

M I N U T E S
ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
COMMITTEE ROOM 2, MUNICIPAL HALL
THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2008 AT 9:00 A.M.

Present: Chair: Councillor Derman
Members: Kathryn Bridge; Pauline Cohen; Valerie Green; Sharon Hallsor; Anne Lansdell
Staff: Ken Kreiger, Director of Recreation Services; Anna Haney, Special Events Coordinator, Recreation; Caroline Duncan, Archivist; Jane Evans, Planner (9:30 am); Isobel Hoffmann, Senior Committee Clerk.
Regrets: Peggy Capek; Hazel Bowman; Sandra Gray.
Guests: Sandra Gans, Glendale Gardens.
Minutes: Moved by A. Lansdell and Seconded by V. Green: "That the Minutes of the April 24, 2008 meeting be adopted."

CARRIED

PRESENTATION:

Glendale Gardens – Sandra Gans

- The intent is to expand the use of the gardens with more children's activities, tours and special events (including a car show) – it's not just about plants any more.
- There is indoor and outdoor space available and the glass house is used for wedding receptions and garden shows; it is also a great place to display art. Tents can be arranged for outdoor functions.
- The outdoor gathering place is used for summer music concerts and can hold 300 people.
- The Gardens have been the setting for the Organic Islands Festival for the past three years.
- This year, there were over 120 exhibitors, and approximately 5,000 participated over 2 days.
- The Artists in the Garden event had over 80 exhibitors over a 2 day period.
- A few pieces of sculpture and artwork have been donated to the Gardens.

Councillor Derman stated:

- As he mentioned at the last meeting, the Glendale Gardens would be an ideal venue for a sculpture park: it is secure and far enough removed from populated areas so that vandalism would likely not be an issue. He thought the ACH committee may be interested in helping to promote the idea.
- It has been noted at past meetings that more time is devoted to arts activities with little or no focus on heritage aspects. Glendale Gardens would also be a good venue for a heritage interpretive centre promoting Saanich history given the many visitors year round.
- An earlier proposal to establish a Saanich Museum, while an excellent concept, would be very expensive and is unlikely to happen for some time; using the Gardens as a heritage centre may be another option to consider in the meantime.

Jane Evans entered the meeting

General discussion ensued:

- Most members supported the idea of a sculpture park and a heritage interpretation centre.
- Saanich Heritage has roots in this rural part of the municipality; it could be a theme, highlighting the agricultural history over the last century.

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- One member thought there would be an issue with vandalism as it is a remote area, and buses are infrequent.
 - Questioned whether sculptures would be a permanent structure at the gardens, or if they would be for sale.
 - Perhaps some smaller sculptures could be offered for sale on a consignment basis with the Gardens, similar to the operation at Friday Harbour and artworks that are on display at Cedar Hill Recreation Centre.

Ms. Gans stated:

- Staff would be on hand 7 days a week; they have never had a problem with vandals.
- The sculptures would be located in the wilderness and open areas rather than the established gardens.

Recommendation:

The concept of a sculpture park and a heritage interpretation centre to be discussed with the Glendale Gardens in more detail. Councillor Derman to report back to the Committee.

STRATEGIC PLAN PROCESS – Healthy Community (Copies distributed)

The Director of Recreation Services stated:

- Out of the 12 initiatives, 6 have been completed, 5 are in progress and 1 has been rescheduled.
- Slight increase in the short-term indicators for the number of social housing units, properties within 500m of a bus route and within 500 m of a park.
- He is unable to report on the long-range indicators because some of the measurements will not be completed until 2009.
- Reciprocal agreements are in place with 35 schools for the use of parks and school facilities – such as theatres, music and dance studios, classrooms and multi-purpose areas.
- In response to a request from Councillor Derman, he will bring forward a report on what type of facilities are available in the schools; perhaps a tour could be arranged.

Sharon Hallsor entered the meeting

- People on average make 5.5 visits to a recreation centre each year participating in the 7500 programmes available, one third of which have an arts and culture theme.
- 93% of the people surveyed rated the quality of life in Saanich as very good.
- The Heritage Action Plan was endorsed by Council in February, 2007 and a heritage awareness programme developed, with a successful event held at the Hall highlighting photo projects by local youth.
- An oral history project has been started by the Saanich Archives and is on-going.
- An Arts and Cultural Service Delivery strategy was developed in 2006, with community input taking place last year and continuing into 2008, hopefully leading to adoption of the completed strategy later this year.
- The Centennial Library was opened this year which also provided a new home for the Saanich Archives.
- The provincial/federal infrastructure grant for the Arts Centre at Cedar Hill was not successful; however, we do have infrastructure that supports the community well.
- Requests were put forward for five different projects; in the end two of the three recreation

projects were funded. The arts centre was a high priority on the department's list; they were not advised why the grant was rejected, although it is obvious that all applications can't be funded. We can reapply for funding.

Councillor Derman was concerned that we not duplicate space that may be available in our schools and asked that the proposed plans for the arts centre be brought to a future meeting at the same time as the report on what types of public-use spaces are available in our schools.

Pauline Cohen stated one of her concerns about having an arts centre in Saanich is that the artists are so scattered. We need a centre that will function well to fit the size of the municipality and she intends to lobby for this in the future.

In response to a concern from Ms. Lansdell about preserving historical artifacts now that the likelihood of having a Saanich Museum in the near future after a 10-year struggle is doubtful, Caroline stated the Archives has space available and already has a good collection of artifacts.

COMMUNITY ARTS WEEK UPDATE – Anna Haney

Anna Haney stated:

- She thanked everyone who helped to make the event so successful, particularly Pauline Cohen who once again did a great job scheduling the entertainment.
- 1800 people attended; 47 exhibitors were on hand and she has already received thank you letters and requests for space for next year.
- In terms of budget, new sponsors came on board this year, including \$5000 from the Saanich Legacy Foundation and \$2000 from Canada Trust.
- The \$690 in admissions (by donation) was more than double from last year.
- Combined with the Silent Auction (\$1600), booth fees (\$900), this year's grant from Council (\$3500), the carry over from 2007 (\$2800) and a few other minor donations, there was a total of \$17,865 in revenue.
- A major expense was Island Displays (\$4,343); other expenses included the sound system, posters, brochures and banners, honoraria for activities and artists, and the coordinator's fees, for a grand total of \$11,450.
- This leaves us with a balance of approximately \$6500 to carry over for 2009.
- She recommended a new outside banner be purchased next year.

Councillor Derman thanked Anna for the outstanding job she did in putting the whole event together and also thank Recreation for providing the venue and Pauline for the entertainment.

- Although successful and reasonably well attended, the event did not grow from last year.
- It is become more of an arts and crafts event rather than a celebration for the fine arts.
- He has discussed this with Anna and perhaps it is time to consider revamping the event.
- Some of the points to consider are:
 - There are many arts and crafts events and we are in competition with them;
 - Perhaps a Gala Evening at the University Centre is an option, with fine art works on display, allowing participants to mix and mingle, followed by a first class performance in the auditorium.
 - This would be a more formal event, personal invitations sent to patrons of the arts, more sponsorship sought.
 - Artists from the studio tours may provide a few pieces of their work for display.

- Noted that the Saanich Legacy Foundation will be celebrating its 10th anniversary next year and this may provide a joint opportunity.
- TD Canada Trust has indicated continued interest in sponsorship and in the future, Morgard Investments may come on board.
- Some of the local artists who could be approached include Fenwick Lansdowne, Barbara Bosson-Weaver, Martin Schaddelee.
- Photography could be included as well as sculptures and paintings.
- It has become increasingly apparent that the “fine arts” and the “arts and crafts” don’t mix too well. It was agreed that the focus of the event is not clear: it is getting broader over the years rather than more focused.
- The current Celebration of the Arts event could continue, but be geared more for families with more activities for the kids. It is a great opportunity for youngsters to perform in front of an audience. Perhaps art or pottery instructors from Saanich Recreation could provide instruction, promoting their programmes.
- To increase participation, schools could be involved – as that brings out the parents too.

Pauline Cohen noted that everything has growing pains.

- The key word here is “community” and you cannot mix a fund raising gala or someone selling paintings worth \$45,000+ with a “community day”.
- She agreed we have to decide on the focus of the event and get some clear signage so people understand what the event is about.
- Parking was a big issue at Cedar Hill this year as another event was scheduled for the same day – perhaps a parking attendant would help.
- This Committee’s focus should be on a Community Arts Day, and heritage should come in to play as well.

Recommendation:

It was agreed that the sub-committee established earlier this year (Councillor Derman, Councillor Sanders, past Councillor Pickup, Sharon Hallsor) get together with Anna Haney and any other members of the ACH Committee who wish to participate within the next month to brainstorm the above ideas and come back to the Committee in the fall with a proposal for review.

ARCHIVES UPDATE – Caroline Duncan

- The Archives at the new Centennial Library is open weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Hours will be extended in August to 4:30 p.m. as additional staff will be hired.
- A “celebration” to mark the opening of the library will be held in September.
- The Archives will be participating in the Strawberry Festival this year with a display on the history of farming in Saanich.
- Weekly drop-in orientation sessions will be offered on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. to introduce people to the resources available; it will include a tour of the storage vault.
- The website is now on line at <http://saanicharchives.ca> and features a searchable database of more than 2,500 archival photos.
- The Friends of Knockan Hill Park have recently donated over 360 photos illustrating the development of Stranton Lodge and gardens and the lives of Maude and Tom Hall and they will soon be available on the website.
- Goward House is celebrating its centennial this year; the Archives has the largest private collection of the Goward Family and will start a multi-year project to go through the 58 boxes

of records which include letters, diaries, sketches and photographs. The information will eventually be available for public access.

- The oral history project will continue this year and it is hoped to collect another 10 interviews. If members have recommendations for participants, please let her know.
- Archives has approximately 80 tapes collected during the 1970s and 80s which are being sent to a specialist in Ontario for digitization, hopefully completed and available to the public by October.
- She attended the Archives Association of BC conference in April. Saanich Archives chaired the local arrangements committee and worked with archivists from Victoria, Oak Bay, St. Michael's University School, the Sisters of St. Anns, and N. Saanich. The conference was also attended by archivists from around the province.

PROMOTION OF HERITAGE COMPONENT – Jane Evans

- Saanich is continuing with the heritage wraps for traffic control boxes; four have been covered to date and 10 more are proposed.
- In response to discussions at past Committee meetings regarding a larger focus on the heritage aspect rather than just arts and culture, she reviewed the Committee's mandate and identified some areas for involvement.
- In terms of "*providing a community perspective on services, programmes, events and facilities related to arts, culture, and heritage promotion, education and awareness*" the Committee has participated with the Archives, the OCP review, Heritage Week, Heritage Walking Tours, and the Heritage Register.
- In terms of "*fostering public awareness, recognition, and support for local artistic talent, heritage and archival preservation*", the Committee may wish to participate in the Hallmark Awards, the Heritage Branch recognition, community recognition and the Heritage Week event.
- Staff are working on a web page for heritage; the Committee can provide advice on identifying links and content for the page. She will bring some more information on this to the next meeting.

Some ideas put forward by the Committee included:

- Heritage walking tours for schools (as part of their PE and local history programmes); brochure and information packages could be prepared for the schools.
- Exhibits on heritage in the malls with the help of Archives.
- Noted that having events in the malls reaches a broader audience, as opposed to having an event at Saanich Hall where it is limited.

HERITAGE BUS TOUR

- The Tour will be Sunday, September 14, 2008 between 1:00 pm and 4:30 pm.
- The start off point will be at the Pearkes Community Centre; Caroline will look into providing a quick tour of the archives for those people who want to arrive earlier; the librarian has agreed to open the library for this purpose.
- People could also use the washrooms here before boarding the bus, as the next opportunity will be at the Glendale Gardens (although there is a washroom on the bus).
- The bus has been booked through Grayline; prices are the same as last year - \$475 plus GST for the 48 passenger bus.

- Agreed we should book the 56 passenger bus (\$525) as there is always a waiting list.
- Valerie has prepared a tentative route through rural Saanich and Central Saanich, which she has driven a couple of times and is still fine tuning to ensure all areas are bus-accessible and the timing is appropriate.
- Suggested a couple of stops, including St. Stephens Church and Cemetery.
- The tea has been booked at Glendale Gardens for a cost of \$12 per person; this includes a \$5 entry fee into the gardens and a guest speaker (no more than 10 to 15 minutes).
- Agreed we need to allow sufficient time (at least 45 mins. to an hour) for people to wander through the gardens.
- Posters to be prepared with usual distribution; notice to be placed in the Fall Active Living Guide. Valerie will do an article in the Saanich News.
- Price will be \$28.50 – which with GST is just under \$30 per person.
- Ticket sales same as last year – through the recreation centres or on line.
- Suggested another meeting of the sub-committee be held once the route is decided to work out final plans prior to the posters and advertising material being prepared.

Proposed Brochure for Annual Arts Events in Saanich

– Carry to next meeting

ADJOURNMENT The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

NEXT MEETING The next Arts, Culture and Heritage Advisory Committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, JUNE 26, 2008**, at 9:00 a.m. in Committee Room 2.

Councillor Vic Derman, Chair

I hereby certify these Minutes are accurate.

Committee Secretary