

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre, Activity Room
Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 6:00 pm

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

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

Regrets: Sean Burns, Kate Sykes-Waller

Guest: Councillor Ned Taylor
Neko Smart, Spoken Word and Slam Poet

Minutes

MOVED by J. Ellis and Seconded by L. Rathkelly: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held October 17, 2019 be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair thanked members for their service and noted that:

- There have not been as many applications received for appointment to advisory committees, so there is still opportunity to apply. He does not yet know if he will be reappointed as Chair of this committee for 2020.
- The CRD select committee for facility needs has been established and the Terms of Reference were passed on October 30th and will be online this upcoming Friday.
- It is hoped that this committee can have some input regarding facility use in the municipality.
- The Deck the Halls light-up and school concert is scheduled for December 7th. All are welcome to attend.
- He is pleased about the Strategic Plan initiative that proactively supports the installation of public art in the community.

HERITAGE

Verbal update from Saanich Archives

The Archivist noted that restoration work is well underway at the Archives and the Library and it is hoped that this will be completed by the end of December. In the meantime items are safely stored and research is on hold while there is no access to research files. Archives staff are working out of the Legislative Services office, fielding inquiries, working on upcoming exhibits and updating online resources. Presently there is an exhibit "Saanich Women in WWII: the Home Front" that will be displayed until November 25, 2019.

Saanich Heritage Foundation minutes

Minutes from the Saanich Heritage Foundation meetings between April and October 2019 were provided for information.

ARTS

Graffiti Art Program

The Senior Manager of Recreation introduced the Community Arts Specialist who provided information on Saanich's definition of public art, murals and graffiti. It was noted that the guidelines for murals state that if a mural is visible to the public it must be approved by Council or an art jury. The following was noted:

- There are two commissioned murals in Saanich, one is a clay mural at the Hall and the other is the pool deck mural at Saanich Commonwealth Place.
- Art space that evolves/changes is not available at this time because of the current policy of art work needing to be approved each time.
- Graffiti is considered vandalism according to Saanich bylaw. Other cities (eg. Toronto) have definitions that distinguish graffiti art versus graffiti vandalism.
- There are designated street art walls in Kingston/Hamilton/Edmonton/Ottawa.
- Examples of murals in the City of Victoria were given (eg. Commercial Alley, Rock Bay). The murals are maintained by the City for now but then businesses will take over and either maintain them or change them.
- Calgary's utility box program uses money from the public art fund; those can be seen as temporary art.
- Murals/public art are often funded through a city's public art reserve or by private developers.
- Mural/street art programs can have different rationales like working with at risk youth, creating more accessible art, building a sense of place (eg. Chemainus).
- City of Victoria has a budget line for public art as well as a reserve fund.
- Some municipalities have grant/matching grant programs to support murals.
- There are mural and graffiti festivals in various cities (Montreal, Vancouver, Toronto).

Committee member comments:

- Saanich's definitions and terminology need to be reviewed.
- Concern was expressed that the 1% reserve fund for public art is not always used for each above-ground project, and can instead be held in an account.
- There is opportunity to make a change. It is hoped that street art could be included in municipal policy at some point.

Staff were asked to provide information about:

- How Earth Drums exhibit was funded as it was a separate Canada 150 project.
- The installation of totems on school properties.

Committee consensus was that the Comprehensive Arts Policy needs to be reviewed and there is a desire to support graffiti/street art within the municipality.

Motion: MOVED by C. Willes and Seconded by I. Corman, "The Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee recommends that Council direct staff to provide a review and update to the Comprehensive Arts Policy within the next 18 months."

The Motion was WITHDRAWN

*** Further discussion on the above motion was deferred to occur after committee had heard the recommendations from the policy working group. It was then decided to withdraw the above motion and instead include it within the recommendations from the policy working group. ***

Public Art

I. Corman spoke to her recommendation dated October 18, 2019, and noted that she misunderstood the allocation of the 1% fund for public art, as she thought that each project done would benefit from the funding with an on-site piece of art.

The Senior Manager of Recreation Services clarified the funding allocation, and noted that Saanich does aim to include artwork in each building, but not all above ground work relates to a building. The next large project is the fire hall at Royal Oak and art is planned/included in this project.

The Chair noted that the motion clarifies and reinforces Saanich's current policy on public art.

Motion: MOVED by I. Corman and Seconded by J. Ellis, "The Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee recommends that, given that 1% of the funding for every above ground capital project must be directed to public art for that project, that the planning for that project is in accordance with the Comprehensive Arts Policy that covers all artistic endeavours for the municipality and ensures public art is integral to the planning process for the project. Planning for public art would begin at the same time as the beginning of the planning for the project. This refers not only to new projects, but also to capital renovations."

CARRIED

REPORT FROM WORKING GROUP

J. Ellis referred to the October 2019 Document Review report from the working group and the recommendations within the report.

Motion: MOVED by J. Ellis and Seconded by C. Willes, "That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee recommends that:

- 1. The Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee asks for clarification or reaffirmation from Council that the statements regarding the arts as an essential element in the Municipality of Saanich are still relevant and a municipal initiative worth investing in.**

If 'yes, that Council direct staff to:

- 2. Review and propose amendments to documents to align those documents with the current state of Art and Culture in Saanich.**
 - Include a review that identifies how many positions in CRD are involved directly and indirectly with the Arts.**
 - Consider establishing positions to arts specifically, so that appropriate qualifications, competencies, and criteria are included in job positions.**
- 3. Establish policies that employ the SMART tool and require financial reporting of investment on arts (examples):**
 - Include all spending:**
 - Salaries**
 - Arts Centre**

- Arts programming
- Other relevant data
- Development of metrics to determine ROI (Return on Investment) and include them in the annual report
 - Should include arts specific financial reporting:
 - Expenses
 - Revenue
 - Participation (Saanich and CRD)
 - Per capita spending

The Chair noted that he would prefer to separate each recommendation into separate motions. Committee members discussed and suggested amendments.

Motion: MOVED by J. Ellis and Seconded by C. Willes, “That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee recommends that:

The Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee asks for clarification or reaffirmation from Council that the statements regarding the arts as an essential element in the Municipality of Saanich are still relevant and a municipal initiative worth investing in.”

CARRIED

Motion to amend:

MOVED by J. Ellis and Seconded by M. Sealey, “That point 2 be amended to read: ‘Align documents with the current state of Art and Culture in Saanich’.”

The Motion to Amend was CARRIED

Motion to amend:

MOVED by L. Rathkelly and Seconded by M. Sealey, “That point 2 first bullet be amended to read, ‘Identify how many staff positions in Saanich are involved directly and indirectly with the arts’.”

The Motion to Amend was CARRIED

Motion to amend:

MOVED by L. Rathkelly and Seconded by M. Sealey, “That point 2 second bullet be amended to read, ‘Ensure arts specific staff positions so that appropriate qualifications, competencies, and criteria are included in job positions’.”

The Motion to Amend was CARRIED

Motion to amend:

MOVED by C. Willes and Seconded by M. Sealey, “That the first sentence in part three of the motion be amended to read: ‘Employ the SMART tool and require financial reporting of investment on arts’.”

**The Amendment to the Motion was CARRIED
With J. Ellis OPPOSED**

*** Committee members continued discussion regarding graffiti art and then made an additional amendment to the above main motion. ***

Motion: MOVED by I. Corman and Seconded by C. Willes, “That a new first bullet be added to point 2 as follows: ‘That Council direct staff to provide a review and update to the Comprehensive Arts Policy within the next 18 months’.”

The Amendment to the Motion was CARRIED

The Main Motion, as Amended was Put and CARRIED

Main Motion as Amended:

“That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee recommends that:

1. The Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee asks for clarification or reaffirmation from Council that the statements regarding the arts as an essential element in the Municipality of Saanich are still relevant and a municipal initiative worth investing in.

If ‘yes’, that Council direct staff to:

- 2. Align documents with the current state of Art and Culture in Saanich.**
- That Council direct staff to provide a review and update to the Comprehensive Arts Policy within the next 18 months.**
 - Identify how many staff positions in Saanich are involved directly and indirectly with the Arts.**
 - Ensure arts specific staff positions so that appropriate qualifications, competencies, and criteria are included in job positions.**
- 3. Employ the SMART tool and require financial reporting of investment on arts (examples):**
- Include all spending:**
 - Salaries**
 - Arts Centre**
 - Arts programming**
 - Other relevant data**
 - Development of metrics to determine ROI (Return On Investment) and include them in the annual report**
 - Should include arts specific financial reporting**
 - Expenses**
 - Revenue**
 - Participation (Saanich and CRD)**
 - Per capita spending”**

The working group members were thanked for their work.

POET LAUREATE

M. Sealey spoke to her report regarding Saanich Poets Laureate Positions and introduced Neko Smart, a provincial competitive poetry champion and former captain of the Victoria High Slam Poetry team who performed a poem for committee members. It was noted that most local high schools and alternative schools have spoken word or slam poetry groups and membership is growing.

The Community Arts Specialist noted that the Victoria Poetry Project has good information for those interested in events and workshops. A comment was made that Saanich has been good at ensuring that poetry is included in the Limelight Youth Festival.

Motion: MOVED by M. Sealey and Seconded by I. Corman, “That the Arts Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee recommends that Council create the concurring positions of Poet Laureate and Youth Poet Laureate.”

CARRIED

The Chair noted that this would go to staff for a report and he encouraged Neko to attend the Council meeting and perform some poetry for Council.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- C. Willes informed members that she did not reapply to serve on the committee next year, as she will be working with the United Way on a public policy initiative.
- Councillor Plant stated that there will be a special meeting in December in order to adopt the minutes from tonight and to forward the motions to Council sooner.
- A request was made for an update or presentation regarding the CRD facility review.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Councillor Plant, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary