

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
Thursday, May 24, 2018 at 9:30 am

Present: Councillor Brice (Chair), Lyris Agarat, Sean Burns, John Crawford, Ken Johnson, Leanna Rathkelly, Michele Sealey, Kate Sykes-Waller

Staff: Cameron Scott, Manager of Community Planning; Evelyn Wolfe, Archivist; Brenda Weatherston, Community Arts Specialist; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Nathalie Chambers

Minutes

MOVED by J. Crawford and Seconded by S. Burns: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held March 29, 2018 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

The Chair advised that the Manager of Community Planning will serve as liaison until the Senior Manager of Recreation Services is able to return. She also asked if committee would be interested in inviting Barb Adams to speak at a future meeting. Ms. Adams is the person behind the public art in Oak Bay municipality.

CORDOVA BAY AND CADBORO BAY LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

The Chair asked committee members if they would like to send a statement about having an art component in the community planning process. The Manager of Community Planning was present to discuss the planning process and receive feedback. The following was noted:

- Staff have commenced with reaching out to community groups, and there are advisory committees comprised of stakeholders for each area.
- They are starting with obtaining fairly broad information about the key issues and priorities that people feel their areas have.
- Villages and centres may end up being looked at more closely.
- Workshops will be held soon. To help the conversation, one question being asked is, 'if something were to disappear tomorrow, how would you look at that'.
- In terms of timeline, the surveys are now open and input received will help with creating workshops. Feedback will be received in the fall. It is hoped that the draft plans will be done in early 2019 and full public engagement with the draft plans will occur.

Display boards showing demographics of the two local areas were set up. Heritage information, favourite places in the community, area history, what is most valued, what to preserve and protect are all questions that are being considered in the planning process. Committee members agreed that the display boards are very interesting/educational and the suggestion was made that they could be displayed in the community (eg. at Peppers, Music in the Park events, Cordova Bay Days, in tents at Gyro Park, etc.) to bring more awareness to the planning process. Discussion continued and the following was noted:

- Finding appropriate areas for temporary art installations would be good.
- In response to the comment about receiving updates of the planning process, it was noted that updates can be obtained online – people can sign up for notifications.

ARCHIVES

The Archivist presented an overview of the Archives department, and an update on its activities. The following was noted:

- The Archives department has grown substantially over the past ten years. Originally located in the Saanich Hall Annex basement, they have moved to the Centennial library space and greatly increased public outreach.
- The core responsibility is to manage collections and make them available online and in person.
- Archives has over 8,000 digitized pictures.
- A resource used is “History Pin” website where Archives has pinned about 40 heritage buildings and information. There is a fade feature that shows what the original buildings look like and how they or the surrounding area have changed over time.
- Archives publishes a newsletter; over 200 people subscribe to this.
- In conjunction with the Greater Victoria Public Library, the Archives hosts three “History Talks” per year.
- They try to hold two exhibits a year where the public can see artifacts. They also regularly display items in the Cedar Hill Arts Centre, Municipal Hall, malls and the Centennial library.
- They are already planning the exhibit for the 2019 Heritage Week.
- The Saanich Remembers WWI display will wrap up this year. This display has been ongoing for the past six years and the Saanich Honour Roll has been worked on by about 40 volunteers who are trying to find a story about each person on the Honour Roll. The next big exhibit will be shown between October 16 – November 12, 2018 and will commemorate the end of WWI.
- Due to a change in staffing and lack of time the bus tour event will not be viable.
- One of the best ways to engage the public is to digitize maps that show lot lines, railways, any significant features and history the land.
- A description of new materials acquired by Archives was given, including a water colour of the Gorge bridge, a Saanich employee badge, and photographs donated by the Underwood family.
- The vault is nearing capacity however they are not experiencing any difficulty in this regard. There is an option to look at rolling shelving and/or offsite storage should that become necessary.

HERITAGE

K. Johnson reported that a statement of significance will be done for a property on Burnside Road. Information about 2-3 Saanich properties has been placed on the Hallmark Heritage Society website.

ARTS

Canada 150 Public Art Jury Process update

The Manager of Community Planning noted that the deadline has passed for art proposals and the jury will meet to shortlist the 11 submissions received. The selection of the artist should happen in the summer. The location of the artwork will be on the corner of Cedar Hill Road and Finlayson Street. The jury consists of staff from

Recreation and Engineering, three artists and two community members who are randomly drawn. Committee asked to be advised on the artist that is selected for the Canada 150 Public Art display.

A discussion occurred about the siting of community artwork, and it was felt that a mapping exercise to choose appropriate spots for temporary and permanent art would be good to do during the local area plan process.

Arts Centre Update

The Community Arts Specialist provided an update on past and future exhibits at the Cedar Hill Arts Centre, and the following was noted:

- The Vancouver Island Woodworkers Group recently hosted an exhibit which was well received.
- Platinum painters held a two week demonstration in the centre's café.
- May is youth month; the youth strategy was implemented two years ago.
- Limelight youth artists exhibition showcased 120 youth artists from 10 schools and community groups.
- A social justice art show called "One World) will be presented between May 16 - 27.
- Two youth art interns will be starting at the arts centre soon.
- A Saanich Youth Council is being developed. At this point the youth council doesn't mesh with the school district, but the plan is to let the schools know this is coming and seek their advice on connecting with youth. Chris Filler from Community Services is the staff person responsible for this.
- Gorge on Art is full and there is a waitlist.
- Recreation will be launching a market analysis soon which invites people to send their thoughts about the programming, services, activities and experiences.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 am

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Thursday, June 28, 2018.

Councillor Brice, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary