

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
March 24, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Present: Councillor Nathalie Chambers (Chair), Deb Beaton-Smith, Mark Leiren-Young, Heron Hanuman, James Hesser, Sonia Nicholson, Leanna Rathkelly, Michele Sealey and Nik White.

Staff: Nadine Kawata, Planner (Community Planning); Megan Squires, Planner (Community Planning); and Megan MacDonald, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Yashwant Reddy Katireddy (Youth), John Ellis.

Minutes

MOVED by J. Hesser and Seconded by S. Nicholson: “That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held January 19, 2021, be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

MOVED by D. Beaton-Smith and Seconded by J. Hesser: “That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee requests that the minutes include information requested by the Chair be included as an action item in the minutes for follow-up.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S REMARKS

The Chair gave a verbal update to the committee, the following was noted:

- The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board recently passed a motion to begin the process of establishing a regional service for the purposes of planning, developing and funding of performing arts facilities that have regional impact. The CRD Board approved \$150,000 in the 2021 budget for costs related to the establishment of the service and directed the Chair to create a committee to oversee the work related to establishing a performing arts service.
- The Chair referenced a recent article in the Capital Daily, about the Victoria Chinatown Museum Society, which was formed last year, with the hope of bringing a permanent Chinese museum to Victoria. Victoria is home to the oldest Chinatown in Canada.

PRESENTATION – CAROLYN KNIGHT

Carolyn Knight, public artist, presented on her art practice, some of which has been created in Saanich. The following was noted:

- Carolyn has a love of urban nature, waterways, streams and the Salish Sea, which are undertones in many of the things she creates. She played a part in creating the Colquitz Park Trail artwork, connecting urban nature spaces and the community.
- The BC Rivers Day Riversong project involved the Saanich Legacy Foundation and the BC Arts Council, a celebration of song took place along Colquitz Creek. The project

- evolved to involve art, and eventually led to the River Stones project with the Colquitz Middle School. Pebble mosaics were installed on the pathway near the intersection of Burnside Road and Dumaresq Street, which are still in place today.
- Saanich Parks collaborated on an interpretive art for the boardwalk development.
 - The presenter took part in a project to create a pebble mosaic of the red winged black bird at the Swan Lake Nature Sanctuary.
 - There is an opportunity to create community weaving projects with invasive English Ivy which has been removed from parks and greenspaces. This benefits the environment, as well as brings people together pulling weeds and creating art.
 - The Rock Bay Creek Revival project was a collaboration with the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations which aims to daylight parts of the creek, along with highlighting the importance of clean water and the effects of storm water on marine ecosystems.

Following questions and comments from the committee, the following was noted:

- The presentation is a reminder of the connection between people, places and culture.
- The public art pieces are appreciated by all.

*** M. Leiren-Young exited the meeting at 7:24 p.m. ***

MURAL ON GALLOPING GOOSE SOUND BARRIER WALL

Saanich recently received a response to a letter sent to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure related to the possible creation of a mural on the sound barrier wall that runs along the Galloping Goose Regional Trail near the McKenzie interchange. There is a possibility that Saanich may be able to provide feedback on the design or implementation. The Arts Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee is not formally involved currently.

MOVED by N. White and Seconded by M. Sealey: “That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee requests that Council direct staff to include the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee in any discussions related to a mural on the Galloping Goose Regional Trail/McKenzie interchange sound barrier wall.

CARRIED

*** C. Knight exited the meeting at 7:35 p.m. ***

HERITAGE FOUNDATION UPDATE

S. Nicholson provided an update on the Heritage Foundation, the following was noted:

- Saanich Heritage Foundation board unanimously supported the coloring book project and will provide heritage expertise on the content. Some funding may be available through the foundation. An online version would be preferred.
- Saanich Archives has provided a list of pictures that could be used for the coloring book. The committee needs to find somebody to convert the pictures to coloring book pages, Photoshop or another software may be necessary.
- The Saanich Lands department is looking to transition the property management aspect of the two municipally owned heritage buildings to the Lands Department. This will allow for shifting the focus of the foundation to education and advocacy.

DIVISION REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

Reports from Saanich Archives and Community Services were received for information.

ROUNDTABLE

A committee round table took place, the following was noted:

- The committee is interested in the budget items related to art, culture and heritage.
- The proposed Saanich Fire Hall # 2 is in the rezoning and planning stages, with the review currently in progress. The committee recommendations from November 2019 and May 2020 were forwarded to the engineering department to designate an area for public art, and to prioritize the public art. The art process will be initiated after the approval of development permit application.
- The committee would like to have updates on items that were supported in the past.
- There is still interest in a film studio in the CRD, ideally at Camosun College, with the possibility of film courses. This could complement the proposal by the Malahat Nation.

MOVED by N. White and Seconded by S. Nicholson: “That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee recommends that Council contact the City of Victoria and the Provincial Government to see how Saanich could be involved in supporting the creation of a Chinese Canadian museum in Victoria.”

CARRIED

MOVED by J. Hesser and Seconded by D. Beaton-Smith: “That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee requests an update on the film studio in the Capital Regional District.”

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 28, 2021.

ACTION ITEMS

- Provide budget information.
- Update on the CRD Film studio.
- Receive update monthly on status of public art.

Councillor Chambers, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary