

**MINUTES**  
**ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
Held at Saanich Municipal Hall, Council Chambers  
**March 23, 2022 at 6:30 pm**

Present: Councillor Nathalie Chambers (Chair), James Hesser, Jasminra Jawandra, Jordan Macdougall (Youth), Nik White and Sonia Nicholson.

Staff: Stacy McGhee, Program Manager for Strategic Facilities Planning; Nadine Kawata, Planner for Community Planning; Evelyn Wolfe, Archives Supervisor; Cristina Caravaca, Senior Manager of Community Services; Austin Winters, Committee Clerk.

Regrets: Kimberly Van Nieuvenhuysse, Jordan Watters and Teri VanWell.

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**Minutes**

**MOVED by S. Nicholson and Seconded by J. Jawandra: “That the Minutes of the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting held February 23, 2022 be adopted as circulated.”**

**CARRIED**

\*The Chair amended the order of business to consider the agenda item titled “The Saanich Six” Art Presentation prior to the agenda item titled Saanich Operations Centre Redevelopment.\*

**CHAIR’S REMARKS**

The Chair took the time to congratulate committee member S. Nicholson on her new book deal.

**“THE SAANICH SIX” ART PRESENTATION**

Miles Hunter delivered a presentation on his desired goal to get his art installation “The Saanich Six” into an art show in London, England. The following was noted during discussion with committee members:

- An inquiry was made over what would happen to “The Saanich Six” if the desired goal of sending the art to London occurred in 10 to 15 years.
- Mr. Hunter noted that if the art were to get into the show in London with a colour catalogue then it could be in a public collection but if it is not sent then it will likely stay in Mr. Hunter’s storage locker.

**MOVED by J. MacDougall and Seconded by J. Hesser: “That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee supports the Chair of the Committee in contacting the Chief Curator of the Victoria Art Gallery to facilitate a meeting with Miles Hunter for his art installation “The Saanich Six.”**

**CARRIED**

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Committee Member Nik White joined the meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Committee Member Jawandra exits the meeting at 7:03 p.m.  
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**SAANICH OPERATIONS CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT**

The Senior Manager of Community Services and the Program Manager for Strategic Facilities Planning delivered a presentation on the proposed Saanich Operations Centre redevelopment. The following was noted:

- Over 300 staff work from the current Saanich Operation Centre.
- Most of the buildings within the current site date back to the 1950's and mid 1970's.
- The site organization will be greatly improved through planning that addresses vehicle circulation, storage, and work locations.
- Most staff work areas are at their end of life and substandard which limit growth.
- The current buildings contain a concerning number of issues including:
  - Not complying with life safety requirements of the Building Code;
  - Large unsprinklered wooden buildings;
  - Structures that cannot withstand an earthquake of even modest magnitude;
  - Facility inaccessibility for disabled staff or guests; and
  - A vermin outbreak.
- Delivery of services must meet minimum levels and delivered sustainably long into the future.
- The District has committed to significant environmental targets which include a focus on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and a target to reach net-zero.
- The work place design objectives would incorporate Building Code and Work Safe BC guidelines and practices.
- The site context includes neighbourhoods; residential centers; immediate adjacencies to the Quadra and McKenzie corridors; and a proximity to the Lochside Trail.
- Given the number of fleet vehicles frequenting the site the current layout poses numerous traffic and circulation issues.
- Multi storey buildings must be considered for operations and parking due to the site constraints.
- The planning process has identified that accommodating additional uses on the site is possible.
- The estimated project budget range would be between \$183 million to \$212 million and this estimate class could have a plus or minus 20% variance.
- The projects current implementation schedule would see tendering in the second quarter of 2026, thus the budget number includes price escalation to that time.
- The estimated cost includes constructions costs, site development, consultant fees, associated development costs, and contingency.
- The numbers do not include potential revenues generated from the proposed site.
- Should the business case be approved further detailed planning is needed to refine the design.

- Within the next two years the project objective is to determine the project budget to much greater certainty through a Class B estimate.
- Through increased certainty in the budget, the District will then go through several months of educating the public in order to have an alternative approval process completed.
- That public process will be seeking permission for the District to borrow money to fund the realization of this project.
- This project represents a shared opportunity that builds operational resiliency and seeks to maintain and secure Saanich residents' high quality of life.

The following was noted during discussion with committee members:

- With respect to this proposed project, ACH may be requested to provide input in the future on how the 1% of the proposed construction budget of the project is spent on art.
- The total of this 1% that must go towards art based off Saanich's by-laws could vary from between \$650'000 to \$1'000'000.
- An inquiry was made into whether there is any means by which reconciliation is considered for this proposed project and whether first nation bands will be contacted for their input for this project.
- A Métis indigenous artist may be contracted to design the art for this project but that is not the only item being considered with regards to reconciliation for this proposed project.

## **ARCHIVES UPDATE**

The Archives Supervisor provided a brief update with regards to Saanich Archives. The following was noted:

- Archives staff have been working on online content which has been the most effective means of community engagement.
- There is a new online exhibit that has just been added to the Saanich website and can be found through the link below:
  - <https://www.saanich.ca/assets/Parks~Recreation~and~Community~Services/Documents/Archives~Collections~and~Research/Carey%20Online%20Exhibit.pdf>
- Staff and volunteers have recently completed over 30 new biographies for the Saanich Remembers Project for Saanich Residents who participated in World War 1.
- The Saanich Remembers Project is not finished as there are still over 200 individual biographies to complete.
- The Archives Spring 2022 Newsletter will be available soon and anyone looking to subscribe to the Newsletter can follow the link below:
  - <https://secure.campaigner.com/CSB/Public/Form.aspx?fid=1274360>
- There have been some recent acquisitions to the Archives collection which include some letters from the 1870s to the 1890s, and some research materials for the recently published book entitled "Muggins: The Life and Afterlife of a Canadian Canine War Hero."
- Saanich Archives is now open for in person visits.

## **ACTIONABLE PUBLIC HISTORY ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED IN 2022**

Committee member S. Nicholson led a discussion on potential actionable public history items to be completed in 2022. The following was noted during discussion with committee members:

- An idea was to have members of the public take a photo from the Saanich Archives website and then they go out and take pictures of that area or object within the old photo now.
- This project would be ideal because it would be publicly led with very little draw on staff or committee time.
- Another idea is the Saanich Heritage Passport where a certain number of Saanich heritage sites are chosen that are open to the public and where residents would mark something off to denote that they had been to the site.
- Once the passport has been completed then the resident would be entered into a draw for some nominal prize.
- The Passport idea would take a lot more work from the committee members as well as staff potentially.
- A potential collaboration between the current Saanich Heritage Colouring Book and the proposed Saanich Heritage Passport could be brought forward so long as private property is respected.
- A sub-committee working group may be established to further review the potential implementation of a Saanich Heritage Passport.

### **STATUS OF PUBLIC ART IN SAANICH UPDATE**

The Planner for Community Planning provided a brief update to various items concerning the committee. The following was noted:

- Phase 2 of the mural grant pilot was presented to Council and approved.
- Funding confirmation for the 2022 budget cycle is still being awaited but planning has been begun for the pilot.
- The first ACH Awards took place in 2016 and the intent was for these to take place at least once every Council term or every four years.
- Planning has been working to get everything organized and the nomination period will be posted at the beginning of April.
- A special ACH meeting will be scheduled to review the awards nominees sometime in June.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting is Wednesday, May 25, 2022.

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Councillor Chambers, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

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Austin Winters, Committee Secretary