

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
April 28, 2021 at 6:30 pm

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

Guests: Linda Rogers-Vankrugel, Rick Vankrugel and Eric Pelkey (WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council).

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

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

MINUTES

MOVED by J. Hesser and Seconded by D. Beaton-Smith: “That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held March 24, 2020, be adopted as amended.”

CARRIED

CHAIR’S REMARKS

The Chair gave a verbal update on art, culture and heritage within Saanich, the following items were discussed:

- There are two guest presentations planned for the meeting, Eric Pelkey from the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council, as well as Linda and Rick Vankrugel.
- The coloring book is progressing, a graphic designer has been found to turn the pictures of the heritage buildings into coloring pages. The images will be available digitally, as well as some to be printed, possibly along with heritage colored crayons.
- The Chair has spoken with Alan Lowe, who is involved with the creation of a Chinese Museum in Victoria, to express the committee’s interest in being a part of the process.

HOW ART, POETRY AND MUSIC SAVED US DURING THE PANDEMIC

Linda Rogers Vankrugel and Rick Vankrugel performed poetry along with music, and presented art by local artists. The Chair and members of the committee thanked the presenters. The art and performances were greatly appreciated.

ERIC PELKEY - WSÁNEĆ LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Eric Pelkey of the WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council spoke to the importance of culturally significant areas within Saanich. The following was noted:

- There has been efforts in recent years to have Mount Doug renamed to PKOLS, which is the traditional name is given to the mountain by First Nations peoples centuries ago.
- Stories of the Creator and a history of the importance of the mountain were shared.
- Traditionally PKOLS was an important boundary between WSÁNEĆ and Lekwungen

- people. The top of the mountain was used as a sacred meeting place.
- As this area is culturally significant to the WSÁNEĆ people, the hope is for the committee to bring forward a recommendation to change the name of the mountain to recognize it as PKOL's, as it had been for thousands of years.
 - It was recommended that Saanich should adopt and implement the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

A discussion with committee members took place, the following was noted:

- Members are interested in highlighting the importance of this topic by bringing it to the attention of Council.
- Renaming Mount Douglas Park is included in the Saanich Strategic Plan (Initiatives/Actions, Community well-being, page 14), however this topic is unfunded.
- Procedurally, renaming the mountain would be under the jurisdiction of Saanich and the Province. It is important to begin the process as soon as possible.
- This is a culturally significant area that is part of the sacred creation story.
- There is hope that this item can be funded by Saanich in the near future.
- The committee is grateful for the presentation and the history being shared.
- The Province has recently adopted UNDRIP and is currently working towards the recommendations. The Chair will prepare more information for the committee about what the implementation and adoption of UNDRIP would look like in Saanich.

MOVED by J. Hesser and Seconded by N. White, “That Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee is grateful to Eric Pelkey for the presentation explaining the great importance of restoring the traditional name of Pkols and recommends that Saanich Council support in full efforts to have the Province of BC officially rename Mount Douglas Park to the traditional name of Pkols.”

CARRIED

CORDOVA BAY LOCAL AREA PLAN

The Senior Planner (Community Planning) presented information on the art, culture and heritage aspects of the Cordova Bay Local Area Plan (LAP). The following was noted:

- The LAP is part of the Official Community Plan framework, which provides detail at a neighborhood level, incorporating the latest municipal direction including Indigenous content, housing policy, climate change and the Active Transportation Plan.
- There were many opportunities for community input while the plan was being drafted. This input helped identify issues, priorities, and the future vision for transportation and active transportation. A village design charrette was created, a transportation workshop was held, along with advisory committee input and survey feedback.
- Issues, priorities and a vision were identified from feedback and four priority topic workshops. Extensive dialogue with WSÁNEĆ Leadership Council (WLC) took place.
- First Nations history and culture was absent from the previous Cordova Bay LAP, despite this area being culturally significant to First Nations people.
- The Draft Cordova Bay LAP promotes First Nations history to Indigenize the LAP. The UVIC Anthropology team and the WLC worked with Planning staff to ensure that the draft plan reflects the history of First Nations in this area.
- There is a focus on protecting existing heritage resources, as well as expanding public art, identifying culturally significant spaces and raising awareness of the history.
- There is an objective to build relationships and open dialogue with First Nations. This includes a balanced telling of history, protecting cultural sites and heritage resources.

- The plan calls for an increased presence of arts and culture to create a welcoming visual presence. This may include identifying First Nations sites of significance, add First Nations language into signage and installing Indigenous public art.
- There are 15 heritage properties in Cordova Bay, however only 3 have an official heritage designation. The LAP promotes these sites and encourages owners to seek the heritage designation.
- A conceptual map in the LAP shows spaces within Cordova Bay which could support public art and cultural spaces. Public Plazas or spaces to encourage people to meet and experience art. There will be signs when you enter the village, these edge pieces are perfect places for First Nations art.
- The plan calls to improve development procedures to avoid accidental excavation of burial sights to honor WSÁNEĆ ancestors. There are best practices and policy updates related to archaeology, some of which are being implemented now.

The following items were noted following discussion with the committee:

- It was unprecedented that the WLC participated in drafting the LAP. Committee members appreciate the inclusion of First Nations in the creation of the draft LAP. The plans to include First Nations names of places is supported by the committee.
- There are many culturally significant ecosystems in Cordova Bay. Protection of these ecosystems by withholding densification of these areas is important.
- There is interest in reducing light pollution and implementing policies to protect the night sky. The LAP proposes some policies in the village. The committee would like stronger policies everywhere, such as those implemented around the observatory.
- The committee appreciates the efforts to address issues with the WLC and increase awareness of the cultural significance of Cordova Bay to the WSÁNEĆ people.
- The pictures that are included as examples of First Nations public art in the LAP are great. The examples given are supported and members of the committee would appreciate having something similar in Cordova Bay.

MOVED by L. Rathkelly, and Seconded by D. Beaton-Smith, “That Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee supports the Cordova Bay Draft Local Area Plan and recommends that Saanich Council approve the plan.”

CARRIED

SAANICH HOUSING STRATEGY

N. Kawata, Planner (Community Planning), presented information on the Saanich Housing Strategy. Due to time restraints the presentation was postponed. Committee members were encouraged to provide feedback online via the online survey at Saanich.ca/housing.

HERITAGE FOUNDATION UPDATE

S. Nicholson provided an update on the business of the Saanich Heritage Foundation. The following was noted:

- Further information was provided to the foundation on the rental property management of the Saanich owned residential heritage buildings. As previously discussed, these duties are being moved over to the Saanich lands department.
- Last month was the annual general meeting of the Heritage Foundation. Sonia was re-elected as vice-president for the next year.

COMMITTEE ROUNDTABLE

The following was noted:

- Studio space for the film industry is in demand, the studio in Parksville is booked approximately a year in advance, and it would be great if Saanich could profit from this sector. Committee members would like to see something in the CRD.
- The province was able to use new technology and regulatory methods to amend over 600 instances of gender language in legislation, allowing for more inclusive terms.
- Committee members expressed appreciation for the presentations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Councillor Chambers, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary