

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Cedar Hill Arts Centre, Activity Room
Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 6:00 pm

Present: Councillor Plant (Chair), Irene Corman, John Ellis, Jim Hesser, Leanna Rathkelly, Michele Sealey

Staff: Kelli-Ann Armstrong, Senior Manager, Recreation Services; Cameron Scott, Manager of Community Planning; Nadine Kawata, Planner; Tania Douglas, Senior Committee Clerk

Regrets: Sean Burns, Kate Sykes-Waller, Christine Willes

Guests: Pam Beyette, Public Artist and Art Planner
Ned Taylor, Saanich Councillor

Minutes

MOVED by J. Hesser and Seconded by M. Sealey: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held September 19, 2019 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The following was noted:

- The Chair expressed appreciation to members for their service and valuable input, and noted that Saanich is accepting applications for the 2020 municipal appointments to Advisory Committees. Members are encouraged to send in their resume and application.
- The Manager of Legislative Services has confirmed that an orientation session will be offered to new Advisory Committee members in early 2020.
- The CRD Arts Commission will be striking a task force to review future facility needs for performing arts, and this committee may wish to provide input on this when the opportunity arises. It was noted that some schools and churches in Saanich host arts events but there is not a specific theatre dedicated to the performing arts. It is unknown who will Chair the task force.
- Eight of 13 municipalities form the CRD Arts Commission (they provide funding for arts services) but 100% participation in arts services is needed. The remaining five municipalities are encouraged to become part of the Commission; discussions on the benefits of joining will occur at some point.

*** Councillor Ned Taylor arrived at 6:28 pm ***

PUBLIC ART PRESENTATION

I. Corman introduced Pam Beyette, a public artist and art planner from Seattle. Ms. Beyette presented information about planning and designing integrated art elements in the Seattle Justice Centre. The following was noted:

- The project was originally for just the courthouse, but then morphed into the Justice centre with a project budget of about \$800,000. Due to the scale of the project, Ms. Beyette brought on three other artists to work with.

- Much collaboration occurred with people who use the buildings and Ms. Beyette described the elements incorporated in the design of entrances, spaces, sculptures, door handles, etc.
- Public artists typically do the design work and then have fabricators make the pieces.
- A description was given about the thought that went into incorporating art pieces in public spaces and the particular meaning of the art pieces.
- After the work was completed, the project team shared information on their creative journey from start to finish (including rejected ideas) in order to show the creative process at work.
- A catalogue including fabricators, pieces, collaborators, etc. was also incorporated into the works to recognize all those who participated in the creation of the building.

A discussion occurred about public art and how it is funded through capital projects. In Seattle, there is an arts commission and advisory board that has access to a sophisticated network to access artists around the country. They have an art plan to lay out strategies before moving forward with projects and this helps to incorporate some design elements (eg. curved walls) without having the cost come out of the capital funding. Equally important for public art projects is the research that is done in order to identify sense of community ideas and values for the area. The projects have to be representative of the community and use appropriate materials (eg. tiles, metal, wood).

Ms. Beyette replied to questions from the committee and the following was noted:

- The best way to support artists new to public art is to have a program that includes lectures and mentors that can help artists with mini-projects and to show them examples of public art places.
- Having artists involved from the very beginning of the project planning stages is very beneficial.
- Planning is critical and it is also important to not politicize artwork. The panel that chooses public art should have an understanding of the facility being built and have a feel for the surrounding community.
- Policy documents guiding public art are available on the internet.

Motion: MOVED by M. Sealey and Seconded by J. Ellis, “That the verbal presentation from Pam Beyette, public artist and art planner, regarding public art in Seattle be received.”

CARRIED

The Chair thanked Ms. Beyette for her presentation and ideas. He referred to the Facilities Master Plan that identifies ten buildings scheduled for upgrades, and agreed that having an artist involved at the beginning of these upgrades could be beneficial.

It was suggested that Council be asked to encourage staff to include artists at the planning stages of developments. I. Corman will draft something for consideration at the next meeting.

SAANICH PUBLIC ART

The Manager of Community Planning and the Planner were present to provide information about the Planning department’s role in the public art process. Committee members were asked what they think public art is, and the following comments were noted:

- An area where the space causes the public cause to think/ponder.
- Art where the public can be interactive (eg. earth drums or the airplane mobiles in Calgary airport).

- Something that belongs to the public.
- Something given to the community to beautify or enhance an area.
- Some members think about public art being music or performing arts. Others think about sculptures.
- Art that embraces some idea or moment that makes it come alive; does not have to be permanent.

The Manager of Community Planning provided the definition of public art as defined in the Comprehensive Arts Policy. In this case, public art is artwork that is intended for installation and integration in indoor and outdoor public areas, created by local or other artists for a specific site and at no direct cost to the public. He noted that Saanich's art Jury is a critical component of the process that ensures any civic public art project is chosen via an equitable process. Most recent public art projects in Saanich include the Craigflower Bridge project and the Earth Drums project at Cedar Hill.

The Manager of Community Planning replied to questions and comments from committee members:

- Projects can be initiated via staff, advisory committees, developers and Council.
- Planning looks at the Local Area Plans and significant places that may be suitable for public art.
- It may be worthwhile to have a public art competition at the end of each Local Area Plan update.
- Local Area Plans provide a blueprint to guide how the community changes. Part of the process to develop the plan involves asking the community for opinions on appropriate public art locations.
- The new public art liaison in the Planning department is Nadine Kawata.
- It is not clear whether the Lindsay trail project is a trails project or a parks development project.
- Some of the budget allotted for public art is also for maintenance (eg. tile replacement at the recreation centre or refreshment of murals).
- There is about \$250,000 in the public art fund at this time.
- Earth drums had a budget of \$75,000.
- Planning may now have the capacity for an annual project now that there is a staff member with time dedicated to public art, depending on the scale of project.
- They have not yet discussed artwork for the Royal Oak Firehall upgrade.
- About 1/3 of one Planner's time is spent on public art.

Motion: MOVED by L. Rathkelly and Seconded by M. Sealey, "That the verbal presentation from the Manager of Community Planning regarding public art in Saanich be received."

CARRIED

GRAFFITI ART

Councillor Taylor presented some examples of graffiti art located at Bondi beach, Australia, and in Valparaiso, Chile, to open a dialogue about having graffiti/wall art in Saanich. It was noted that when done properly, graffiti art can reduce vandalism. Coatings can be applied to artwork to help remove tags/vandalism if needed.

Questions raised included: how to select artists, where would the art be located, is there staff support to coordinate this, and, would the art be permanent or temporary. It was noted that funding may be available, and a suggestion was made to ask Council to apply for any available grants. There is an annual mural festival in Vancouver that receives funding from corporate sponsors and grants, and the artwork is of permanent nature.

Staff members noted that this item was discussed a number of years ago. Minutes of those discussions will be retrieved and the Community Arts Specialist will be asked to provide information at the next meeting.

UPDATES FROM SEPTEMBER 19, 2019 MEETING

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services provided members with the schedule for updating the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Arts and Culture Strategy.

The three user groups of the Royal McPherson Theatre Society continue to work on a resolution on the facility rent issue.

UPDATE FROM WORKING GROUP

Members have been working on improving committee orientation and reviewing policy documents. The update from the Senior Manager of Recreation Services regarding policy document reviews was acknowledged. A suggestion was made that it would be positive to have affirmation from Council that arts are a priority.

The Chair suggested that if the working group would like to make any recommendations to Council, they provide a report to this committee for consideration.

FUTURE ITEMS

- Poet laureate.
- Public art:
 - I. Corman to bring draft motion for consideration regarding planning art at early stages of projects.
 - One piece of public art per year.
 - Graffiti Art.
- Dance

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm. The next meeting is Thursday, November 21, 2019.

Councillor Plant, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary