

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Committee Room No. 2
Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 6:00 pm

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

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

Regrets: Sean Burns, Christine Willes

Guests: Michael Goodwin, Goodwin Studios, and Kathleen Gilbert, Vancouver Island South Film and Media Commission

Minutes

MOVED by L. Rathkelly and Seconded by I. Corman: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held June 20, 2019 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair thanked members for their continued service to the Committee, and also noted the following:

- Council members were supportive of and approved the three recommendations regarding Arts Awards made by this committee last June.
- Camosun College is having discussions with groups regarding the feasibility of building a film studio near the Pacific Institute for Sport Excellence. This information ties into the film studio presentation this evening.
- Due to recommendations taken from the Governance Review Citizens Advisory Committee, committee reappointments are no longer automatic. All advisory committee members will be required to submit an application to be appointed should they wish to continue to serve.

FILM STUDIO IN SAANICH

Michael Goodwin, Production Designer, and Kathleen Gilbert, Film Commissioner, provided information about the benefits of having a film studio in Saanich and the following was noted:

- The Saanich Mayor has been supportive of the idea of having a film studio in the municipality.
- They are trying to solidify the idea of having a film studio at Camosun College. The proposal is for two, 18,000 square foot studios and other buildings for items like costumes, workshops, office space, etc.
- Ideally, the region would benefit from having about six studios. The studio being proposed for Camosun would only be able to support a feature and a series.
- A studio that supports a series brings in a high amount of production work and economic spin-off (eg. Season 3 of "Riverdale" brought in \$42M to Vancouver).

- The film industry creates significant economic opportunities and benefits, for local sector services such as: lighting, camera and electrical technicians, supply chain and logistics companies, various skilled trades and artists needed for stage/set design and construction, wardrobe and makeup, actors and extras, hotels and restaurants.
- The Film Commission markets the Capital Region to Producers worldwide and is responsible for bringing approximately \$20M of production work to the Capital Region in 2018; however, this accounts for less than 1% of the nearly \$3B of production work in the province.
- Vancouver is doing a lot of filming and there is no reason to not film here. Saanich and the CRD (Southern Vancouver Island) are located in the 'Distant Tax Credit Zone'; however, due to the lack of studio facility, only smaller productions have been able to benefit from these incentives.
- The needs of the workers are different here; one of the problems is workers are going to Vancouver because of the higher budget productions. Here a lower budget "Hallmark" movie will have a \$700,000 – \$1.2M budget, whereas a Disney series could have a budget of \$7M - \$10M.
- If a studio is built, productions with budgets ranging from \$30M to \$200M could be made.
- The region just lost a season of a Netflix production because of the lack of a studio.
- Vancouver has experienced extensive growth in the industry and is home to millions of square feet of studio space and additional facilities; however, these facilities are at capacity and local communities and locations suffering from burn-out. Producers are seeking alternative centers that can meet their needs.

Mr. Goodwin and Ms. Gilbert answered questions from committee members and the following was noted:

- Projects are being discussed with the Tsartlip and the Malahat First Nations Bands.
- They may investigate the possibility of using light industrial land in the future because land in the Agricultural Land Reserve is not an option.
- The benefit to the region would be a big boost in employment in the many different sectors mentioned earlier.
- It is possible that an increase in scoring and post production could happen here because of a recent tax credit by the government.
- Studios are privately owned.
- The model could be the same as for the PISE building (Public Private Partnership).
- Classes cannot be held in the studio area. The stage area would be fenced off.
- They have interested investors, they need the land first.
- They need a minimum of 18,000 square feet of space per stage and it would take about 18 months to build.
- They did approach both Royal Roads and University of Victoria, but Camosun College works better within their model.

Mr. Goodwin and Ms. Gilbert were thanked for their presentation.

STAFF UPDATES

Archives

The report dated September 12, 2019 from the Archivist was acknowledged.

Recreation

- The Community Arts Specialist referred to her report dated September 18, 2019 which provides a summary of past and upcoming events.

*** M. Sealey arrived at 7:05 p.m. ***

- Members of the public are invited to Carey Newman Earth Drums Public Art unveiling at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre. The unveiling is on Friday, September 27th and activities will continue on Saturday, September 28th.
- Saanich hosts the 10th anniversary of Culture Days weekend this September 27-29.
- Saanich Recreation is selling t-shirts designed by Carey Newman for a minimum \$20 donation to fundraise for Orange Shirt Day. It was also noted that “Witness Blanket” is airing at both the Belfry Theatre and UVic Cinema.

The Senior Manager, Recreation Services provided committee members with a background of events that led to the Earth Drums public art piece. She noted that the Canada 150 Ambassadors will be recognized.

It was noted that the Arts Awards are to be budgeted for in 2020. This item will be discussed further at the October 17th meeting

POLICY WORKING GROUP REPORT

The working group met three times in the summer. Ms. Willes is working on the idea of having a formal orientation for new committee members. Mr. Ellis and Mr. Hesser are reviewing policy documents and are working on recommendations. They will have more concrete information to report at the next meeting.

The Chair thanked the working group members for their service. He reminded members that Advisory Committees do not have the ability to direct work to staff and reported that Council is finishing the Strategic Planning process.

A discussion occurred about the age of the Official Community Plan, and although it is ten years old, it is still a good, broad reaching document in terms of vision, environmental integrity, social well-being, etc., and the Local Area Plans and policies are under review.

It was suggested that the Senior Manager, Recreation Services provide information on when policies are expected to be updated.

PUBLIC ART

A representative from the Planning department will be invited to attend the meeting in order to provide information on the public art process.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Firehall #2 is being renovated and may have potential for public art. It was noted that this committee can provide input for public art pieces, but the actual choosing is done by an art jury.
- Recommendation that Pam Beyette (Seattle artist) be invited to speak about their experience with a public art project.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. The Senior Manager, Recreation Services took members on a heritage tour of Saanich Municipal Hall and grounds.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Thursday, October 17, 2019.

Councillor Plant, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary