.

- Ms. Adams approached Council for their support of public art installation and had sculptors loan some pieces of art for a few months. Some financial support was given by Council as well as Tourism Victoria and the Business Improvement Association. Now there are various sponsors who support the initiative.
- An article about public pianos in London inspired Ms. Adams to obtain free pianos, and she first approached local schools to have students decorate them in order to discourage vandalism.
- Now some of the funding money is used to pay artists for decorating pianos and to moving companies to move them to storage during the wet season.
- To raise funds, some pianos are sold and an auction and gala event is also done.
- After a successful first year, a public art advisory committee was struck. Members consist of two community members, two artists, two business representatives and one student. There are Terms of Reference and the member terms expire. All art projects are vetted through the advisory committee.
- Local businesses use their windows to showcase some art pieces.
- A call for artists is sent out. It is important that their artwork can withstand the elements and fit on the bases provided.
- A bus tour and reception will be held on June 20th this year.
- One outstanding goal is to find a larger public space to install benches and have a space for musicians or for people doing plein art, etc.
- The Arts Alive Oak Bay event allows members of the public to vote on their favourite piece of art. Right now there are eight permanent pieces and ten pieces on exhibition (the Arts Alive brochure shows their locations).

Committee members asked Ms. Adams some questions and the following was noted:

- Oak Bay provides a grant to cover sculpture costs and maintenance. A good portion of funding goes towards moving pianos, a piano tuner is paid but there is no profit made by Alison Pianos, and the artists that paint the pianos receive a small honorarium.
- In terms of art selection the public art advisory committee follows a criteria sheet and chooses locations that pieces will best fit into.
- This program has helped the six artist groups to communicate and interact with each other and while still maintaining their individuality.
- The “Acorn Arts Awards’ was created for exceptional contribution to arts in Oak Bay.
- The public art advisory committee helped with the Official Community Plan and Strategic Plan sessions.
- There were no staff positions in Oak Bay for the arts prior to this, but now arts is under the Recreation department umbrella.

It was pointed out that Saanich already has an arts advisory committee. Members discussed possible areas to place artwork or have a sculpture walk (eg. village areas). It was noted there may be some areas that could offer indoor or outdoor space if there is buy-in from the mall owners. This item will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Ms. Adams reiterated the importance of having a goal/vision in mind, and noted that engaging artist groups is key. Ms. Adams was thanked for her presentation.

Motion: MOVED by J. Ellis and Seconded by M. Sealey, “That the verbal presentation from Ms. Barbara Adams, Oak Bay Arts Laureate, be received.”

CARRIED

DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR WORKING GROUP

The Chair noted that two members have volunteered so far to be on the policy working group and that this is a recommendation group only. It is preferred that four members be in the group. He advised that working groups can operate in any way they want (eg. online or informally at any location). The estimated time commitment would likely be a 2-hour meeting once a month and then they would report back to this committee any recommendations for changes/updates to policies.

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services advised that this committee has previously made recommendations to the Planning department about the Comprehensive Arts Policy, that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is scheduled to be updated in 2021, and that the Arts and Culture Strategy is scheduled to be updated in 2022.

Committee members I. Corman, J. Ellis, J. Hesser and C. Willes were named as the working group committee members.

Motion: MOVED by L. Rathkelly and Seconded by M. Sealey, “That the proposed guidelines for the Arts Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee Policy Review Working Group be adopted as presented.”

Motion to amend:

MOVED by J. Ellis and Seconded by J. Hesser, “That the proposed guidelines for the Arts Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee Policy Review Working Group be amended by replacing “1 week” with “ten (10) calendar days.”

The Motion as Amended was CARRIED

The Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee Guidelines for Policy Review Working group are hereto attached as “Attachment 1”.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Chair noted that the agenda for June will hopefully consist of the policy working group update, a discussion about the arts laureate presentation and an update on possible arts awards. It was suggested that the topic of a youth and/or adult poet laureate be brought forward in the fall.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:39 pm. Carole Ireland, Manager, Cedar Hill Recreation Campus provided committee members with a tour of the Cedar Hill Arts Centre.

Councillor Plant, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary

ATTACHMENT 1

Arts, Culture and Heritage (ACH) Advisory Committee Guidelines for Policy Review Working Group

- Term of Working Group ends December 31, 2019.
- No more than four (4) ACH Committee members to be on Working Group (WG).
- As per Council Advisory Committees – Terms of Reference Policy:
 - “An advisory committee may establish informal working groups for items within its mandate and also when sponsoring and promoting special events or considering grant applications. Only committee members and staff may sit on an informal working group unless otherwise approved by Council. Secretarial and administrative support is not provided for informal working groups.”
- WG does not speak on behalf of the ACH.
- WG to create a proposed work plan to be approved by ACH Advisory Committee.
- WG should select a spokesperson to report back to ACH Committee on behalf of the WG.
- Determining a schedule of meetings is recommended.
- A written report from WG should be submitted to the Senior Committee Clerk no later than ten (10) calendar days prior to the monthly ACH meeting for distribution to all Committee Members as part of the Agenda Package. Written report should include:
 - When WG met, what was discussed/reviewed, and any recommendations for ACH's for consideration.
 - ACH can accept the WG's written report as information and/or make a motion to forward the report or any part of the report to Council or activate the report in any other way consistent with the terms of reference of the ACH Advisory Committee.