

M I N U T E S
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
COMMITTEE ROOM 2, MUNICIPAL HALL
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2008 - 9:00 am

Present: Chair: Councillor Derman
Members: Hazel Bowman; Peggy Capek; Sandra Gray; Sharon Hallsor (9:20 am)
Staff: Sharon Hvozdzanski, Planner; Isobel Hoffmann, Sr. Committee Clerk.
Regrets: Kathryn Bridge; Pauline Cohen; Valerie Green; Anne Lansdell; Ken Kreiger;
Caroline Duncan.
Guests: Kay Kennish, Executive Director Garth Homer Society and Suzanne Bisset, Art Works Programme.
Minutes: As there was no quorum, adoption of the Minutes was postponed to the next meeting.

GARTH HOME ARTWORKS PROPOSAL – Presentation

Kay Kennish, Executive Director, Garth Homer Society, and Suzanne Bisset, Arts Coordinator with ArtsWorks

Ms. Kennish stated:

- The Garth Homer Society has submitted a \$20,000 grant request to Saanich Council for expansion of the arts facility, which through ArtWorks, provides assistance to clients with disabilities to develop their artistic talents.
- Garth Homer is a not-for-profit agency, active since 1977 and supports 138 clients with developmental disabilities to fully realize their potential for independence and participation in the community.
- The Society is mostly funded by Community Living BC with an annual budget of \$2.9 million.
- ArtWorks has been a very successful programme, with 12 clients who participate 5 days a week from 9 – 5.
- She presented a slide show of art work produced by the participants; some of this work is exhibited and it is for sale. It reaches an audience of about 40,000 to 50,000 each year.
- The group participates in the Saanich Celebration of the Arts and has displayed artwork at the Saanich Hall and the Cedar Hill Recreation Centre for many years.
- An architectural firm has been engaged and designs plans have been completed, with the entire renovation costing approximately \$200,000 over one to two years. \$28,000 has been secured already and the Society is applying to the Victoria Foundation for an additional \$50,000.
- The expanded room, which will encompass the existing dance studio, will have moveable partitions and gallery space to enable exhibitions.
- The \$20,000 grant from Saanich Council would specifically be used to renovate the Darwin Avenue entrance to the gallery, with an exterior deck, wheelchair ramp and door canopy.
- Clients are referred to the programme by CLBC; individual programmes are developed for each client.

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Sharon Hallsor entered the meeting at 9:20 a.m., resulting in a quorum.
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Peggy Capek stated her sketch club would be willing to come and provide instruction at no charge to the group. Ms. Bisset stated she would welcome their assistance.

MOTION: Moved by Ms. Bowman and Seconded by Ms. Gray: "That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee send a letter of support to Garth Homer Society for their grant application to Council."

Carried.

COMMUNITY ARTS WEEK UPDATE

Funding

Councillor Derman announced that the Saanich Legacy Foundation has granted \$5,000 to the event and will be the title sponsor. He has also been successful in acquiring a \$2,000 from TD Canada Trust, who is very keen to be a part of the celebration and expressed an interest to be a title sponsor next year.

- The Legacy Foundation will be a very good fit with the event; their logo will be on all promotional material as the title sponsor and they will have a booth at the event.
- TD Canada Trust's logo will also be on the material – as will all sponsors.

Exhibitors

Anna Haney provided an update on the April 26, 2007 event:

- Robert Amos wrote an article in his arts column in the Times Colonist, highlighting the studio tours; he will do another article in March.
- 26 art exhibits have been booked to date.
- New this year is culinary arts: cooking demonstrations, pocket markets selling fresh vegetables, breads, etc.
- Simply Elegant Cuisine will provide samples and she is looking into school cooking programmes and other people in the food industry to take part.
- Rob Phillips, the Special Events Coordinator, is designing the poster; we will have some larger posters this year, as well as the 8.5 x 11 size (easier for mailing) and the hand bills.
- She hopes the posters will be ready within a couple of weeks and they will be distributed to the usual places (recreation centres, libraries, Thrifty Foods, the Municipal Hall).

Entertainment

Pauline Cohen has been working on this aspect and already has a number of groups booked, including:

- Ukrainian, Hawaiian, Flamenco and Philipinno Dance groups
 - An accordion band
 - Stages Performing Arts
 - School jazz bands (Mt. Doug., Lambrick)
 - The Gypsy Rovers
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- There are still openings for other performers; if anyone knows of people or groups who are interested, please let Pauline or Anna know.
 - It is hoped to have some performers outside the entrance to the venue to entice people in.
 - The Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra has been approached in this regard.

Silent Auction

- Items received to date include:
 - LA Limousines and Wine Tour for 6-8 people (value \$500)
 - Two tickets for brunch at the ocean front resort in Cowichan Bay
 - Artwork from Sandra Fowler
 - Gift Certificate from ArtWorld
 - Symphony passes
 - Gift Basket from Thrifty Foods
 - 2 Art Gallery family memberships

Door Prizes – draw tickets given for those who make a donation

- One year Saanich Recreation Pass
 - Large floral arrangement from Glendale Gardens
 - 8 Art Gallery family memberships
- If anyone has donations for either the silent auction or door prizes, please let Anna know as soon as possible.
 - Councillor Derman stated he has gift certificates from the Fifth Street Bar and Grill and Il Terrazzo Restaurants. He will also approach Cannor Nurseries and other restaurants.

CRD ARTS FUNDING ISSUES

Councillor Derman stated:

- He has raised concerns with other Council members regarding the allocation of funds from the CRD Arts Programme, of which Saanich contributes almost \$1 million each year.
- The lion's share of the funding goes to the performing of professional arts in Victoria – such as the Royal Theatre, the Belfry, the Victoria Symphony, the Art Gallery, etc. The visual arts only receive about 10%.
- He has spoken to the President of the Legacy Foundation, Paul McKivett, and it was agreed that the Foundation is an ideal vehicle through which to channel funds for eventual distribution to non-professional, visual arts in Saanich.
- In his opinion, the mandate of the Community Arts Office is to support a broad spectrum of community arts – as well as professional arts.

DRAFT OCP – Sharon Hvozanski

Copies of the OCP were previously distributed to members for comments. No written comments were received and Ms. Hvozanski advised that members have until March 7 to provide comments; email is fine. The Open House had about 100 people in attendance; a few written comments were received at the time and emails have been received since. Most of the comments were related to preservation of green space.

ARTS & CULTURE STRATEGY UPDATE

Diane Thorpe was not present at the meeting but had circulated a written update for members. Agreed to put the item on the April agenda for discussion.

EMBRACE THE JOURNEY PRESS RELEASE – Valerie Green

Ms. Green was unable to attend the meeting but distributed a press release about her new book, *Embrace the Journey*. She will be at the upcoming Seniors' Festival on March 14 at the Pearkes Arena and will be signing copies of her book. The book will be on sale March 1 at Bolens or Munros, or can be purchased directly from her. It advocates aging in place and keeping loving couples together in their own home until the end of their lives. Councillor Derman suggested that the Healthy Saanich Committee may be interested in this book as they are considering seniors' issues, including aging in place.

OUTSTANDING ARTS ISSUES – Sharon Hvozdanski

Ms. Hvozdanski distributed a list of the Saanich Public Art Inventory and Outstanding/Potential projects.

- The list of inventoried art pieces (15 in total) vary from paintings, murals and photographs, to the Rings on Lochside Trail, and the Salmon Totem at Saanich Commonwealth Place.
- Some of the items on the outstanding projects list are anticipated to be completed this year: the library construction at Pearkes; the construction of joint use facilities at Gordon Head, Royal Oak and Colquitz Middle Schools; and an upgrade to the entrance of Gorge Park.
- The Training Centre Upgrade and the Arts Wing at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre: these projects triggered the 1% policy to provide some public art – it is hope to put this on hold until both projects are completed and one substantial piece of artwork could be obtained for the centre rather than two smaller pieces.
- Other projects include the Seniors Centre at Cordova Bay Elementary School (55+), which has recently received a grant; the gym upgrade at Gordon Head Community Centre, park and trail upgrades at Layritz Park and Phase Two of the Centennial Trail.
- Staff is working closely with the Director of Finance on these projects to ensure funding is secured for the 1% arts component and flagged accordingly.
- She is hopeful brochures will eventually be available and information will be on line through an integrated website with Victoria, Esquimalt and Saanich. Links will be provided to the artists and the specific piece of work.

It was recommended this update be a standard item on the ACH agenda twice a year.

The Chair suggested that because items discussed at meetings can get lost when Committee Chairs are replaced, it would be beneficial to review the files for the past couple of years and note any outstanding resolutions or issues. It could be these issues are now resolved. He asked the secretary to review the files and prepare a list for the Committee's review.

GORGE TILLICUM ASSOCIATION – Request for Letter of Support

The Chair stated that the Gorge Tillicum has approached him to have the ACH Committee provide a letter of support for their Matching Grant Application to provide street banners for the Canada Day Picnic this year.

- It was agreed that the Canada Day Celebration, in its 10th year, is one of the most successful community-run events and grows in popularity every year, providing fun and entertainment for families and people of all ages.

- The grant request meets the mandate for a Matching Grant, and the Association will be matching the funds with \$2,000 of its own money.
- The Association wants to commemorate its 10th anniversary by hanging banners along Gorge Road, which would remain up all summer.
- He has taken the liberty of drafting a letter of support, which was read by the members.

MOTION: Moved by Ms. Gray and Seconded by Ms. Hallsor: "That the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee submit a letter of support for Gorge Tillicum Association's Matching Grant request for \$2000 to provide street banners for the 2008 Canada Day Picnic."

Carried.

HERTIAGE BUS TOUR 2008 – Discuss at March Meeting when Caroline Duncan returns. Agreed a sub-committee format, similar to last year, works well.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Gray noted that part of this committee's mandate is heritage and yet we focus very little on this aspect. There has been a change in downtown Victoria – it is not as it used to be. Saanich is also changing and growing and she suggested we need to find a way of forming a list of heritage homes and note neighbourhoods that emphasize heritage. We do not even have a Welcome to Saanich sign, and yet Saanich is the largest municipality.

The Chair agreed, noting that the Heritage Foundation focuses on preservation and dedication of heritage structures, and the Heritage Advisory Committee's mandate was folded into the Arts Committee, but other than the Heritage Bus Tour, we tend to focus more on arts projects. Promotion of Heritage is part of the ACH committee's mandate. He will discuss this at the next Heritage Foundation meeting, which he attends.

Discussion noted Saanich has a lot of history and heritage, and some of it is disappearing. We need to preserve and promote our heritage buildings, neighbourhoods and memories.

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

NEXT MEETING The next Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, MARCH27, 2008**, at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 2.

Councillor Vic Derman, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary