

MINUTES
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers
Tuesday October 5, 2021 at 6:29 pm

Present: Councillor Nathalie Chambers (Chair), John Ellis (Via Teams), Heron Hanuman (Via Telephone), James Hesser (Via Teams), Mark Leiren-Young (7:35, via Teams), Sonia Nicholson (Via Teams), Leanna Rathkelly (Via Teams), Michele Sealey (Via Teams) and Nik White (via Teams).

Staff: Pam Hartling, Senior Planner (Community Planning); Megan Squires, Planner (Community Planning); Evelyn Wolfe, Archives Supervisor and Megan MacDonald, Senior Committee Clerk.

Guest: Councillor Colin Plant.

Regrets: Deb Beaton-Smith (Via Teams) and Yashwant Reddy Katireddy (Youth).

MINUTES

MOVED by L. Rathkelly and Seconded by J. Hesser: "That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held May 26, 2021, be adopted as circulated."

CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The Chair gave a brief verbal update on recent business, the following was noted:

- With the recent discovery of thousands of First Nations children's remains at residential schools across Canada, people are finally beginning to understand our obligation to mend the relationship with First Nations.
- A motion was passed at Council on June 21, 2021 to support the Mayor writing to the Federal Government to request that funding is provided to ensure that all remains are identified and brought home.

CRD REGIONAL ARTS FACILITY UPDATE

Councillor Colin Plant provided an update on the Capital Regional District (CRD) initiative on the possibility of a Regional Arts Facility. The following was noted:

- The 2018 CRD Strategic Plan identified the opportunity to explore options for 100% participation in regional arts services. The current services that are offered in the CRD related to the arts are: the Arts Commission, which helps fund services that create art; the Royal Theater, which is a partnership between the City of Victoria, the District of Saanich and the District of Oak Bay; and the McPherson Playhouse, which is only the City of Victoria. These services have minimal participation from cities.
- A select committee was created to report on the arts facilities. The committee made a recommendation for a consultant to be hired to understand regional needs and what potential partnerships could exist. Following a process which included public input, the consultant recommended a establishing a CRD service to oversee regional facilities.

- Currently, each municipality has the option to participate in arts initiatives, only 9 out of 16 municipalities in the region participate in the Arts Commission.
- Staff recommended the alternative approval process, which meant rather than municipalities opting in to the service, all would be included and those who were opposed need to register their opposition. If 10% of the electorate are opposed, then a referendum on the topic is needed. It seemed that most jurisdictions were in support.
- The CRD Board was persuaded that the alternative approval was not fair to some communities. The motion to approve the alternative approval process was defeated.
- The CRD Board believes that we should have a regional service, however the service should be optional to participate in, not mandatory. Alternate ways to establish the service will be explored. Letters will be written to jurisdictions for further consultation.
- The proposed bylaw had funding provided by all jurisdictions. If less participants are involved, funding will be more expensive to each participating municipality.

During committee discussion, the following was noted:

- A new CRD Board will be elected following the municipal election in late 2022.
- There is currently support of this initiative from the Board. Members will explore options to move forward and make as much progress as possible during the Boards tenure.
- There will be consultation and a request that municipalities opt in to this service during fall 2021 and early 2022. The future of this initiative may depend on the next Board.
- There may be options available to ensure all facility users are contributing fairly.
- Saanich is the largest municipality in the region by population and geography. Funding for the Arts Commission is based 50% on population and 50% on property assessment value. Oak Bay pays the most per capita, Saanich pays more given the population.
- Victoria is a regional leader, as they participate in the CRD Arts Commission, fund two facilities and provide grants to arts organizations. Victoria and Saanich are largest funders of the Royal Theater, the MacPherson is funded solely by Victoria.

SAANICH HERITAGE COLOURING BOOK DRAFT

S. Nicholson provided an update on the Saanich Heritage Colouring Book draft, which is now complete. During discussion with the committee the following was noted:

- The agenda package contained the latest draft of the Saanich Heritage Colouring Book, which has been reviewed and approved by the Heritage Foundation.
- Feedback from Saanich Archives has been incorporated and edits have been made.
- The colouring book was created along with support from volunteers from the Saanich Heritage Foundation. Resources were limited, however the end product is impressive.
- Members of the committee expressed their gratitude to the volunteers who took the time to make the colouring book happen.
- The inclusion of the Observatory within the colouring book is greatly appreciated.

MOVED by S. Nicholson and Seconded by M. Sealy: “That the Saanich Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee:

- 1. Approve the draft Saanich Heritage Colouring Book as circulated; and**
- 2. Recommend that Council forward the Saanich Heritage Colouring Book to staff for publication on the Saanich Heritage Foundation page on the website and promotion on Saanich social media channels.”**

CARRIED

MOVED by M. Sealy Seconded by L. Rathkelly: “That Sonia Nicholson present the Saanich Heritage Colouring Book to Council on behalf of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee.

CARRIED

PROPOSED CORDOVA BAY LOCAL AREA PLAN

The Senior Planner (Community Planning) presented an update to the committee on the Proposed Cordova Bay Local Area Plan (LAP). The following was noted:

- On April 28th, 2021, Planning presented the Proposed LAP to the committee, highlighting issues of interest. A discussion with comments and questions from the committee followed. A motion in support was provided.
- After approval of the Housing Strategy in August 2021, staff were directed to refer the Proposed LAP to committees again for comment
- Staff provided a presentation to show the alignment of the Proposed LAP with the Housing Strategy. The LAP contains strong policy support for implementing the seven focus areas of the Housing Strategy.
- Focus area 1 relates to Affordable/Supportive Housing. This policy is supported in the Draft LAP by a non-market housing project on the Saanich owned parcel on Doumac Avenue, providing support for churches to build housing on institutional parcels and support for affordable/non-market housing on the Trio site.
- Focus area 2 relates to rental housing. The LAP encourages rental housing in areas of high home ownership, particularly where the need is the greatest, for example those in the range of “very low” to “low to moderate” income.
- Focus area 3 relates to policy support to expanding housing diversity and supply. The Draft LAP supports new housing in the Village, the new Ridge node, and the Trio site. The Village Plan was completed and the Village area (and number of lots within) was expanded. The LAP also supports neighbourhood infill by allowing duplex/triplex on regular residential lots, as well as four-plex on corner lots.
- Focus area 4 relates to reducing barriers to housing development. The LAP supports this with policy for reducing parking standards to one per dwelling unit during the redevelopment process. The LAP also supports a review of bylaws and procedures to make housing projects that are supported by policy easier to achieve, such as infill in single detached neighbourhoods.
- Focus area 5 relates to strengthening partnerships in housing, which is supported specifically with local churches, non-profit housing organizations and First Nations.
- Focus area 6 relates enhanced community engagement. The Local Area planning process (updating LAPs) has provided an excellent opportunity to educate the public on housing needs in Saanich, to raise awareness of issues, to build support and community capacity through extensive consultation and input opportunities.
- Focus area 7 relates to Understanding housing demand and addressing land speculation, this focus area is best addressed at District-wide level, although the Draft LAP provides an opportunity for community education and discussion.
- Over time, Saanich may adopt policies or practices in support of housing diversity and supply that go beyond (or even conflict with) LAPs. OCP amendments will be proposed to keep LAPs up to date, with an evaluation happening every 5 years.

The Chair noted the following:

- First Nations history relates to the inclusion of culturally significant ecosystems.

The following was noted in response to questions from members of the committee:

- The retention of heritage is included in the draft LAP and the housing strategy.
- Cultural and heritage landscapes are included as part of the discussion and collaboration with First Nations. There is new policy in support of respect for traditional burial sites and a process to improve archeological processes.
- More opportunities to learn about local First Nations history are appreciated.

MOVED by L. Rathkelly and Seconded by J. Hesser: “That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee recommends that Saanich Council accept the Proposed Cordova Bay Local Area Plan as is.”

CARRIED

SAANICH ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE AWARDS UPDATE

The Planner (Community Planning) presented information on the Saanich Arts Culture and Heritage (ACH) Awards. The following was noted:

- Staff are working to hold the Arts, Culture and Heritage Awards in early 2022.
- The process will be modeled after the Environmental Awards. The ACH Awards will recognize winners including volunteers, individuals, organizations and businesses for their achievements, contributions and support of art and heritage in Saanich.
- Staff will support the initiative through the process. Once the nomination period closes the Committee would hold an In Camera meeting to determine winners.
- The proposed categories will be modeled after previous ACH Awards, and will include:
 - The Art of Business: Supporter
 - Cultural Steward: Organization
 - Unsung Hero: Individual
 - Next Gen: Youth
 - Individual Lifetime Achievement Award

The following was noted in response to questions from the committee:

- Information about previous ACH Awards winners is not easily accessible to the public.
- There is interest in having more information about the awards available on the website.
- There could be more opportunities which are more specifically geared towards arts organizations. Having a specific category to recognize exemplary organizations such as theaters and choirs which contribute to arts in the community would be beneficial.
- If suitable nominations are not received for a category the committee can chose not to give the award in that category for the year.
- The committee will ensure that Saanich values of diversity, equity and inclusion are considered when selecting Arts Awards winners in all categories.
- The committee will consider former winners during the next meeting.

DIVISION REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

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

- The Heritage Foundation is considering how to ensure developers and homeowners are adequately informed of the rights and obligations related to heritage buildings.
- It is important that all owners and developers are aware of what having a heritage property

means and how to work their way through the development process.

- The Foundation will be discussing how to better educate the public about the rights, requirements and restrictions of heritage designation.

The Archives Supervisor gave an update on the recent business of Saanich Archives, the following was noted:

- The Reference Room at the Centennial Library Branch has been open for a few months now with a COVID-19 Safety Plan in place. Archives is currently open to only one visitor at a time, it is requested that researchers make appointments.
- Archives Staff have been creating community engagement initiatives by creating online content for the website. This helps make local history accessible to residents, it raises the profile and helps people connect during times we cannot be together.
- The most recent acquisition was a scrapbook added to the Underwood family collection.
- Archives recently hired a new Archives Specialist.

COMMITTEE ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

A discussion on items of interest to the committee took place, the following was noted:

- There was a movie produced by Royal Roads Professor Geoffrey Bird which recently aired on Chek TV related to the centennial celebration of the Shelbourne Street Memorial Trees, which can be found at: [Trees of Remembrance - War Heritage Research Initiative / Patrimoine de la guerre | Royal Roads University](#)
- The committee is interested in ongoing updates on the Regional Arts Facility.

MOVED by N. White and Seconded by J. Hesser: “That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee requests that the Committee receives regular updates on progress of the Regional Arts Facility from Councillor Plant.”

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Councillor Chambers, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary